



## Board of Ordained Ministry

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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May 2, 2022

Dear Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Chairperson:

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

Having been a lay member of the P/SPRC through more than one pastoral change, I know from experience how important open communication is. I hope these videos will give you specific suggestions for making that process go smoothly. In addition to your committee members, I also encourage you to include 2 or 3 other key leaders in your congregation in this process.

It is my observation that we lay people often underestimate the importance of the congregation's role in the success of a new appointment. Often, we assume it's the pastor's responsibility to make everything go smoothly. In reality, about half of the responsibility lies with the lay people in the congregation. Your welcoming, positive attitude makes an enormous difference!

May God bless you during this time of transition.

Grace and peace,  
Carol Hodges  
Pastoral Transitions Team