FLOWCHART FOR DEALING WITH A CALL

Pastor receives a divine call to serve in different location

Proper lines of communication

Pastor notifies:

- 1) The calling congregation
- 2) His present congregation
- 3) District president(s)
- 4) Circuit visitor(s)

Consideration of the call by the pastor-elect

- 1) Set a target date for decision
- 2) Seek appropriate counsel
- 3) Consider possibility of visiting calling congregation
- 4) Review the call documents
- 5) Pray for God's guidance

Pastor-Elect declines the Call:

Pastor notifies:

- 1) Calling congregation
- 2) His present congregation
- 3) District president(s)

Pastor-elect accepts call to new congregation:

Pastor-elect notifies:

- 1) The calling congregation
- 2) The congregation presently served
- 3) District president(s)
- 4) Circuit visitor(s)

Pastor-elect sets date for departure, working out the details of his move with his new congregation.

Departing pastor meets with circuit visitor to discuss issues relating to vacancy.

Pastor terminates ministry.

- The departing pastor should normally not attend meetings of the boards, or church council.
- 2) The departing pastor is not to name his successor.
- 3) The departing pastor should ensure that all congregational records are up-to-date, and remain with the congregation.
- 4) The departing pastor is to settle all matters of a personal nature.
- 5) The "farewell sermon" should be a Gospel sermon, positive and upbeat...commending past charge to the grace of Lord Jesus.

Having made the decision to accept or decline, the pastor should "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2), knowing that this is where our Lord wants him to serve. God has called him through the Church to serve in that place.