

Transitional Ministers of the SEMI Synod Report to the Assembly, May 2023

Transitional Ministers are called by the Southeast Michigan Synod Council to be transition specialists in congregations with pastoral vacancies. Transitional Ministers are placed in congregations in a cooperative discernment process with the congregational council, synod staff, and Conference Dean.

Transitional Ministers serve as a resource and guide in partnership with a Transition Team to clarify the following:

1. Identify congregational strengths and values: what assets will empower forward movement in mission?
2. Focus on mission and purpose: why is this community of faith here?
3. Build discipleship: what spiritual practices help deepen faith and inspire action?
4. Connect with the community: what are local needs and how can the church help meet them?

The Transition Team often evolves into a Call Committee that completes the Ministry Site Profile required to engage the call process. Transitional Ministers normally serve in one congregation from six months to a year or longer if necessary. The roster includes, but is not limited to, trained interim pastors. They meet bi-monthly, normally the third Wednesday, at 2pm, at the Synod office. Meetings include devotions (rotated leadership), sharing updates, highs and lows, networking, and learning from one another. We are currently studying the book "My Body is Not a Prayer Request," by Dr. Amy Kenny.

As of this writing, active intentional Transitional Ministers in our synod include:

Monica Villarreal, serving with King of Glory in Flushing
Dana Runestad, serving with King of Kings, Ann Arbor
Candida Turner, serving with American in Clinton Township
Linda Morin, serving with Mount Calvary in Warren
Bill Carr, serving with Faith in Shelby Township
Lisa Hayes, serving with St. Paul in Temperance

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jen Kiefer