

It is a Key Role.... The Transitional Minister

- Is a change agent
- Is equipped to facilitate specific ministry tasks and uses a range of specialist skills and tools adapted to each situation.
- Joins the ministry unit and analyses it as a system
- Focuses and assumes leadership responsibility.
- Connects with the denomination
- Focuses on strategic pastoral work, worship leading and preaching to accomplish the tasks of transition.
- Clarifies the extent of responsibility for routine pastoral care, worship planning and leading, and preaching.
- By definition is not available for call or appointment to the particular ministry unity.
- Builds in times of evaluation and review

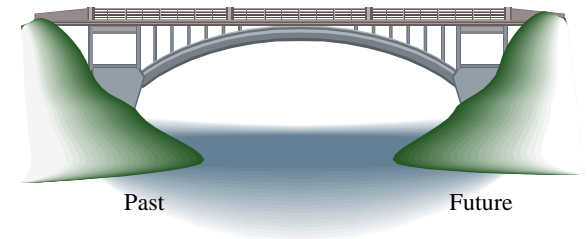
For Further Information on Transitional Ministry

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Transitional Ministry



The transitional period between one ministry arrangement and the next is an excellent opportunity for a congregation to reflect and review its past, to find meaning in its heritage and history, and a time to envision its future in a proactive way.

Six Key Tasks for the Congregation

Telling Our Story....

Assisting the ministry unit tell its story and learn from its history as it embraces a new chapter in its life. Treasures, patterns and values can be rediscovered as the story is told and celebrated. Some things will need to be left behind, some owned and carried forward.

Discovering Our Present Identity....

Out of these stories comes a sense of who we are now in the context of the community where we are based. The roles, gifts and ministries already being exercised by lay people can be reaffirmed and reassessed. Where there are gaps, how are these best filled?

Exploring Future Directions...

Providing the time and space for everyone to have input into envisioning the ministry unit's future in an informed, intentional and proactive way and the style of leadership needed to achieve this. A variety of models of ministry will be explored.

Encouraging and Empowering Lay Leadership....

A time of transitional ministry gives everyone an opportunity to own the roles and responsibilities of leadership for the whole people of God. New leaders may emerge and others may wish to take a well-earned rest.

Building on Denominational Links....

This is a time for the ministry unit and the denomination to strengthen their links so that needs, support and resources can be identified and accessed as well as new ways of drawing on and contributing to the life of the wider church.

Committing to New Leadership and a New Future....

Whatever the shape of the future the congregation can be assisted to prepare for it and embrace it. Whether a new person is appointed or a new model of ministry is chosen it is important to prepare well and to establish a constructive relationship for sharing leadership and ministry. There needs to be a high degree of congregational ownership.

When is it advisable to have a Transitional Minister?

- When the minister had served for ten years or more or less than three years.
- When the minister or a family member had long periods of illness or died.
- When there has been allegations of ministerial misconduct.
- When the demographics of the community have significantly changed in the last five years.
- When there has been significant conflict in the last five years.
- When attendance at worship and financial giving has significantly decreased in the last two years.
- When a ministry unit is considering a need to move in a new direction or change to another model of ministry.