

## Vocabulary for Supply/Interim Leadership – Virginia Synod

### Options Arranged by the Congregation:

**Supply:** These are rostered ministers providing Sunday morning worship leadership for a variety of congregations throughout the synod. Congregations can be served solely by supply pastors, who vary from week to week. The responsibility for securing pastors to conduct worship services lies with THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL in consultation with the office of the Bishop.

**Stated Supply:** In a stated supply situation, the congregation has a supply preacher (or rotation of preachers) who is regularly used in this place. They generally serve on Sundays only. Often, this is a congregation that no longer has the capacity to have an interim pastor, so they are served only by supplies. This may also be a congregation which has a short-term pastoral vacancy. The responsibility for securing pastors to serve as stated supply lies with THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL in consultation with the office of the Bishop.

### Options Arranged by the Office of the Bishop:

Vice Pastors and Interim Pastors are appointed by the Bishop to provide pastoral care during a time of transition in pastoral leadership. Duties and compensation are detailed in a written agreement between the Bishop, vice pastor, and congregation council. This agreement is provided by the VA Synod Call Process Coordinator.

**Vice Pastor:** This is a rostered minister who is usually under call and serving another congregation but who is providing leadership to an additional congregation in need, serving as their representative to council and for pastoral care/funerals.

**Interim Pastor:** An interim pastor is appointed by the Bishop and approved by the congregation council to serve the congregation for a specific period of time, in a specific ministry of transition. Interim ministry may involve the full-time or part-time services of the pastor.

### **Types of Interim Pastoral Ministry include:**

- **Transitional Interim Ministry:** These rostered ministers serve a congregation as they prayerfully determine who God is calling them to be next. These are generally congregations that are experiencing a new season of ministry such as a shared ministry, part-time pastor, etc. Generally, these congregations are not anticipating their next step to be a traditional full-time call process.
- **Standard Interim Ministry:** These rostered ministers serve congregations during a time of ministry transition, after which the congregation expects to participate in a traditional call-process. Interim Ministry may be for a few months, a few years, or anything in-between.
- **Intentional Interim Ministry:** Intentional interims have particular gifts for helping a congregation through conflict/stuckness, helping them work through these details so that healing may occur PRIOR to the call of a new pastor. Intentional interims are generally longer interims and have a particular focus/purpose. Intentional interims have usually completed a training/certification program.