

# Why YOUR church should be a Refuge Church

Adapted from an article by Dr. Charles Wickman – founder of PIR Ministries

## It's already in your DNA...

People already find your church a safe place; where grace, encouragement and hope are alive. Regardless of its size, your church is already demonstrating what we all long for – people who will walk with us when the wheels fall off in life. Your leadership and people have a vision for restoration.

Pastors and ministry leaders need that same safe place, among people just like that, when their ministry life has been turned upside-down. They have been “exited”, and find themselves shell-shocked, burnt out or dealing with vocational failure. A terminated pastor and spouse need a place to feel the freedom to be vulnerable and honest while working through the issues of their exit.

We all need people and places of refuge. Exited pastors need Refuge Churches!

## Eight reasons why becoming a Refuge Church for an exited pastoral family is so important.

1. Your church will participate in an uncommon ministry - addressing an epidemic problem in the Body of Christ and contributing to the health of the church globally – reversing the decline of pastors.
2. Your church will assist a pastor working through the questions surrounding his or her call to ministry and the skills to carry that out. You will help them resolve confusion, recover drained energy and loss of confidence and address any feelings of guilt.
3. Your church will guide a family through a time of financial uncertainty, as well as support children who may have lost friends, changed schools and likely had to move to a brand-new community.
4. Your church will be involved in the restoration of an exited pastor (even though he or she may not return to a vocational role) and experience the joy of witnessing that restoration first hand.
5. Your church will experience the satisfaction of seeing Galatians 6:2 “...bearing one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” – lived out in concrete ways as you serve an exited pastoral family.
6. Your church may well see the return of a pastor to vocational service serve as a springboard to greater care for one another; creating a corporate memory of grace extended to those in need.
7. Your church will develop a clearer sense of how unhealthy and ineffective ways to resolve conflicts in leadership (which often lead to a pastor being “exited”) can deeply impact pastor and church alike; leading to better ways of helping church staff, leadership teams and congregations work through those difficult times.
8. As the pastor of a Refuge Church, you will have the joy of a leadership team that has come to understand more fully the multitude of stresses those in ministry face; and the potential for pastors to be “at-risk” for an untimely exit.

Talk to us today about becoming a Refuge Church!