



# Courtesies to Follow When Receiving a Divine Call

*(included in Divine Call Packet)*

## Upon receipt of the divine call

1. Immediately notify the president of the congregation or institution you are serving
2. Promptly send a letter via email to acknowledge receipt of the divine call to the calling body in care of its president. CC the following:
  - President of the district in which you hold membership
  - President of the district in which the calling body is located
  - Circuit pastors of each circuit or the school visitor for your school
  - Pastor or vacancy pastor serving the calling congregation
  - Chairman of your district mission board, if you serve a mission congregation
  - Chairman of the calling district mission board, if the calling congregation is a mission congregation

## While deliberating the divine call

1. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer
2. Seek the counsel of your spouse, neighboring pastors, circuit pastor, teachers, district president or others as the circumstances warrant
3. Discuss the call with your current congregation and seek their counsel
4. As you converse with representatives of the calling body, remember that it has been our practice as a synod not to physically visit a site before making a decision. This can help avoid even a hint of improper motives once a decision is reached
5. You may at times include your spouse in discussions with representatives of the calling body. Be careful not to include your spouse in items which are confidential in nature
6. If possible, determine and announce the projected date for reaching a decision

## After reaching a decision

1. Notify the president of the calling body of your decision
2. Announce your decision to your present congregation or institution
3. Send a letter via email formally announcing your decision to the same parties you addressed when acknowledging the call
4. If you accept the new divine call, then request, in writing, a peaceful release from your present call

## If you decline the call

As soon as possible, return the call form and all other materials that you received from the calling body. Alternatively, with the consent of the calling body you may shred them.

## If you accept the call

1. Make arrangements for moving, planned day of arrival and date for installation with the president, pastor and/or vacancy pastor of the calling body. It is good practice not to linger any longer than absolutely necessary
2. Inform me of the date and time of your installation and the name of the installing pastor as soon as they are determined
3. Remember that if the Lord leads you someplace else, that's your new home. As you settle into your new home, allow your memory of your previous place of service to fade while God's people there learn to know and love their new servant in Christ

God bless your deliberations! Please contact me if I may be of assistance.

Pastor Michael Seifert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Seifert". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

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