



Transition Ministries | American Baptist Churches USA



Every church experiences times of change—but one of the most critical moments comes when a pastor leaves. Whether anticipated or sudden, this transition can stir uncertainty, raise important questions, and create space for new possibilities. How a congregation navigates this period can shape its future for years to come.

Transition Ministries ABCUSA is a ministry of the Office of the General Secretary focused specifically on supporting congregations during the time of transition. This in-between time—from the departure of one pastor to the calling of the next can be an extremely vulnerable season in the life of a congregation which is why we find it necessary to provide support.

For many different reasons—a pastor will leave, and a trusted leader is needed temporarily. Transition Ministries, with its experience walking alongside churches during these times of transition, offers steady guidance and support. A quick or uninformed decision can have lasting consequences, but thoughtful, well-guided action can strengthen the church for years to come.



While You Are Without a Pastor...

A pastoral transition is a time for renewal. With the right support, your congregation can engage in meaningful dialogue, build trust, discover members' gifts, and refocus on mission and purpose. A trained interim pastor provides stability and guidance, helping the church navigate challenges, discern God's will, and move forward with confidence and hope.

Why Transition Ministries ABCUSA?

We provide trained interim pastors to churches ready to prepare for their next pastor and a healthy future. Our pastors lead worship, care for the congregation, address key issues like conflict or growth, and guide churches through understanding their heritage, clarifying mission, strengthening leadership, renewing connections, addressing current needs and preparing for the future.

What You Can Expect from Transition Ministries ABCUSA...

Your interim pastor will provide monthly reports to Transition Ministries and the ABCUSA Regional Executive Minister. Transition Ministries will stay in close contact with regional and area leaders, through a collaborative team approach and together we will share feedback to provide necessary support for your congregation.



For more information about an interim pastor or if you're interested in becoming an interim pastor through Transition Ministries at ABCUSA please email transitionministries@abc-usa.org and visit: www.abc-usa.org/transitionministries/

American Baptist Churches USA
800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2058

