

## **2020 SEMI Synod Interim Ministry Report**

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
~Jeremiah 29:11~*

Following the resignation or retirement of a pastor, the Southeast Michigan Synod works with each congregation to provide pastoral leadership during the transition period as they work together toward the call of new pastoral leadership. The synod provides for leadership during pastoral vacancies in a variety of ways:

- Intentional Interim Process with a trained intentional interim/transition pastor
- Supply pastors & deacons
- Synod licensed lay professionals
- Seminary interns under the supervision of a pastoral supervisor

Those providing leadership to congregations during these transitions typically meet every other month at the Synod House. This has not been a typical year! Thus, interim pastors & leaders met four times in 2020: once in person and three times via zoom. These meetings are helpful in keeping synod staff and congregations connected and up to date on where they are in the intentional interim/transition/call process.

### Pastoral vacancy statistics at the close of 2020:

- 9 – congregations in Intentional Interim Process
- 23 – congregations in study with supply pastors or synod licensed leadership
- 7 – congregations served by interns (supervised by local pastors)
- 1 – congregation interviewing for a full-time pastor
- 1 – call accepted

We thank the Reverend Lauren Kirsh-Carr for her leadership and organizing with congregations in transition, and the pastors and leaders who partner with these congregations and the synod in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

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