

Interim Pastor Policy
Presbytery of Shenandoah
May 10, 2016

1. Ordinarily, all interim pastors will be or become members of Shenandoah Presbytery, are required to have successfully completed Week One of PCUSA's Interim Training prior to beginning service and shall not be called to an installed pastoral position at the church where he/she is serving as an interim pastor. (Ref. *Book of Order* G-2.0504b & c)
2. When working with a congregation, the Committee on Ministry (COM) may recommend PIFs or resumes of trained interim pastors who are not members of this presbytery, but in all cases that Teaching Elder must have successfully completed at least Week One of Interim Training.
3. While an interim pastor is not required to join Shenandoah Presbytery, he/ she is strongly encouraged to do so and is expected to be in regular attendance of meetings of the presbytery.
4. Temporary Pastoral Relationships for a congregation will be approved by COM until an interim pastor has been secured.
5. Under no circumstances will an associate pastor of a congregation with a pastoral vacancy be permitted to serve as an interim pastor of that church.
6. Sessions seeking interim pastors will be required to complete an Interim Ministry Contract in consultation with the pastor candidate. The signed contract must be approved by COM, and an examination of the interim candidate is required.

Responsibilities of the Session

The Session will provide spiritual support for the interim pastor and fulfill its obligations as specified and agreed upon in the interim contract.

Responsibilities of the Presbytery

The General Presbyter and COM Liaison will assist the Interim Pastor Search Committee and provide professional support to the interim pastor.

Responsibilities of the Interim Pastor

The interim pastor leads the congregation through the five developmental tasks of interim ministry and fulfills obligations specified and agreed upon in the interim contract.

Provisions for Renewal or Termination

The agreement between the congregation and the interim pastor may be renewed or terminated with the approval of COM according to the provisions in the interim contract.