

# Interim Pastor and Transitional Shepherds\*

## Learning The Facts on Interim Pastorships

### **Why would a church need an interim pastor?**

The end of a pastorate is the end of a RELATIONSHIP. The interim allows time for the community to do the spiritual and emotional work of ending one relationship and getting ready to begin another relationship. (e.g. “Rebound” relationships are rarely our healthiest!)

### **What does an intentional interim pastor do?**

Overall...

Helps prepare the congregation for its next phase of ministry with its next Senior pastor.

Specifically...

- Maintains and grows effective ministry.
- Works toward identified goals.
- Guides processes unique to pastoral transition:
  - Come to terms with history
  - Discover a renewed identity
  - Help leadership grow and change
  - Rediscover links with the denomination
  - Establish commitment to ministry with a new pastor

*An intentional interim pastor...IS...*

- committed to helping the church grow.
- trained and able to guide some unique and demanding processes.
- able to establish and maintain clear boundaries.

*An intentional interim pastor.....is NOT*

- embedded in past relationships or patterns.
- invested in specific long-term future outcomes.
- a place-holder until the “real pastor” arrives.
- a candidate for the permanent pastor position.

*\*Information collected from “Temporary Shepherds: MCC’s Model for Interim Ministry”*