

Issues Facing Rural Pastors

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Personal

- Colleagues/Mentors
- Role Expectations—general lack of consensus
- Vision
- Family Concerns
- Time/Space
- Lack of intellectual stimulation—time, topics, money to attend conferences
- Feeling 2nd class, in ministerial galaxy
- Spiritual dryness
- Transition from urban to rural setting

Family

- Education of children
- Vocational opportunities for spouse
- Income
- How to “get off stage”
- Friends and confidants
- Limited cultural opportunities
- Aging parents
- Retirement uncertainties

Congregation

- Vision
- Low self-esteem
- Potential for development/growth
- Generational conflicts
- Being/Becoming
- Ghosts in and out of the church
- Conflicts with or among lay leaders
- Gossip
- Limited resources
- Relationship with community and its churches
- Loss of youth to the cities
- Sinfulness of the folk
- Increasing dysfunction of teens raised by largely absent parents
- Leadership drain

Community

- Changing/Dying
- Caught in the old six mile paradigm
- Vision
- Role of the church in the community
- Past sins that stifle
- Changing racial, and/or socioeconomic picture
- Economic and power issues
- Getting to know how the community operates

- Relating/Adjusting to the culture of the place
- Being a cosmopolitan (prophetic) person in a localist setting

Denomination/Connection

- Expectations from judicatories
- Bleed over of issues at national level to this church
- Helps available from
- Does the “home office” know we are out here

Spiritual

- Temperature of the members of the congregation
- Condition of the community
- Of the pastor and/or family
- Families of the church
- Health of the congregation
- Needs for growth toward maturity
- Culture Wars

What would you add to this listing?