

2. Acknowledge the leader.

The Israelites knew they would miss Moses, yet they committed to follow Joshua:

“According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses” (Joshua 1:17).

Hebrews 13:7 confirms how important it is to acknowledge and follow spiritual leaders:

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

Remember that transitions are difficult periods of adjustment for everyone—including the leader. During these times, it is always appropriate to express encouragement and support to the leader. Simply letting him know that you are praying for him and are thankful for his leadership can go a long way in helping to bear the load of the one who is feeling the brunt of the transition.

3. Affirm the people.

Moses instructed Joshua, “Be strong and of a good courage” (Deuteronomy 31:7). If there is anything I want to be for our church family it is strong and of a good courage!

I want to follow the instruction of Ephesians 4:29 and speak “that which is good to the use of edifying” and be a minister of the grace of God.

If you are in any role—as a pastor or church leader—in guiding a church through transition, determine to purposefully do whatever you can to encourage people. Ask yourself, “Who especially needs my encouragement and help?” Then go out of your way to affirm others.

Love people. Invite them to your home. Write notes. Reiterate the Lord’s and the pastor’s love for them. Be an encourager through times of change.

4. Accept responsibility.

During transition, it’s vital that leaders accept responsibility. This is the time to say, “I will get done what I have been assigned, and nobody is going to have to worry about my responsibilities.”

This is also a time to accept responsibility for the needs of others. During transition, it is easy for people to disconnect or to “fall through the cracks.” These are times when everyone needs to be sensitive to others and purposefully go the extra mile in helping to bear the burdens of others.

5. Anticipate the blessings.

Remember, transition is often a part of growth! Difficult as it may be at times, it is part of a larger picture.

Over and over, I have seen that God blesses people who are faithful during transition. These faithful servants are positioned to receive and enjoy the blessings God brings through the transitions!

Welcome To
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1812 Oak Street
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192
Church Website: www.gmbcwyandotte.org
Church Phone: (734) 281-1484