

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH ELDERS
WHEN CONSIDERING WORKING
WITH A CONGREGATION

by

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TEACHING AND PRACTICE

1. Please explain your understanding of the inspiration of the Bible.
2. What is your preference concerning the translations of the Bible that are used in public teaching and preaching?
3. Please explain your understanding of the teaching of the Bible concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage.
4. How does the Holy Spirit influence men today?
5. Are women permitted to lead in the worship either in the building or in private devotionals?
6. Does the congregation here have children's church? If so, when and explain who does the teaching.
7. Do you approve of the congregation supporting children's homes and cooperating with other congregations in good works?
8. Is the eldership concerned about worldliness in the congregation as exhibited in:
 - a. Dress?
 - b. Smoking?
 - c. Drinking?
 - d. Dancing?
9. Does the congregation exercise church discipline?
10. Would you consider having fellowship with denominations in any area?
11. Will anyone be permitted and encouraged to worship in this congregation regardless of race, social status, or finances?
12. Who have been the speakers for workshops and gospel meetings for the past three years?
13. Whom do you have scheduled for gospel meetings and workshops in the future?

CONGREGATION

1. What is the mission program of this congregation?
2. What is done in benevolence?
3. What is done to keep and strengthen new members?
4. How many deacons do you have?
 - a. Are they concerned about the work of the church and support the program of the church?
 - b. Do they work in an assigned area?
 - c. Do they report regularly on their assignments, progress, and problems?
5. What plans do you have for the growth of the church?
6. How much land does the church own for expansion?
7. What are the goals of this congregation, short range and long range?
8. Is there an emphasis on soul winning in this congregation?
9. Does the congregation meet the budget?
10. Does the congregation respond to other challenges presented to it by the leadership?
11. What are the greatest needs of this congregation?
12. What is the greatest weakness of this congregation?
13. What is the greatest strength of this congregation?
14. What is the past history of growth?
15. How many baptisms were there last year?
16. How long did the last 3 preachers stay at this congregation?
17. Why did the last preacher leave?
18. What is the congregation's reaction toward him leaving?
19. What is the attitude of the congregation toward the eldership?
20. What is the makeup of the congregation according to age and occupation?
21. Who preaches in the absence of the regular preacher?
22. What is the relationship of this congregation with other congregations in the area?

ELDERS

1. Do you remain united on group decisions?
2. Are the elders soul winners?
3. Do any smoke?
4. Do any of the elders drink socially or believe that it is permissible for others to do so?
5. Do the elders visit the members and take care of their spiritual needs?
6. Are any of the elders Masons, Odd Fellows, or members of other secret organizations?
7. What is the schedule for elder-deacon meetings? Elder-preacher meetings? Business meetings?
8. Do the elders attend lectureships and workshops in order to gain new ideas for the growth and development of the church?
9. What are the plans for developing additional elders and deacons in the future?

PREACHER

1. In general, what is expected of the preacher?
2. Are there other people on the staff?
 - a. What are their responsibilities?
 - b. Do they expect a certain percentage of the time to be able to preach in the pulpit?
3. In addition to the preacher's office, is there a place provided for uninterrupted study?
4. Is the preacher expected to keep regular office hours?
5. What is expected in the area of visitation by the preacher?
6. What are the present and anticipated programs in the area of radio and television?
7. Is there a bus ministry? What part does the preacher play in it?
8. Is adequate secretarial help available?
9. Do the elders endorse and defend the preaching of the truth both publicly and privately when criticism is encountered?
10. Is the preacher encouraged and permitted to attend lectureships and workshops for his further training and advancement?
11. How long do you think the next preacher should stay and work with this congregation?
12. What classes are taught by the local preacher?
13. What is expected of the preacher's wife?
14. Is work in a camp permitted, expected, or required?

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Is the salary paid 52 weeks per year?
2. What part of the social security is paid by the congregation?
3. Is family health insurance provided?
4. Is a retirement plan provided?
5. What is the attitude of the congregation toward the preacher building or buying his own house?
6. If a house is provided by the congregation, what is included?
 - a. Utilities?
 - b. Repairs?
 - c. Redecoration? At what intervals?
 - d. Drapes?
7. Is a yearly cost of living adjustment understood in the contract, along with consideration for raises?
8. How is the moving to be arranged and who is to pay for it?
9. Does the preacher take a day off each week, and can it be flexible or must it be designated?
10. Number of gospel meetings per year should be stated.
11. The number of other workshops or special classes that you plan to conduct away should be discussed with the elders.
12. The amount of vacation time you can be away should be agreed upon.
13. Are expenses paid to lectureships and workshops?
14. What period of notification is given of termination, and is there pay during this transition period?
15. A preacher should estimate the number of running feet of book shelves that is needed to store his books and for files, to be sure that adequate space is given for these.