

## *From Superintendent John Cares*

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Your church is a valuable member of the Better Ministry Network! As you begin this journey of identifying a new pastor to lead your church, let me encourage you with four undisputable facts.

- **We are here for you!** I and the Better Ministry Network have already been in contact with your leadership community. We are praying for you and stand ready to resource, advise and support your board and church through this entire journey.
- **You can do this.** Thousands of churches in our nation experience a pastoral transition every year. We have navigated these waters and so can you.
- **God's Spirit will help you.** It is important to remember that the Holy Spirit can compensate for any limitations your church may have. Be sensitive to the Spirit, follow the Spirit's lead and keep in step with His pace. It was Paul who confidently said, *The Spirit helps us in our weakness* (Romans 8:26 NIV).
- **Faith will be needed.** This process is impossible without faith. Your best talents, skills, and screening processes are fallible. There will be future challenges you cannot see or understand, but God knows whom you need and why you need each other. You simply must be convinced that God is in this and trust Him to guide you through the process.

Committed to your success,

John Cares  
Better Ministry Network Superintendent/Pastor

## *From the Church Board*

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Our church is experiencing a transition in senior leadership, and you are a valuable part of our community of faith. That is why the church Board wants to resource and encourage you with four undisputable facts.

- **We can do this.** Thousands of churches in our nation experience a pastoral transition every year. We have navigated these waters before and so can you!
- **We have a plan.** We have chosen to use an excellent resource to guide us in this process. It is called *Rise Up* and contains thirteen steps to help identify God's will for a new pastor. The resource is used across the nation and identifies the best practices in pastoral transitions. Coaches and our bylaws will also provide specific instructions to help us in this process.
- **God's Spirit will help us.** It is important to remember that the Holy Spirit can compensate for any limitations our church may have. That is why we will be calling the church to participate in a 40-day prayer focus. We want to follow the Spirit's lead and keep in step with His pace. God's Word promises us saying, *The Spirit helps us in our weakness* (Rom. 8:26, NIV).
- **Faith will be needed.** This process is impossible without faith. Our best talents, skills, and screening processes are fallible. There will be challenges we cannot see or understand, but God knows whom we need and why we need each other. We must be convinced that God is in this and trust Him to guide us.

This book will help you make a positive contribution in this transition. In the meantime, we'll be sure to keep you updated.

Hope Church, The Board of Deacons