

**Transitional Ministry**  
**Report to the Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly, May 2025**

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 sometimes 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. We meet bi-monthly, normally the third Wednesday, at 2pm, either on zoom or at the Synod office. Meetings include devotions (rotated leadership), sharing updates, highs and lows, networking, and learning from one another.

2024 also saw the creation of the Synod's new Transition Manual, which congregations have found very helpful in the transition process. This manual was adapted from an existing manual from the Rocky Mountain and Grand Canyon Synods, with their permission. It includes a walk through of the transition process, devotional materials, sample questions and forms for use as transition teams and call committees find helpful.

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

Pastor Sean Myers, serving Our Risen Lord, Burton  
Pastor Candida Turner, serving St. Peter's in St. Clair  
Pastor Krister Ulmanis, serving Hope, Farmington Hills  
Pastor Bill Kirsh-Carr, serving Christ, Monroe  
Pastor Joshua Rinas, serving Immanuel, Ypsilanti  
Pastor Rebecca Pryzbylski, serving St. Luke's, Temperance

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Jen Kiefer