

## Why Interim Ministry?

*“Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware if it?”* (Isa. 43:18-19) God is forthright to declare plans for something new. Human nature, however, often prevents us from aligning ourselves with God’s intentions so we might be able to see what God is choosing to do. As the prophet was sent to help the people recognize their own weakness and focus on God’s providence, so the Interim Pastor, trained to help a church focus on the five critical tasks a church must address during times of pastoral transition, can be God’s instrument for securing a better and healthier future for that congregation. Searching for, naming, and finding that *‘new thing’* is what well-trained interim ministry is all about. It is rooted in a deep awareness of the priority God has for times of preparation and waiting before God does something new.

ABCCR Interim Ministry seeks to help prepare the congregation to call their next pastor. Intentionally addressing the Five Tasks of Interim Ministry greatly enables that preparation.



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PROGRAM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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Interim Ministry Program  
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

When Your  
Pastor Resigns  
There is A Big Gap  
In Your Church



## No Pastor...

- To Preach
- To Lead Bible Study
- To Visit the Sick
- To Conduct Funerals
- To Perform Weddings
- To Represent You in the Community
- To Carry Out the Day to Day Pastoral Duties
- To Train and Lead the Congregation for Mission in the Community and World

**An experienced and trained Interim Pastor not only fills the gap for your church but also helps in many ways to prepare your congregation for its next pastor.**

## An experienced Interim Pastor helps your church...

### COME TO TERMS WITH THE CHURCH'S HISTORY:

Learn from the past to enrich the future.

### DISCOVER A NEW IDENTITY:

Gain a new understanding of who you are and where God might be leading you as a congregation.



### ALLOW NEEDED LEADERSHIP CHANGE:

Allow and facilitate changes in leadership style by helping people discover and use their gifts and providing training for new leaders.

### RE-AFFIRM DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGE:

Renew an appreciation for and understanding of the denominational identity that flows through the history, mission and heart of the local church.

### COMMIT TO NEW DIRECTION:

Help the congregation develop and embrace a shared vision, partnership and commitment for ministry in the future with new pastoral leadership.

## Value Added Benefits:

### What your church receives...



- A qualified American Baptist Interim Pastor "on the field"
- Shared costs between the church and the ABCCR for the Search process
- Shared costs for moving a newly called pastor to the community
- Stability of ministry during a time of transition
- Churches typically experience greater ministry effectiveness during the interim
- The leadership is freed up to focus on discerning God's preferred future



ABCCR Interim Ministry Program