

Checking In

Orientation for New CMC Pastor Couples

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us the spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Checking In

Many people experience a steep learning curve in their transition to a pastoral role:

- ✓ Changes in personal relationships
- ✓ Income adjustment
- ✓ Balancing family and ministry
- ✓ Wearing many hats (study, public speaking, counseling, public relations, administration, supervision)
- ✓ Feelings of isolation

The two-year ***Checking In*** program helps new pastors and spouses:

- ✓ Form ministry identities
- ✓ Develop pastoral skills
- ✓ Build relationships with other pastor couples

Checking In groups new pastoral couples into a cohort under the care of a mentor couple.

Who qualifies for *Checking In*?

Checking In is a program that equips pastors and spouses at the beginning of their ministries. Associate or lead pastors in the first two years of their first pastoral placement qualify.

What does *Checking In* involve?

Three to six pastors and spouses will be placed in a ministry cohort with a mentor couple selected and trained by the CMC office.

Each year, the mentor couple will meet with the group six times via Zoom conferencing and will have at least one individual meeting with each pastoral couple.

Checking In will begin with a retreat for the new pastoral couples. For convenience of travel, the retreat will be held immediately following CMC's summer Multiply Conference. Child care will be provided. The retreat will include worship, resourcing from speakers, participants' stories of God's call, and informal fellowship.

Prior to the retreat each pastor will fill out a checklist which identifies needs for equipping. During the retreat, each couple in the cohort will meet with the mentor couple who will identify ways to strengthen pastoral skills, theological knowledge, and personal development. Together they will develop an individualized plan to guide the new couple over the two-year program and beyond.

Following the retreat, the pastoral couples and mentor couple will participate in Zoom conferences for 90-120 minutes in length every two months. These group sessions will sometimes include qualified guest speakers on preaching, administration, counseling, pastoral care, or Bible doctrine. These group sessions also provide a great opportunity to build relationships with peers who are experiencing similar joys and struggles.

In the course of the program, each pastor is encouraged to develop a ministry toolbox. This will involve online resources, books, Equipper series, and RBC classes adapted for ministers on location.

What is the financial investment to participate in *Checking In?*

While much of the cost of the program is subsidized, the local congregation is asked to contribute \$300 per year or \$600 total for the two year program.

Limited scholarships are available.

For more information or to apply contact:

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