

## WHAT SPECIAL TRAINING DO INTERIM PASTORS RECEIVE?

All Intentional Interim Ministry pastors have completed many years in successful, varied pastoral ministry.



They have been screened, and been recommended through many sources. They have undertaken special training and fieldwork assignments 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. The call process will be coordinated by the congregation with the assistance of the district president 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.

## HOW MANY MORE DETAILED INFORMATION BE OBTAINED?



information.

Each district handles the matter of placing Intentional Interim Pastors in their own way. Contact your District President's office for more

# Interim Ministry

*Providing specially trained and experienced Interim Pastors to congregations in transition.*



*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.

# I ntentional



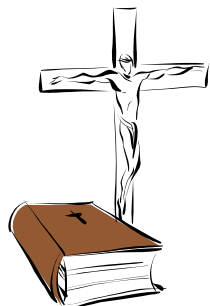
*WHY SHOULD AN  
INTENTIONAL INTERIM  
PASTOR BE  
CONSIDERED?*

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 to project its future in a proactive assisting the way,"



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 sexual 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.**