

## **“HELP, Our Church Needs A New Pastor!”**

If you are a church within the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC) then help is here for you. The CBWC has an active Pastoral Settlement Office which works both with pastors and with pastoral candidates. The Pastoral Settlement Office has a CBWC Settlement Coordinator, Rev. Dennis Stone. The office also has an administrative assistant, Sharon Onciul. You can reach the settlement office directly by emailing [pastoralsettlement@cbwc.ca](mailto:pastoralsettlement@cbwc.ca) or by phone at 1-800-474-6018 or 780-462-2176.

Here are some ways the CBWC Settlement Office may be of service to your church's search committee:

- Counsel on what are usual experiences and protocols for churches in your situation.
- Available counsel and possible recommends on interim or transitional ministry
- All Pastoral Search Committees will be greatly helped by the step by step resource of the Pastoral Staff Search Manual. Most questions of what is common and what is good process is contained in the manual. It and other helpful resources from this office are online under “Church Resources” link on the [www.cbwc.ca](http://www.cbwc.ca) website.
- Assistance in the placement of your pastoral job description online on the [www.cbwc.ca](http://www.cbwc.ca) website.
- The provision of secure database retention of ministry candidates “Ministry Information Profiles” (a uniform and more engaging style of resume’).
- Some screening assistance with candidates making application, including specific recommendations as desired by the CBWC Settlement Committee and candidate review of an EQ-I test (an emotional intelligence test).
- Caring individuals at our office that can address questions and concerns as they come up.
- Cooperative work with CBWC Regional Ministers to establish an ‘on-the-ground’ presence for the search committee and church board during what may feel like an irregular season for the church.

The Pastoral Settlement Office cannot do all the work for a church's search committee. A church alone calls a pastor. A church alone knows intimately their individual needs and concerns. It is a goal of the Pastoral Settlement Office, however, to see that the sense of panic that affects some churches as they face a pastor's resignation is to be lessened by the help available here.

We look forward to working with you. A special relationship is bound to begin as we share together in the stages ahead. The first step for your church to engage in is the appointment of a search committee and then contact by the committee chair with this office.

Your co-worker,  
Dennis Stone