

**Interim Ministry Basics
Spring 2025 Syllabus**



Before the training begins, a link for a tutorial covering the Learning Platform will be emailed ahead. Please complete the tutorial before Session 0.

Sunday, April 27 – Session 0. Orientation Session, introductions to one other, to the faculty, to the syllabus, and to the Learning Platform.

Mondays:

April 28 – Session 1. Overview of Intentional Interim Ministry

- Sharing experiences of Interim Ministry
- Defining the purpose and pluses of intentional Interim Ministry, as contrasted to “fill-in” ministry
- Clarifying between "Interim" and "Transitional" ministry
- Exploring the idea that as Interim/Transitional ministers we are doing more these days because congregations are dealing with a variety of transitions, more than just a time between settled pastors.

May 5 – Session 2. The Five Focus Points

- What does this look like in your setting?
- Presenting theory and practice
- Building toward a final project – what will happen in your congregation? What will you teach the church’s leaders about interim ministry?
- Understanding how The Focus Points overlap and aren’t necessarily sequential.

May 12 – Session 3. The Church, the Changes in Culture, and Our Response

- How is the church sidelined and unknown – the 'epidemic' of church closings?
- What will we do Post Pandemic?
- Investigating the Accelerated Gap between culture and the church and how it is increasing.
- Exploring Socio/Political realities
- Defining the Purpose and Mission of the Church – how is this the same and different in today's context?
- How does all this affect a congregation during the time between pastors?

May 19 – Session 4. Spirituality and Collective Discernment

- Connecting to God, Christ, Spirit, Abiding – disciplines and Practices for both leaders and congregations
- Developing awareness of spiritual gifts and employing them in the congregation
- Committing to self-care for the minister and the congregation
- Exploring methods of group spiritual discernment for Congregational Visioning – “Claiming God’s Vision” as one important resource.

June 2 – Session 5. Family Systems Theory lived out in Transitions

- Developing self-awareness and self-differentiation for healthier leadership as interim pastors (and for laity)
- Navigating the system of the congregation – anxiety, triangles, leadership
- Understanding Family Systems Theory and "technical" versus "adaptive" change

June 9 – Session 6. Understanding and Navigating Change

- In the midst of change – recognizing loss, grief, healing, and resistance, while promoting resilience, agility, and joy. Listening, letting go and moving on.

June 16 – Session 7. Conflict transformation

- Identifying current conflicts
- Coming to terms with unresolved past grievances and conflicts
- Learning methods for promoting healing and going forward with unburdened excitement

June 23 – Session 8. Plotting the Course of Ministry Transitions

- Understanding the Road Map for interim ministry and its benchmarks – how will you get started?
- Working with a Transition Team, Search Committee, Regional/Mid-Judicatory
- Designing how you intend to serve where you are now or where you'll be next
- Exploring resources and retooling constantly