

Northern Illinois District Considering A Call?

Spiritual

1. Set aside special time to seek God's guidance in Scriptures:
 - a. Proverbs and Psalms (God's Wisdom), 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, favorite "life" verses, and others as you are led,
 - b. pray before, during and after these Readings seeking God's will.
2. Seek Godly counsel from friends where you are currently serving AND those who have known you a long time but are not part of your current ministry.
3. Why did God originally Call you into full-time ministry? Which setting connects you to that mission? Or, how has that Calling changed?
4. Seek prayer and guidance from your pastor.
5. If you are married, pray with your spouse seeking God's guidance. If not, seek guidance in prayer from a close friend or friends.
6. What are the gifts in ministry with which God has blessed you? Where would those gifts best be used?

Family and Friends

1. What are the consequences/implications for:
 - a. your spouse or fiance' (personally and professionally)?
 - b. your children?
 - c. other family members?
 - d. your network or support group of close friends?

Current Ministry Setting

1. Have you accomplished the main goals that you set out to accomplish when you began in your current setting?
2. Consider the length of time you have currently served in your location. Multiple moves in short periods of time can be detrimental to your long term work history or resume'. Pray for God's guidance so that you are not running from problems or challenges.
3. Do the *current* fruits of your ministry reflect a positive outlook for the future?
4. As you seek God's will, do you think you are "done" where you are right now?
5. If you were to stay, what might need to change to refocus your efforts for God's Calling?
6. Are those changes realistic?

Financial

1. Make a budget for your current situation and the one to which you are Called.
2. If a new Call would involve a physical move, factor in at least 10% of your annual salary for additional transitional expenses within your first six months (new licenses, rental deposits, moving expenses not covered by the Calling body, etc.).
3. If the finances are simply not workable, it is better to let the Calling congregation know that is one of the factors for declination after you have turned the Call down than to use it as a bargaining part of the process.
4. If you own a house, check with a realtor about current market trends and potential updates needed. Also, contact your mortgage company to determine payoff needed.
5. Compare insurance plans, deductibles, family coverage, self-contributions, offset, etc.
6. Compare length of service terms. Is it 10 or 12 months? If 12, what are vacation terms?

Other Tips

1. Make a “pros and cons” list for staying or going. Rank each factor to help you determine the most important factors.
2. Write an acceptance letter and a declination letter. Which letter comes from your heart the easiest?
3. Don’t accept a Call to LEAVE your current unhappy situation.
4. Accept a Call TO the ministry that God has prepared you.
5. After making a decision, sleep on it for a day or two before telling anyone other than your spouse.

Call Protocol

1. If you have a phone interview, inform your Principal. Pastor may also be informed.
2. If you have an on-site visit, inform your Principal and Pastor.
3. If you are told you will receive a Call but they have not yet held a Call meeting, inform your Principal, Pastor and Board Chair.
4. If they hold a Call meeting and are led to extend a Call to you, inform your Principal, Congregational Chair to announce to the congregation, school parents, Board Chair, Pastor, staff and your current District Education Executive.
5. The congregation is encouraged to pray for you during your time of deliberation.
6. General rule of thumb is not to hold a Call more than 3-4 weeks.
7. Once arriving at your decision, inform the Principal, congregation, staff, school parents and District Education Executive in writing of your decision.