

Transition FAQ's

1) How long will the transition take?

Alan Forsman, a transition "expert" from the Covenant, told us that it could take as long as one month for every year of service from the previous pastor (Scot served 17 years). Hopefully it will not take that long. We are on schedule to begin the Lead Pastor search in June. This is a very important step for our church so we should not be in a hurry.

2) Why do we need a transition pastor? Why can't Jed be the transition pastor?

The purpose of the Transition Pastor is to ensure that the church continues to pursue mission and vision. The Transition pastor will lead the congregation in taking the pulse of the congregation, promote healing where necessary, and resource the lay leadership and any staff in continuing our impact for Christ in the community we serve. (Taken from the Covenant material with "Transition" used in place of "Interim")

The Covenant recommends a transition pastor from outside the current congregation. This allows the church to move fully into transition; gives us an outside view; and helps us be more aware of the opportunities God will provide.

When we begin considering prospects for the Lead Pastor position we want each prospect to enter the process on an equal footing. It would be difficult to ensure that in Jed's case if he were serving as the Transition Pastor. In fact we are working to make sure Jed's role as Associate Pastor is clearly and appropriately defined during the transition.

3) Why not just make Jed the new lead pastor and be done with it?

The Covenant has given us a well defined process that includes naming a transition pastor, conducting an internal and external self evaluation, creating a church profile, and selecting a Lead Pastor candidate from a number of prospects. We believe that if we are to be attentive to God's leading through the transition we must be faithful to this process and trust its outcome.

4) Are attendance and giving dropping during the transition?

Based on current metrics from the bulletin, attendance is steady and giving is in line with the budget, so we are staying healthy!

5) Are we going to have two pastors after the transition?

Not likely. Unless our income increases considerably, we will not be able to fund two full-time pastors after the transition.

6) Can I attend the Grace Transition Team meetings?

Yes, we would encourage you to attend the first half hour to join us for discussion and prayer. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

7) What can I do to help during the transition?

Attend the first half hour of our meetings. Go to the transition page on the website and give us feedback there. Stop and talk to us at the GTT table in the breezeway. Stay active in your ministry or look for an opportunity to help in any way you can. Pray!