

**MINISTRY CONTINUITY DURING PASTORAL CHANGE:
THE ROLE OF THE OUTGOING PASTOR**

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This project focused on pastoral transitions and the role of an outgoing pastor in a church experiencing ministerial change. The biblical-theological research and literature review aided in developing a seminar intended to cause participants to reflect on their presuppositions concerning the role of a departing pastor. The project exegeted Scripture concerning pastors and leadership transitions in order to establish biblical principles for ministers' responsibilities to churches. Using those principles, the remainder of the research examined literature, which aided in transitioning from biblical theory to everyday ministry. Additionally, the author interviewed people in church leadership positions, obtained data from a pretest/posttest assessment tool for seminar participants, and collected information from the ratings and comments of seminar evaluators.

Based on the results of the pretest/posttest and the evaluators' comments, the project educated participants concerning leadership transitions and the scriptural obligations of pastors to their churches. Further, the data indicates changes in participants' philosophical beliefs concerning a minister's responsibilities to a church experiencing a pastoral change.

The presenter encouraged participants to use the knowledge to educate laity concerning pastoral transitions. The seminar emphasized that the intent of the presentation was not to bring ministerial control to leadership transitions, but rather to enhance continuity in the church's ministry.