

INTERIM PARISH MINISTRY

To be used as a directive from the Bishop during the interim period when a previous rector has departed, and before the new rector has been appointed.

- 1 The Bishop, or his representative, will be responsible for placement of interim minister(s). The person functioning as interim minister is subject to the discipline and authority of the Bishop. Whenever possible the appointment will have a definite term.
- 2 In concert with the Wardens, the interim minister will report on a regular basis to the Bishop, or to the person whom the Bishop appoints, i.e. Archdeacon / Regional Dean / neighbouring parish priest.
- 3 The Interim Minister
 - (a) is to maintain the viability of the church or parish in which he/she is to minister. Reference: Directive 8.2 The Priest in the Parish and directives under section 1 General Liturgy and Worship.
 - b) will honour the tradition and practice of the Parish. He/she will maintain and encourage pastoral duties plus the Christian activities of the laity. Continuing the programmes already established and reporting to the Bishop if unfamiliar with local practice rather than 'shelving' until the new rector is appointed.
 - c) should ensure that any change of direction in programme, liturgical practice, education materials introduced, schedule and location of services etc. is:
 - In accord with the directives of the Bishop,
 - Is really wanted / needed by the Congregation, and
 - Has grown out of an assessment / evaluation by the Congregation and Bishop.
 - d) will recognize that a congregation in an interim period is already dealing with change. Even what may appear to the interim minister as "minor" changes may be more than what people are able to cope with during the interim. An interim minister's preference for "things" one way or another is not good cause for change. Using the appropriate structures and consulting with the Bishop will help legitimize and empower the agreed to change(s) and proceedings. Likewise the interim should be careful not to promote systemic changes, such as amalgamation of churches or a new rectory during an interim period.
- 4 All gifts or bequests that will constitute changes to the fabric of a church building, or other buildings, in any parish during the interim period must only be

considered on a tentative basis, and will be subject to final approval for implementation by the Bishop.

- 5 Removing, adding, or altering church furnishings without the expressed wishes of the congregation and without consultation with the Bishop, is to be discouraged. Appropriate faculty is required for additions to the fabric of the church proper.
- 6 The interim minister is to increase the potential for a successful ministry by the next incumbent. Emphasis on fellowship and reconciliation are opportunities which may bring about needed and helpful congregational healing during the 'grief', loss, or waiting period. The updating of mailing lists, inventories of churches and offices, and review of reporting procedure and other data which would be helpful to the incoming rector are worthwhile projects during an interim ministry.
- 7 Where possible, the interim minister should nurture the congregation to become future oriented. The congregation may have experienced hurts from the past, thus becoming inward looking. It is in the best interests of the ongoing ministry of the Bishop, and of the congregation, that the interim minister identify and communicate in his/her report to the Bishop any information which will enable the Bishop to provide appropriate consideration for future appointment.
- 8 The interim minister is not to become involved with the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Appointments.
- 9 The interim is not to be considered as candidacy for appointment.

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