

# Checking Out a Potential Church

Wise pastor search committees thoroughly research men they are considering as a candidate to be pastor at their church. Wise pastoral candidates will do the same for prospective churches. Here are some common steps that some pastors take to learn more about a prospective church.

- Seek the **LORD** diligently in prayer to discern whether He would have you consider the church.
- Search for an **online** presence such as a website, facebook®, or Twitter®.
  - Read any documentation that is available: purpose, mission, vision, values, bylaws, etc.
  - Read about the staff, if any.
  - If a calendar is posted, review the activities. Is it current?
  - If newsletters or bulletins are archived, read some.
  - Is there a worship service video archive? If so, view some to get a feel for the worship.
- Make some key contacts:
  - **Director of Missions** for that area. Ask what he knows about the church. Stable? Strengths? Weaknesses? Troubled? Cooperative? Where did the last pastor go? Was he terminated? Pressured to resign?
  - **Former pastor(s)** to learn more about the church, his ministry, and his departure.
  - **Former staff members** to learn more about the church, the former pastor, and their respective departures.
  - **State convention office** to request a historical statistical report for the church and to ask what they may know about the church and the former pastor's ministry.
  - **Neighboring pastors** to ask what they may know about the church and the former pastor's ministry.
  - **Neighboring businesses** to ask what they may know about the church.
- Again, seek the **LORD** diligently in prayer to discern whether He would have you consider the church. Remember that ultimately, "the Holy Spirit has made you overseers." (Acts 20:28)

**Discuss with the pastor search committee any concerns that may arise.**

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