

6.1417 TRANSITIONAL (formerly Temporary) PASTOR REPORTING

Transitional pastors shall provide the Committee on Ministry a one page (front and back) report on how the pastor has provided leadership to the church. The following guidelines apply to these reports.

A. Interim Pastors – Every other month

During the first phase the pastor shall report bi-monthly on progress in addressing these five focus points, as well as conducting church officer training.

THE FIVE FOCUS POINTS OF INTERIM MINISTRY

1. Heritage:

Creating ways for the congregation to share defining stories, articulating and affirming “a shared past, its ongoing meaning, and the sense of purpose it can provide.”

2. Mission:

How the core values and identity of the church shape the future work of the church. Can include developing vision and mission statements and preparing tactical plans.

3. Connections:

Discovering the network of relationships the congregation has outside of itself. An opportunity to strengthen connections with the denomination and groups within the community, as well as to consider updating communication, including use of technology.

4. Leadership:

Discerning what kind of leadership (lay and ordained) is needed for the congregation’s mission and developing that leadership with intentionality.

5. Future:

Developing a future orientation for the congregation’s core values, with openness to how God is using their heritage and mission to call them to new things.

(Keydel, John. “Focus Points and the Work of the Congregation.” *Transitional Ministry Today* Ed. Norman B. Bendroth.)

Once the above tasks are substantially complete, and the church’s search process is underway, second phase reports may address such questions as the following:

- Are there any particular goals or tasks specified in your contract? If so, how are you working to fulfill them?
- Are you aware of any hopes/intentions from the COM for this particular congregation? If so, how are you working to fulfill them?
- What are the ongoing challenges in your position, and how are you addressing them?
- What conversations are you having?
- What new direction is needed for the congregation? Are there resources to undergird this new direction?
- What is the dynamic or chemistry in the church at this time?
- What is your own discernment about the church’s future?

B. Stated Supply Pastors

Stated supply pastors normally are serving a church which does not expect to call a pastor. Pastors shall bring to the COM any issues that need attention. Many of the above second phase questions for Interim pastors should be considered.

C. Bridge Pastors (a new section describing this position will be added to the COM Manual soon)

Bridge pastors normally are appointed for periods of less than six months. During this time no report is required.