

Resources for Helping a New Pastor Become Assimilated into his Community
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1. Chamber of Commerce - Handouts
2. Develop District (multi-county - Census data, trends or plans in business and industry, good understanding of power structures.
3. Local Planning Commission - Aware of housing trends-community developments; census data; zoning
4. Local/Regional history publications - Library-get a feel for the place
5. State Humanities Commission - May have some good videos or slide shows on the area
6. State Historical Society - Library
7. Welfare, Social service agencies - Know resources for helping persons
8. Civic clubs - Access to community leadership
9. Postal employees and hair dressers - Knowledgeable about what is happening particularly in individual lives.
10. Major industry - Visit to get a feel for how people get a living.
11. School administrators - What do they see as problems, needs, developments?
12. County Agriculture Extension - Can assist with understanding this dimension of community life; can point you to other resources, e.g., State College
13. Hospital Administrator(s) - Guidance in policies/expectations
14. Funeral Director(s) - Guidance in norms/expectations
15. The "Coffee Club" in a small place-the guys who get together informally each morning at a cafe to swap stories
16. Other pastors - Resources/expectations/feeling tones/introductions/cooperation
17. Books - (a) Community studies by sociologists and anthropologists of similar sized places, (b) Historical studies of the development of similar places and of industries like those which are predominant in the community
18. Leaders - Bankers, lawyers, and politicians

19. The underlife - Cabbies, porters, maids, waitresses, i.e. people whose view of the community may be a variance from the "official" view
20. Media people - often have a picture of the life of the community that they are willing to share
21. Criminal Justice personnel - Might ride with them on a shift occasionally
22. Ethnic leaders - Pastors, merchants, associational leaders