

## Partners in Ministry

### Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World

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Over my years in ministry, I've had the opportunity to attend several Installation Services. As a local church pastor, it's a joy to celebrate with a church as they

begin a new season of ministry. I love having the opportunity to participate in the service in any way, even if it involves simply being present to lay hands on and pray for the person beginning a new ministry.

In recent years, since I've been called upon to serve as a GPS, I've gained a greater appreciation for Installation Services than ever before. Before, I would often overlook all the work that led to this moment of celebration and a new beginning. Sure, having gone through the interview and candidating process myself I had some sort of idea of the time involved and the journey that it takes to call a new pastor, but as I got a chance to work with search committees, I got to live out the ups and downs, struggles and joys of that process.

Early this year, I was privileged to attend the Installation Service of my friend, Pastor Tim Schwartz at Hepburn Baptist. I would have been there anyway, since Tim and I are good friends, and since Hepburn is part of our Association. But this time, I came with a different perspective, because I walked with Hepburn Baptist as they searched for a new pastor. As the chair of the search committee briefly shared a timeline of events, I nodded along as I remembered meetings, phone calls, email messages, and all the twists and turns that the search went through to get to the place they were now at, a new beginning as pastor and people.

It was a joy to remember the process and see its results. It also reminded me of our need for partnership in times like this. We need one another and the Region to see us through challenging times. As a GPS, I can't say that I have all the answers or a magic wand to make the time of searching easier (and contrary to popular belief, we don't keep a closet of pastors we can pass out to churches 😊) but I can say, it was a privilege to work with Hepburn Baptist and hopefully bring a sense of peace and encouragement to the process.



Of course, a ministry like this one doesn't happen without your generous support of the work of our Region through Partners in Ministry. Thank you for allowing me to serve, and thank you for your partnership!

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