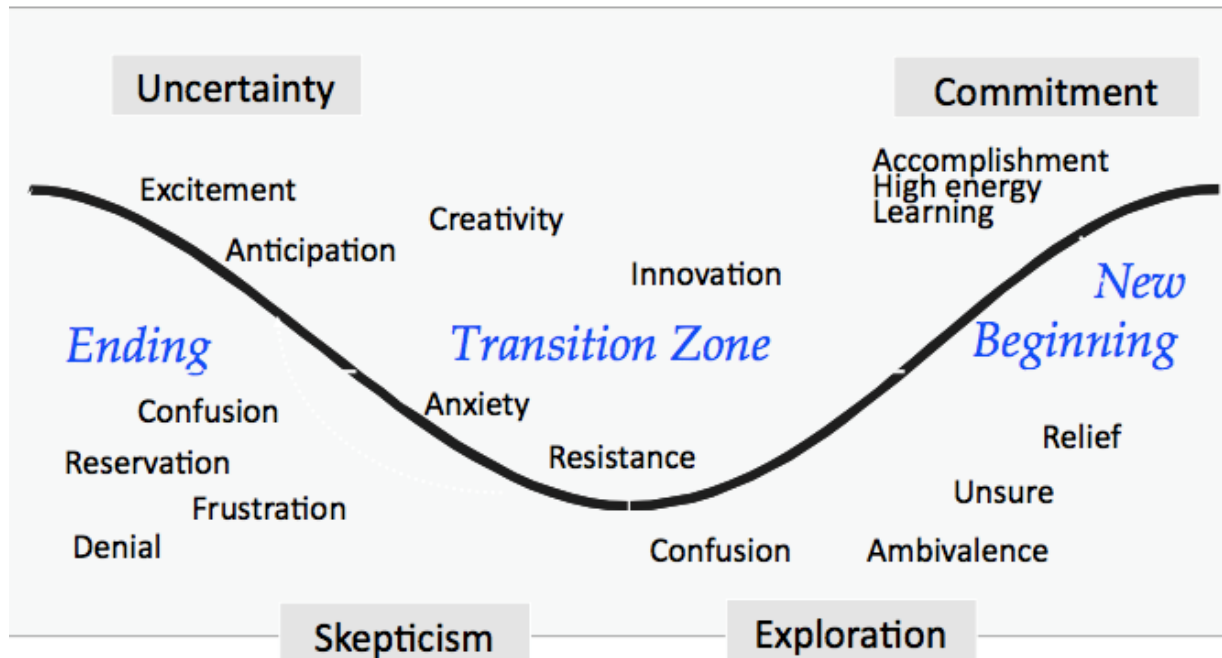


Transition: 11 Helpful Hints

1. Read the article Transition Building a RAFT
<https://communicatingcrossboundariesblog.com/2014/06/12/transition-building-a-raft/>
2. Fully release (past church) church to God, as God has led you to something new, from when you officially end as the pastor, the church will no longer be your responsibility. If there's not some kind of ceremony planned to cement this reality, plan one both for your sake and the sake of the church. You're not only being released from the church, you're being sent with a blessing to your next "mission".
3. What regrets do you have about the way you pastored (Past Church) over the last (No of Years there) years? Tell them to God, ask His forgiveness where there's any sin on your part, and thank God that He's forgiven you and released you for the next "mission". not held back by regret or guilt.
4. Times of transition are times of great potential, potential for both amazing growth and staggering failure, be on guard during the first year, put in "guide rails", a couple of people, to provide accountability, consistency and listening ears and hearts to journey with you during this time. The key idea is to "surround" and "encircle" and "hem yourself in" rather than unconsciously and foolishly allow yourself to fall into the classic trap of the enemy - ISOLATION! Isolation can spell death for those in transition. Your pre-established guide rails may well be gone during this time of upheaval, so you must forcibly, uncomfortably, unnaturally pull them around yourself. And make someone else accountable to you that this happens. I can't over stress how important this is! Especially for the pastor's wife who may need help, counselling, words, and time that is different from her husband and so she doesn't easily and tragically fall through the many deceptive cracks which transition leads to. Because people can process transition differently and that is OK. Set up a couple of people ASAP, you could catch up with them individually or corporately, in person or over Video chat.

5. BITTERNESS. Avoid it! How? Be thankful. Thank God for everything including the hard things. This is a shield for your heart.
6. Some or even many of your expectations will not be met in the new “mission”. Expect to be surprised by some things, some pleasant surprises and some unpleasant. This is normal. Keep a check on your heart. If you are married, ask each other - What are you thankful for, turn complaints into faith filled prayer’s, focus more on the character of God than your first impression of the circumstances.
7. Both in regard to leaving and starting a new, leave enough time for logistics, like packing, change of address, etc. don’t jump in with a full load before other important things are finished. The enemy wants you unnecessarily stressed so he can bring you down more easily. Wisely reduce unneeded stress by (Proverbs 24:27) “Putting your outdoor work in order and getting your fields ready and only after that, building your house.”
8. If you have children, remember they will also be experiencing loss, grief, uncertainty, anxiety etc, remember to be kind to them, more patience will be needed, possible more directed and intentional time with each of your children will be needed to assure them and comfort them and demonstrate to them that they are loved by you, their friends and their heavenly Father.
9. If married be kind to one another, patience, forgiveness, attentive listening and pray with one another during this time. Each of you may pass through different phases of emotion, grief, relief, joy, sadness, loss and gain in this period. Be Kind to one another and to yourself. It will take time to feel “at home”. It can take anything from 6months to 3 years to feel settled, to feel connected, to feel home again in a place.
10. Also there are different phases of transition See diagram adapted from William Bridges below to help you contemplate and to reflect upon, in your own context.

Managing Change: New Beginning Phase



Adapted from *Managing Transitions*, William Bridges