

What do Coaches Do?

Coaches:

- Help pastors in their efforts to be effective leaders.
- Support pastors in developing the habits and practices they need to sustain ministry.
- Accompany pastors as they chart a course that guides their ministries and engage their congregations in change and transformation.
- Encourage pastors to identify their strengths and passions for ministry and to set concrete, doable goals that help them focus on doing what really matters in ministry.

The benefits of coaching include the opportunity to have a focused, one-on-one conversation with someone whose sole objective is to listen to your goals, dreams and visions. Your coach then comes alongside you to question, explore, wonder, dream and develop plans of action. The basic assumption of coaching is that we all possess within ourselves everything we need to make change, solve problems or approach new initiatives. A coach draws out our internal wisdom and supports its development and growth.

Coaches are particularly helpful when a pastor is hoping to explore something new, innovative or creative in ministry. They can also be a great resource to re-discover passion in ministry or to provide the needed accountability and support that helps a project or dream come to fruition.

Here are some words gathered through evaluation of the Wisconsin Conference Coaching program. These are quotes from active pastors in our conference who are experiencing the benefits of coaching:

"I have experienced great one on one discussions and very helpful coaching regarding moving two churches forward in shared ministry."

"I have appreciated spending time with a coach who has experience in a similar setting. It has been great to see how other churches deal with complex situations. My coach has been excellent in helping me see new ways."

"I feel supported. I feel like I am being challenged reasonably and in good directions. I think my coach is pushing me to go deeper. Coaching is time well spent!"

"Most of the challenges we face as pastors can be worked through with the help of someone else. Others can provide clarity for us, help us see things we don't see because we are too close to the situation, and provide the encouragement and reassurance we all need from time to time."

"I believe in all areas of ministry talking about issues and working them through with intentional listening is valuable. An experience of confidential and honest conversation is vital for growth and also helps define goals and values."

"Of all the things that I have engaged in to "assist" my ministry, coaching has been the most helpful and had the most impact."

Does this sound like something that might support you in ministry? Fill out the **Coaching Interest Form** (link) and send it to Tisha. Have more questions? Contact Tisha Brown.