

## **Presbytery of Arkansas**

### **Guidelines for Transitional Pastors**

1. A Transitional Pastor need not belong to the Presbytery of Arkansas, but attendance at presbytery meetings is encouraged.
2. Ordinarily a Transitional Pastor in the Presbytery of Arkansas shall have either had Transitional Training Level I, or write into his or her contract a design for continuing education that meets that requirement. This design shall be developed in consultation with the Church's Session and the Committee on Ministry (COM).
3. A Transitional Pastor shall submit to the COM, and through it the General Presbyter, and the Session of the church that she or he serves, quarterly reports on his or her work, the state of the church, and progress toward the developmental tasks of the Transitional Process, which are:
  - a. Coming to terms with history
  - b. Discovering a new congregational identity
  - c. Facilitating shifts in lay leadership and changes in congregational power structures
  - d. Rethinking and renewing denominational linkages
  - e. Preparing for new pastoral leadership and a new future
4. Quarterly reports are necessary prior to any consideration of renewing the covenant between the Transitional Pastor and the Session/congregation.
5. The COM shall provide an outline for such reports and sample contracts to the session of any church seeking a Transitional Pastor. Such contract shall include provisions for ending the contract and a reasonable severance agreement.
6. The COM shall provide for the Transitional Pastor an assessment of the situation in the church to which the Transitional Pastor has been called at the time of the examination by the Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry when the Transitional ministry is considered for approval.

*Revised November 10, 2015*  
*Revised October 22, 2017*