

## Why Interim Ministry?

One of the real-life challenges in any church is when the pastor leaves. This can happen for many reasons. It can be expected or a surprise. When this happens, there is a void that needs to be filled. Interim Pastors can fill that void. They are trained to help a church address five focus points during times of pastoral transition. Interim Pastors can be God's instruments for securing a better and healthier future for the congregation.

### What are the Benefits?

1. A Qualified American Baptist Interim Pastor "on the field"
2. Consistent leading in Worship and Bible Study
3. Stability of ministry during a time of transition
4. Churches typically experience greater ministry effectiveness during the Interim
5. The church leadership is freed up to focus on discerning God's preferred future.



### What are the Five Focus Points?

1. **HERITAGE:** A foundational time of celebration and an opportunity to surface issues and work toward resolution.
2. **MISSION:** A clarifying time of identifying the vision and mission of the congregation and helping ministries to come into Spiritual alignment.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Consider the organizational leadership stress points and review the decision-making processes.
4. **CONNECTIONS:** Renewing Mission Partnerships: Associationally, Regionally, Nationally and in the World.
5. **FUTURE:** Preparation for the congregation as the church prepares for the new pastoral leadership.

For more information about becoming an interim or securing one for your church, contact Rev. Gary Firster at [gfirster@abcopad.com](mailto:gfirster@abcopad.com)



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