

The Call Process
Southwestern Texas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Interim Ministry

**Pastoral Care and Services
During the Time of Vacancy**

Though a pastor may leave to accept a new challenge in ministry, the ministry of the congregation continues. The constitution of the church allows for the orderly care of pastoral needs through the ministry of an Interim Pastor.

Interim Pastor to Serve:

Congregation: _____

President: _____

Telephone: _____

Your Interim Pastor

You are encouraged to think of your Interim Pastor as your pastor during the interim, that is to see him/her the same way as you saw your duly called pastor, having the same respect and duties, the same authority and responsibility, and the same accountability and relationships.

Appointment Process

The bishop is required to appoint a pastor to serve as your interim pastor. Typically, this pastor then serves as a supply pastor (attending to your Sunday morning needs) for a couple of weeks as you two begin to get acquainted. Then the Church Council must approve the bishop's appointment and sit down with the pastor to talk about entering into the interim arrangement. The *Interim Ministry Contract* that is enclosed will enable you to identify the details of that service and to formalize the agreement. It is to be signed by the congregational leadership and the pastor and sent to the bishop for his signature. The enclosed *Litany of Welcome/Farewell* is to be used to mark the beginning and ending of your Interim Pastor's service.

Three Limitations

Three things limit the Interim Pastor's service among you. (1) It is very likely that the Interim Pastor will not be able to maintain the full hours and complete list of duties that your called pastor was able to. (2) Interim Pastors are specifically restricted from any involvement in your Call Process. (3) Interim Pastors cannot also be a candidate for call to your congregation.

Appointment

With all this in mind, the following pastor is hereby appointed to serve as Interim Pastor in your congregation:

Pastor: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

<p>Information Bulletin #2 To the Congregational President + Also enclosed: Interim Ministry Contract + Copy to: The Interim Pastor The Conference Dean</p>
