

INTERIM (SUPPLY) PASTORS AND SPECIALIZED TRANSITIONAL MINISTERS

There are two kinds of interim ministry that fit most situations of congregations in transition:

1. Interim pastors: These are seasoned (often retired) pastors who have experience and skills in ministry. Most of these pastors have not been trained for transitional ministry and they tend to serve for 2-10 months. PCR has a number of pastors on a list from which recommendations can be made to congregations.
2. Specialized Transitional Ministers (STMs)*: These pastors are endorsed for specialized transitional ministry by Pastor Church Resources. They provide strategic assistance when churches need help with both regular pastoral duties and the processing of key system dynamics in preparation for calling a new pastor. Endorsement includes, among other things, an interview process, a formal psychological assessment, and specialized training. STMs tend to serve congregations from 12-18 months. PCR will work with the STMs and congregations by making connections, supplying sample contracts, etc.

In each case, PCR is not responsible for the search/interview/negotiation process but is available to assist pastors and congregations find one another.

Congregations who are financially challenged but who desire the services of an STM are invited to apply for financial assistance from PCR. Although modest in amount, these grants can help a congregation obtain this vital ministry at a crucial time in their history.

***Note:** The name “specialized transitional minister” has been introduced to identify those who are trained and endorsed for this work. The generic use of the term “interim minister” has contributed to a situation in which congregations are not always aware of the level of training or

expertise that a minister does or does not bring to the transitional situation facing a congregation.