

Partners in Ministry (PIM) Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World



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Navigating transitions is one of the most challenging things anyone can do and we go through a lot of them! Growing into adult life; married life; moving from one career into another...Those are critical times that can make all the difference.

The same is true in the life of the church. How does a church handle the transition between pastors? What happens if you need to change locations or build a new church facility? How well would your church adapt to a new leadership structure (such as from a multiple board system to one board)?

Not long ago, I was working with a congregation that was searching for a new pastor. The pool of available leadership is shallow, and to complicate matters, their bylaws required specific credentials that reduced the field of candidates even further. It became clear that the best candidate available for the position did not meet the criteria listed in the bylaws. As the search committee wrestled with this, ABCOPAD was able to offer resources and counsel to help them move forward.

But that is just one of the transitions that pastors and churches face. A few years ago, one of our churches made the bold decision to reach the influx of Asian immigrants in their community. They connected with a pastor from India who immigrated here to lead them toward the calling God put on their hearts. ABCOPAD and the Central Union Association came alongside this pastor in a variety of ways to facilitate the process. This kind of teamwork could only occur by building strong trusting connections between pastors and churches.



One of the most important things that ABCOPAD sponsors is Leadership Learning Communities (aka LLCs). These small groups of pastors meet regularly to pray for one another, to compare notes on ministry opportunities and challenges and to assist one another with advice and other resources. One LLC I belong to maintains a group text where we can share experience and ask advice between meetings. It is also a constant source of humor and personal testimony; a priceless way that we build friendship, accountability and trust in one another. Together, we grow stronger as individual pastors and we strengthen the ministry of our congregations.

Without the funding of Partners in Ministry, it would be much more difficult to navigate those transitions. Thank you for your generous support of ABCOPAD through Partners in Ministry!

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