

Effectiveness of Interim Pastors

A Survey of Pastors Who Follow an Interim Pastor

Appendix D

Number of surveys mailed.....	318
Number of surveys returned as undeliverable/ineligible	10
Number of surveys completed.....	201
Response rate.....	65%

Q-1. 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 the congregation identify problem areas.....	26%	38%	20%	12%	4%
b. Helped the congregation successfully deal with problem areas.....	17%	33%	27%	20%	4%
c. Helped the congregation review the needs of the congregation.....	22%	37%	24%	13%	4%
d. Helped the congregation clarify its identity	12%	26%	33%	25%	4%
e. Helped the congregation clarify its role in the community	6%	17%	31%	38%	7%
f. Helped the congregation discard old expectations, wounds, patterns, and baggage from the past	14%	35%	22%	24%	6%
g. Helped build the congregation's connectionalism with the larger church	14%	26%	26%	22%	12%
h. Helped the congregation get ready for the change that comes with a new pastor	33%	32%	21%	11%	3%

Q-2. Overall, would you say the congregation was pleased with the interim pastor's work there?

Yes, very pleased	42%
Yes, somewhat pleased	24%
Yes, slightly pleased	18%
No, not pleased.....	15%
Not sure	1%

Q-3. Were you personally satisfied with the work of the interim pastor—that is, did the interim pastor's work prepare the congregation well for your work?

Yes, very satisfied.....	35%
Yes, somewhat satisfied.....	23%
Yes, slightly satisfied	13%
No, not satisfied	27%
Not sure.....	2%

Q-4. 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	21%
Yes, a slightly good idea	4%
No, not a good idea	2%
Not sure	2%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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

Q-5. Why did your congregation call an interim pastor? Please check *all* of the following that apply.

Previous pastor had been here many years	50%
Conflict in the congregation.....	39%
Previous pastor was removed by Presbytery.....	8%
Previous pastor had personal problems.....	29%
Previous pastor died	2%
We had not had a pastor for a number of years.....	4%
We needed to re-examine our mission	21%
Presbytery requires we have an interim pastor.....	43%
Other (please specify): _____	19%

Q-6. What one thing did the interim pastor do that has been most helpful to your ministry? Please write your response in the space below.

[Tabulated separately]

Q-7. What one change do you wish you could make in what the interim pastor did while serving this congregation—that is, something that was done that you wish was not done or something that was not done that you wish was done? Please write your response in the space below.

[Not tabulated]

Q-8. Since being ordained have you previously been called to a congregation following an interim pastor?

Yes	57%
No.....	43%

Q-9. How long have you served this congregation? _____ years

1 year.....	35%
2 years	49%
3 years or more.....	9%

Q-10. In what year were you ordained? _____

1974 or before	10%
1975 – 1984.....	25%
1985 – 1994.....	22%
1995 – 2004.....	25%
2005 to present	18%

Q-11. Please feel free to add any comments you think would help us understand when interim pastors are most effective.

[Tabulated separately]