



TRANSITIONAL PASTOR MINISTRY

As a Transitional Pastor, if you do your job right, the incoming permanent Pastor will send you a Christmas card every year.

DEFINITION: A Transitional Pastor works closely with the congregation during their season without a permanent Pastor and helps guide them into the next chapter of the church's life.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Transitional Pastor is to:

- 1) Serve and please God. (*Galatians 1:10*)
- 2) Serve and bless the people of the church without a Pastor. (*Romans 15:1-2*)
- 3) Serve and bless the incoming permanent Pastor. (*Isaiah 40:3-4*)

INTERIM PASTOR VS. TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

Interim Pastor	Transitional Pastor
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fill the pulpit between Pastors.2. Provide minimal Pastoral services.3. Facilitate effective short-term leadership.4. Provide relevant preaching.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate closure to the past.2. Provide caring Pastoral Services3. Facilitate effective short-term leadership.4. Provide relevant preaching.5. Facilitate spiritual and relationship renewal.6. Oversee vision clarity.7. Facilitate organizational health.8. Assist in the Pastor search process.

NOTABLE DIFFERENCES

- AVAILABILITY
 - Interim Pastors can commute and sometimes are only available on Sundays.
 - Transitional Pastors move and live in the area of the church during their tenure.
- INVOLVEMENT
 - Interim Pastors have minimal availability to members of the congregation.
 - Transitional Pastors are available in the same manner as a permanent Pastor.
- LEADERSHIP
 - Interim Pastors might share the Pastoral responsibilities with other Interim Pastors.
 - Transitional Pastors remain the sole leader during the interim period.
- CHANGES
 - Interim Pastors make few, if any, changes to the ministries of the church.
 - Transitional Pastors evaluate each ministry of the church and make necessary changes.
- SELECTION
 - Interim Pastors seldom involve themselves in the permanent Pastoral selection.
 - Transitional Pastors are very involved in choosing the next Pastor.

THE CHURCH AND YOU



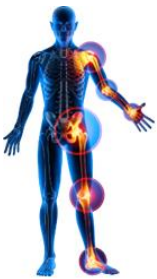
EYE IN THE SKY PERSPECTIVE

- As a Transitional Pastor, you bring to the church an outside perspective and see more clearly things that need to be changed.
- Through the direction of the Holy Spirit and your personal experience, you'll be able to guide the church toward greater health.
- As you spend time with the church, it's important to regularly step back and maintain this perspective.



HMMM... SMELLS GOOD TO ME!

- Don't be surprised when you receive some resistance in making necessary changes.
- Many times, churches think their only issue is that they are without a Pastor. Because they have been in a normative state of existence, most will think there isn't much that needs to be changed.
- As a Transitional Pastor, you nudge the church out of their comfort zone.



EVERY "BODY" HAS ISSUES

- Scripture refers to the church as the body of Christ. Just as our natural body will eventually suffer aches and pains, so will the church body. It happens over time, and this means it needs healing.
- Often, this will involve closure regarding past issues, but also can include current situations.
- As the Transitional Pastor, you help identify the areas in need of healing and guide the church through the process. Some of this can be accomplished in a group setting and some will have to be dealt with in a face-to-face meeting.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Churches without a Pastor are like sheep without a shepherd and will scatter in various directions.
- As a Transitional Pastor, it's imperative to work with the congregation in helping them find direction for their future.
- Learning about the original vision of the church can be useful in knowing God's purpose and plan for that church.
- It's important to not bring our personal vision for the church and make it head in our own chosen direction.