

Interim Ministry Practices

Southwestern Washington Synod

The following practices provide a framework of support for the congregation, the Interim pastor and the Synod Office.

1. When possible, experienced Interim pastors will be placed in congregations.
2. When possible, the Interim pastor will interview with congregational leaders to get a sense of the congregation's needs and the pastor's way of working with those needs.
3. The Synod will provide a Work Agreement, using the modified ELCA template. The pastor and congregation will add specific details, sign the Work Agreement and return it to the Synod Office before the Interim receives a call to serve.
4. If the Interim pastor does not have a current background check on file (past 3 years), the Synod Office will conduct a background check.
5. The Synod Council will issue a call to the Interim pastor. Most often, this happens after the Interim period has begun (since the Council meets only 5 times per year)
6. The Interim pastor will provide short monthly reports to the Bishop's Associate throughout the Interim period. This report will focus on key goals and the progress that is being made toward calling a new pastor.
7. The Bishop's Associate will check-in with the Council President as well as key staff to get their input about the ministry partnership between Interim pastor and congregation.
8. Per the instruction in the Synod Call Manual, the Interim pastor will not be involved in the Call process.
9. As the Interim wraps up a Final Report will be filed with the Bishop's Associate (template will be provided).