



## Board of Ordained Ministry

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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May 2, 2022

Dear newly appointed pastor:

As you prepare for the transition to a new congregation, we invite you to participate in a process designed to make this process a positive experience for you, for the church you're leaving, and for your new church. With help from people across the Michigan Conference, we've put together four short videos for you and your new SPRC to watch. These can be viewed and discussed one at a time or all together and they can be accessed by following this link to the conference website: <https://michiganumc.org/clergy-excellence/pastoral-transition/>.

I know from experience that the sooner you begin working on this transition, the more effective it will be. I suggest you consider inviting the SPRC to have a Watch Party, either in person or by Zoom, so that you can view these videos together. Allow about 90 minutes for the video segments and their discussion questions.

There is abundant research that shows that healthy pastoral transitions are the key to a positive and supportive beginning of ministry. Pastors and congregations who prayerfully prepare to thank and say goodbye to their current pastor and to welcome their newly appointed pastor with acceptance and mutual respect are much more likely to succeed and grow the church's ministry as a team.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dean Francis  
Pastoral Transitions Team