



SmartStart  
Interim  
MINISTRY

*A Plan for Your First Weeks  
Between Pastors*



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# What Happens In a Pastoral Transition?

- **The church may experience anxiety and uncertainty**
- **“Day to Day” ministry may require extra attention**
- **Urgent needs should be identified and addressed**
- **Decision making procedures and responsibility needs clarity**
- **A long-term plan for pulpit supply is needed**
- **A search committee needs to be formed and trained**



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# Why Consider SmartStart?

- **To invest the first 8 weeks of a pastoral vacancy in actions to help the church prepare for a productive transition**
- **To calm the natural anxiety and provide immediate pulpit supply**
- **To create awareness of areas that need to be addressed before the arrival of a new pastor**
- **To provide information on options for how to provide leadership for the church for the duration of the interim time**



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# Who leads during a Smart Start Interim?

- **The formal SmartStart Interim time lasts 8 weeks**
- **A trained Interim Pastor will fill the pulpit and guide the church**
- **A leadership team consisting of existing, church approved leaders will meet with the Interim Pastor to help bring information to and plan activities for the church**
- **Selected churchwide activities will help the entire church participate and prepare for the transition period**



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# What Happens during a SmartStart Interim?

Week	Worship Service Theme	Leadership Team	Church Activity
1	Seeking God's Direction	Meeting Ministry Needs During the Interim	Open
2	Finding God's Purpose	Introduce Long Term Interim Options	Open
3	The Mission of the Church	Current Church Leadership Structure	Open
4	What is a Healthy Church?	Recommendations for Long Term Interim	Prayer Gathering



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# What Happens during a SmartStart Interim?

Week	Worship Service Theme	Leadership Team	Church Activity
5	The Church as the Body of Christ	Open: Discussing Needs	Long Term Interim Recommendation
6	What is My Role in the Church?	Open: Discussing Needs	Open
7	Who Are Our Ministry Partners?	A Summary Report: What Have We Learned?	Open
8	Committing Our Future to God	Discussing Next Steps	Lord's Supper and Celebration Fellowship



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## Other important notes...

- **The SmartStart Interim is structured, but includes flexibility**
- **The church can identify what areas of need should be addressed prior to a new pastor's arrival and plans made for how to address them**
- **Any decisions made during the SmartStart Interim will be made by the church, according to current practices**
- **Following SmartStart, the church should have a plan for leadership in the duration of of the interim time**



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## Next immediate steps...

- **The Church should formally agree to enter into the SmartStart Interim period**
- **An Interim Pastor will be identified and approved by the church**
- **A timeline will be adopted for the 8-week process to begin**



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***Questions***



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