



# Checking In

## **Rosedale Network of Churches** Orientation for New 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:

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

*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 Rosedale Network office.

Each year, the mentor couple will meet with the group six times via Zoom conferencing.

**Checking In** will begin with a retreat in Central Ohio for new pastoral couples. Held annually in the fall, 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.

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 could include online resources, books, Equipper series videos, and online Training in Ministry classes through Rosedale Bible College.

## **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.

## **For more information or to apply contact:**

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# **Rosedale Network of Churches**

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