

## 2024 Pastoral Transition Audit

The pastoral transition audit is designed to establish a baseline for new ministry and to help ensure that there is an appropriate accounting for ministry. The following questions are to be completed by the new pastor in consultation with the former pastor and emailed to the Regional Administrator by July 1, 2024. If you are an associate pastor, the senior pastor is to complete the form and review it with the associate pastor. An updated report should be provided by September 1, 2024.

1. Average worship attendance reported in the statistical report submitted to the conference for 2023. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Average worship attendance for the first six months of 2024. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How often did the Staff Parish Relations Committee meet during 2023? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times has it met since January 1, 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How often did the Church Council meet in 2023? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times has it met since January 1, 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Does the pastor have a discretionary account? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, was there an internal audit by the Staff Parish Relations and Finance Chairpersons of the accounting at the time of the pastoral transition? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If no, an audit is to be conducted immediately.
6. What percentage of shared ministry was paid from January 1 to June 30, 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What percentage of direct bills (pension, health, and property insurance) was paid from January 1 to June 30, 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What percentage of shared ministry and direct bills are anticipated to be paid by the end 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are there any financial concerns within the congregation? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, please describe.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. All healthy congregations engage in appropriate disagreement that has some level of conflict. It is not unusual to experience level one and even level two conflict. Read the statements of conflict below and indicate the level within the congregation. My assessment is that the church is a level \_\_\_\_\_ conflict.

### Definitions:

**Level One:** There's a problem to solve in the church, and people may disagree about how to solve it. But they believe they can work it out, and they are committed to try. They are talking directly to each other, not withholding information. As a result, most people don't call this conflict. They say, "We've got problems to solve, but we can do it."

**Level Two:** The focus shifts from solving the problem to caring for myself. People feel, we've got a problem to fix, but I don't want to be associated with it. I'm going to be cautious, armor myself, plan before I talk to the pastor. I'll talk with other people, but not share fully all I know about the situation. People are nervous, which you can tell because they generalize everything: "We're not communicating. There seems to be low trust around here. There are some difficulties with the choir." But they don't describe the problem specifically. The role of the pastor, then, is to get people talking.

**Level Three:** Again, the objective has changed. It's no longer, "Fix the problem", or "Protect myself;" it's "Win." People feel, you must accept my solution. It's win or lose. I'm not contributing to the difficulty; I'm the good person who has the only possible answer.

The language in such cases is not only vague, it also overstates, distorts, and dichotomizes the conflict. For example, "Pastor, the whole church is out to get you. We are split down the middle. A few bad apples should not be in the church at all. They're never going to change."

