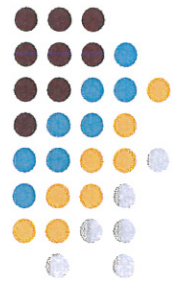


Pinnacle Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 275
Mosinee, WI 54455-0275
715-693-6771
www.pinmin.org



The Pinnacle

Who Am I?

Who am I is often the plot of a bad TV show about someone with amnesia.



After the star awakes from some trauma, they don't know who they are, and the show is all about them seeking and finding their identity.

It's also the reality of a church that finds itself in pastoral transition. A much loved pastor has resigned (or worse, been fired for some reason) and the church "wakes up" from the trauma wondering who it is. Their previous identity had been defined with the relationship with "Pastor Smith". Now...what's next?

It's been my privilege for the past few months to help my church through a transition like this. Our senior pastor left to take a position as the head of a Free Church district (we may not forgive you, Free Church!) and now we're in transition. May I suggest a couple of things to keep in mind as your church faces this prospect (eventually ALL churches do).

First, take your time!

There's no need to rush here. There will be those who feel that if they don't get a pastor in the next

WHO AM I?
DISCOVERING THE REAL YOU

three months, the sky will fall. It won't. As with any "trauma", the dust has to settle. People need time to grieve the loss. Plus, say what you will, much of the identity of the church may have been wrapped (unintentionally) around the pastor. That needs time to settle out. Get connected with your district office, and locate a good interim (they will recommend one) and **settle in for a bit!** Let ministry unfold—trust me, it will. We all have things around our houses we've just "gotten used to" - the mess in the hallway, the stuff on the coffee table. Churches are like that, too. Allow yourselves a good year to make the transition. Sure, you can do it faster. And in this 24/7 world there will be those who will want it to go faster. It can...and you'll regret it later.

Next, take a good look!

Here's where the "who am I?" question comes into play. Bill Hybels talks about finding the "thumbprint of God" on your church. Do you know what it is? What do you do well? What

needs help? Your church needs to take a fresh look at your community and understand its needs.

There are great tools to help in this area. Natural Church Development can give an empirical measure of the health of your church. Good internal survey tools can give you a read on the desires of your church. A good demographic study like Percepts will help you see your community with fresh eyes.

Only after you've waited for a bit, and can answer the question, "Who are we and what do we need?" can you begin the process of searching for a new pastor.

Take your time and do preparation well. Then when you find the right person, your church, your community and your God will be truly pleased.

Volume 3, Issue 4

May 2017

Key Prayer Topics

Pray for Joe and Felicia Isosaki, and Hawi and Preston Winowski (sister and brother) as they prepare and fundraise for their summer mission trip to Japan. There's a lot of prep work to do between now and the departure date.

Pray for Gary and Ray as they prepare to conduct another video training session with our Japanese brothers in June. This will be on the important topic of vision and vision implementation.

Pray for Chris and Faith Crech as they travel to various churches, teaching and visiting with supporting churches. They'll be gone five weekends in a row.

Pray for Gary, as he is in the final phase of his transitional pastorate, and for Ray as he works his church through the phases of the Retool Kit during his transitional pastorate.

Pinnacle exists to promote "Healthy Pastors, Healthy Leaders, Leading Healthy and Effective Churches at home and around the world."

