



Interim Pastor Choices

Upon the resignation/retirement of a pastor, the congregation council will find it useful to consider the kind of interim pastor which will best serve until a new pastor can be called. Interim pastors are appointed by the Bishop after receiving advice from the congregation.

Three options are available, and they are listed here.

Oversight Interim

Typically an area ELCA pastor already in a call who supervises pastoral services by supply pastors and who meets with the congregation council.

Serves until a new pastor is called. Unavailable to be called as the new pastor.

Monthly stipend for supervision and specified duties (such as meeting with the council), fees for supply pastors, teachers or visitation pastors. Often the least costly option.

Local Interim

Typically a retired or part-time ELCA pastor who works from 2-6 days a week in the congregation, conducting worship and providing pastoral care.

Serves until a new pastor is called. Unavailable to be called as the new pastor.

Monthly stipend and expenses based upon the extent of duties and time required. Expenses often include transportation from permanent residence and housing while at the congregation. Moderate cost.

Resident Interim

Typically a pastor who has finished a course of instruction about guiding congregations in transition and serves in residence full time as pastor.

Serves for a contracted period of time, usually a minimum of one year. At the end of the contract period, the new pastor is installed. Unavailable to be called as the new pastor.

Annual contract which includes base salary, housing, social security, health and pension, continuing education, professional expenses, and transportation. Cost is often equal to, or exceeds, pastor under call.

Availability of an interim pastor in any one of these three options cannot be guaranteed. After the bishop and church council decide upon and pursue a preferred option, it may be necessary to be satisfied with one of the other options.