

Effectiveness of Interim Pastors

A Survey of Clerks of Session of Congregations that Had an Interim Pastor

Appendix C

Number of surveys mailed.....	318
Number of surveys returned as undeliverable/ineligible	7
Number of surveys completed	189
Response rate	61%

Q-1. Before the interim pastor arrived what was your opinion of your Presbytery?

Positive.....	70%
Negative	14%
No opinion of the Presbytery	17%

Q-2. Following the interim period, how did your opinion of the Presbytery change?

More positive	31%
Less positive.....	12%
No change.....	57%

Q-3. To what extent did the interim pastor do the following?

	To A Great Extent	To Some Extent	To A Slight Extent	Not At All	Not Sure
a. Helped us identify problem areas	42%	38%	12%	7%	2%
b. Helped us successfully deal with problem areas	34%	35%	18%	12%	1%
c. Helped us review the needs of the congregation	41%	39%	12%	7%	1%
d. Helped the congregation clarify its identity	31%	34%	22%	12%	2%
e. Helped the congregation clarify its role in the community	12%	39%	31%	18%	1%
f. Helped the congregation discard old expectations, wounds, patterns, and baggage from the past.....	31%	34%	17%	16%	2%
g. Helped build the congregation's connectionalism with the larger church	17%	39%	26%	17%	2%
h. Helped us get ready for the change that comes with a new pastor	54%	26%	12%	7%	1%
i. Helped us examine and refine our mission.....	32%	37%	19%	12%	—

Q-4. Overall, would you say the congregation was pleased with the interim pastor's work?

Yes, very pleased.....	59%
Yes, somewhat pleased	21%
Yes, slightly pleased.....	13%
No, not pleased.....	6%
Not sure	1%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

- Q-5. Were you personally satisfied with the work of the interim pastor—that is, was the interim pastor able to provide the help needed by the congregation?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Yes, very satisfied | 61% |
| Yes, somewhat satisfied | 21% |
| Yes, slightly satisfied | 6% |
| No, not satisfied | 12% |
| Not sure | 1% |
- Q-6. Ignoring the performance of the particular interim pastor, do you think, in general, it was a good idea that your congregation had an interim?
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Yes, a very good idea | 69% |
| Yes, a good idea | 22% |
| Yes, a slightly good idea | 5% |
| No, not a good idea | 3% |
| Not sure | 1% |
- Q-7. Why did your congregation call an interim pastor? Please check *all* of the following that apply. ◆
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Previous pastor had been here many years | 47% |
| Conflict in the congregation | 24% |
| Previous pastor was removed by Presbytery | 6% |
| Previous pastor had personal problems | 18% |
| Previous pastor died | 1% |
| We had not had a pastor for a number of years | 2% |
| We needed to re-examine our mission | 13% |
| Presbytery requires we have an interim pastor | 40% |
| Other (please specify): _____ | 38% |
- Q-8. How long did the interim pastor serve your congregation? _____ years _____ months
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Less than 1 year | 9% |
| 1 year | 38% |
| 2 years | 45% |
| 3 years | 3% |
| 4 years | 4% |
| More than 4 years | 1% |
- Q-9. Has your congregation had an interim pastor during a previous pastoral transition?
- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 78% |
| No | 22% |
- [If “Yes, ”] How long ago did the previous interim pastor serve? _____ years
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| | n=130 |
| 1 year | 33% |
| 2 years | 33% |
| 3 – 10 years | 11% |
| 11 – 15 years | 12% |
| More than 15 years | 10% |

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Q-10. How long has the present pastor been serving your congregation? _____ years

1 year	38%
2 years	44%
3 – 5 years	12%
More than 5 years	7%

Q-11. What do you wish the interim pastor had done that was not done? Please write your response in the space below.

[Tabulated separately]

Q-12. What do you wish the interim pastor had not done? Please write your response in the space below.

[Tabulated separately]

Q-13. Please feel free to add any comments you think would help us understand when interim pastors are most effective.

[Tabulated separately]

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