ARRIVING ON THE SCENE – YOU
Learn and use names!

Support the legacy of your predecessor. Don’t bad-mouth him or her: it will “get back.”

ARRIVING ON THE SCENE – OTHERS
Learn and use names! Keep re-introducing: it takes months to learn names, but the process is speedier with repetition.

REMEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
Use pen and paper – yes, there are still significant chunks of the world that appreciate a hand-written note!

PASTORING
You will be your choir’s pastor – scary, huh? Be interested in the lives, work and play of your choir members.

Don’t talk about yourself all the time: no one will care about your adventures at university or in your last church position, for instance. Don’t take offense: this is how people are.

Listen to others: let them do the talking. It may be years before anyone takes an interest in you … don’t lose heart: when the day arrives that someone does, it will be well worth the wait!

Choirs are full of oddballs. Love them, but don’t nurture their oddball-ness. Stay focused on your plan, your strategy, your music list, your agenda, your hopes and dreams. Oddballs can be de-activated by your disarming positivity.

Post-rehearsal gatherings allow people to see your full humanity. You don’t have to base your ministry on fear and aloof-ness: most people will respond even more fully if they see that behind your leadership is a still forming human being.

Attend choir member extra-curricular events: concerts, piano recitals, parties, bar and bat mitzvahs.

SOCIAL MEDIA
No.

RSVPs
Respond.
PREPARE
Be ready musically for whatever may happen pastorally: get your musical act together a day ahead or first thing in the morning … because you never know what crisis will crop up next.

BE THE BEST CONDUCTOR YOU CAN BE
Even amateur singers will sense when your “stick technique” is lacking. Take lessons, if you feel that you can improve. It’s true that other aspects of your leadership will ultimately matter more, but you will still save lots of time and calm lots of nerves, if your conducting gestures make sense.

LEAVE-TAKING – OTHERS
Let your people go! Be positive.

Throw a party.

LEAVE-TAKING – YOU
Don’t be in touch with former choir members, except at birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas – unless they are in touch with you!

Don’t bad-mouth your successor. Only say positive things – even if it kills you to be dis-honest.