

A Parsonage or Housing Allowance – That is the Question

<p>Parsonage – Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investment • Generally less expensive in the long run • Does not change apportionments • Unknown yearly costs • Can be difficult to manage maintenance and upkeep • More flexible with pastoral changes 	<p>Housing Allowance – Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known fixed cost • Increases apportionments • Unknown effect on incoming pastor • Pastor invested in community (maybe)
<p>Parsonage – Pastor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility at appointment • Easy maintenance (maybe) • The church is responsible • Control, control, control • Can build equity in non-real estate investments (stocks, bonds, CDs, etc.) that are portable 	<p>Housing Allowance – Pastor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investment to build equity • Control, control, control • Investment at risk • Part of the community • Can select schools, spouse commute, etc.

1. Consider the age of the pastor in making the decision.
2. Consider the number of pastors and the stability of the staff configuration.
3. Balance the current pastor(s)' wishes with the church's vision.
4. Remember the trustees' fiduciary responsibility to the church.
5. Never, Never, NEVER loan a pastor money for a down-payment (or anything else!).