

## Chapter 5

# Pastoral Ministry Support

Susan M. Lang

*“It’s a gorgeous day today! Have any plans for this afternoon?” asked Pastor Rush as she chatted with the Lanes during the fellowship time after worship.*

*“Oh, I think we’ll do a little gardening,” said Mrs. Lane, “we love to work outside together whenever we get a chance. What are you going to do this afternoon?”*

*Before the pastor had a chance to respond, she was interrupted by an emergency phone call. Whatever she had planned for the day had just changed. Two members of the congregation had been transported to the ER after a car accident on the way home from church.*

Serving as pastor of a congregation is demanding and often unpredictable work. A pastor is on call 24/7, including holidays and family time. While the demands are great, the status that once accompanied the office of pastor has diminished. In addition, many people do not understand the full extent of the role of a pastor.

This chapter will examine some of the causes of the isolation that pastors often feel. The reality is that through our baptism into the

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