

## **RATIONALE FOR USE OF INTERIM PASTORS\***

The following represents some of the ways a trained interim pastor can be a benefit to a congregation in the interim transition:

1. **PROVIDING STABILITY: Consistent week-to-week pastoral leadership:**
  - A. Listening
  - B. Preaching designed to meet the needs of the In Between Times
  - C. Guidance: helping the congregation to understand the natural shifting of leadership which occurs in the In Between Times
  - D. Pastoral Care
  - E. Administration: working with staff, session and committees
  - F. Conflict Management: If needed, to help in congregational healing
  
2. **HELPING TO EXAMINE “WHO WE ARE” AS A CONGREGATION:**
  - A. Our Past:
    - 1.Looking at past patterns and evaluating their impact.
    - 2.Discovering our strengths and weaknesses
    - 3.Celebrating our history; sharing our story
  - B. Our Present:
    - 1.Identifying and celebrating our success
    - 2.Working through our common grief
    - 3.Listening for concerns/issues, and guiding in mutual problem solving
  
3. **HELPING TO DISCOVER OPTIONS FOR CHANGE:**
  - A. To suggest and be open to suggestions for trying new ideas/things in the life and ministry of the congregation
  - B. To enable changes in those discovered patterns which the Session has found not to have been successful, or helpful in the past..
  
4. **HELPING TO EXPLORE WHAT WE WANT TO BE**
  - A. Clarifying the vision of who we can be
  - B. Keeping the vision before the congregation
  - C. Looking beyond the former pastor and the Interim Pastor to the “one who is to come”, and preparing the congregation for the new Pastor’s arrival
  
5. **HELPING TO STRENGTHEN DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGES:**
  - A. To help guide the Session/Congregation through the search process in partnership with the Transition Team assigned by presbytery
  - B. To strengthen the congregation’s appreciation of and relationship to its denomination

*\*Adapted from a paper produced by the Presbytery of Great Rivers and included with permission in the Interim Policy Resource Book Church Vocations Ministry Unit, 1991.*