

THE INTERIM PASTOR



The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey

3752 Nottingham Way, Suite 101

Trenton, NJ 08690

609-587-8700

I. INTRODUCTION

You have given your name to be referred to churches as a possible Interim Pastor. Our experience with churches served by Interim Pastors has taught us that the role you have chosen is one which can be crucial in the life of the churches which you will serve. Because of the importance of your role we wish to share with you the following guidelines in the hope that they will prove helpful to you.

1. One of your greatest opportunities as an Interim is to act as a reconciling agent – bringing the members into a closer fellowship with Christ and each other.
2. Have a clear understanding, in writing, with the church you will serve. Defining the amount of time you will give, the amount of pastoral work you are expected to do, and the salary and reimbursements you will receive.
3. Because one of your most essential tasks is that of preparing the church for the coming of the new pastor, you will be in contact with the Associate Regional Pastor for reporting on the state of the church, counseling on the needs of the church, and planning for the future. The Interim Pastor Report Form supplied by the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey office should be completed and returned by the Interim Pastor monthly. We suggest that additional reporting on the status of the church to the Associate Regional Pastor might be done by phone, in person, or by letter.
4. As a representative of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, it is your responsibility and opportunity to interpret the work and ministries of the ABC and the ABCNJ to the church you are serving. You are encouraged to:
 - Regularly check on the region website, www.abcnj.net, to be kept informed of all activities and programs of ABCNJ.
 - Invite staff members and other representatives of the ABCNJ to preach or speak at special occasions or emphases.
 - Attend Association and ABCNJ functions, such as Annual Session meetings, workshops, etc., and encourage church members to attend.
 - Be positive with respect to the denomination and encourage active participation.
 - Make sure you have signed up and subscribed to our mailing list which can easily be done on the region's website.
5. The Interim Pastor will refer the pulpit committee to the Associate Regional Pastor should they approach her/him requesting information concerning possible candidates.
6. Your ministry as Interim Pastor should be a joyful experience and a time of spiritual celebration and renewal for the church as they prepare to accept the leadership of a new pastor.

II. INTERIM PASTOR REPORT

As an interim pastor you are expected to submit monthly reports to the Associate regional pastor assigned to your association. These reports can be submitted via an electronic form on the ABCNJ website at, <https://www.abcnj.net/interim-ministry-reports/>.

III. ASSOCIATE REGIONAL PASTORS

REV. ERIC HOHEISEL

Associate Regional Pastor
3752 Nottingham Way, Suite 101, Trenton, NJ 08690

DR. CAROL LYNN PATTERSON

Associate Regional Pastor
3752 Nottingham Way, Suite 101, Trenton, NJ 0869