

What Special Training do Interim Pastors Receive?

Intentional Interim Ministers are experienced pastors who have undertaken special training to equip them for this unique ministry. Since vacant congregations fall under the care of district presidents, their training and performance is closely monitored.

How long may an Interim Pastor serve our Congregation?

Only as long as the period designated in the agreement signed by the congregation, the interim pastor and the respective district. **IN NO CASE WILL THE INTERIM PASTOR BE A CANDIDATE FOR A CALL AS THE PERMANENT PASTOR OF THE CONGREGATION.** In Michigan, the placement process is coordinated by the congregation with the assistance of the Director of Intentional Interim Ministry, the Congregation Ministry Facilitator and circuit counselor.

What Costs are Incurred?

Since Intentional Interim Ministry is handled through district presidents, the procedure for setting up cost differs from district to district. A general rule of thumb however would be that it will not cost more than the previous pastor's salary package (assuming that the package was within district scale guidelines). Realize also that you will be receiving in most cases an experienced pastor who has received additional training. In the Michigan District salary is determined by the congregation leadership in consultation with the Interim Pastor.

How may more Detailed Information be Obtained?



Each district handles the matter of placing Intentional Interim Pastors in their own way. Michigan District Congregations may contact their Congregation Ministry Facilitator or the Director of Interim Ministry at 888.225.2111.



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

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Intentional Interim Ministry

Providing specially trained and experienced Interim Pastors to congregation in transition.



Bridging the time
Between resident pastors

*A specialized pastoral ministry
of districts of the LCMS.*

What is Intentional Interim Ministry?

Interim ministry is not "vacancy pastor" under a new name; it is quite different. Intentional Interim Ministry pastors provide full, ongoing, pastoral leadership and care. They are trained to help in resolving grief and conflict issues, and assist the congregation in preparing for new ministry, mission and leadership.

Why should an intentional Interim Pastor be Considered?

In the past in pastoral vacancy situations congregations have sought services of a "vacancy pastor" to provide

stop gap ministry, providing only the essentials. This approach being minimal, the feeling is one of incompleteness. With Intentional Interim Ministry the following can happen:

1) Members know they have a pastor.

2) Ministry continues to move forward.

3) The dynamics of "the in-between times" provide opportunity for renewal of ministry.

4) Old struggles and conflicts are dealt with to bring healing.

5) Anxiety over the congregation's

future is minimal as the Circuit Counselor assists the congregation through the call process.



Congregational Dynamics in the

"In-Between Times"

The dynamics a vacancy produces provides an "excellent opportunity for a congregation to reflect and review its past for the meanings of its heritage and history and to project its future in a proactive way," assisting the congregation in understanding its potential for renewal in light of the Gospel.

What Situations Particularly Call for the Ministry of a Trained Intentional Interim Pastor?

Though most congregations in a vacancy situation can benefit from the ministrations of a trained interim pastor, circumstances which especially benefit from this ministry include:

1) A pastor's departure after a long tenure

2) A multiple staff parish that loses its head pastor

3) A congregation in a conflicted situation

4) After situations of clergy misconduct

5) Congregations which choose to use this as a time for renewal.

How does having an Intentional Interim Pastor Benefit a Congregation?

The Intentional Interim Pastor provides the congregation with complete pastoral care. He has also been trained to assist the congregation to complete five tasks:

1) Coming to terms with their history - to have a snapshot of who they really are.

2) Redefine their identity.

3) Understand the transitions in leadership vacancies engender.

4) Enable the congregation to affirm their partnership with District and Synod.

5) Develop a congregational commitment for new pastoral and lay leadership around this newly developed vision of ministry.

