

Pension and Insurance Support for Interim Pastors

1 **WHEREAS**, the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) has been faithfully served by interim pastors
2 who play a strategic role in pastoral transitions in synod congregations; and
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4 **WHEREAS**, the MAS, in 2002, created an Interim Ministry Advisory Team (IMAT), composed
5 of interim pastors elected by their colleagues and an equal number of appointees by the Bishop,
6 to advise the Bishop on matters related to interim ministry; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, the MAS Council may issue a call to an interim pastor when s/he begins to serve a
9 second interim appointment, and may also, on the recommendation of the Bishop, in consultation
10 with IMAT, identify a pool of pastors especially qualified for and committed to interim ministry;
11 and
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13 **WHEREAS**, an interim pastor who has been called by the MAS Council but is between
14 appointments is required, though without income, to pay her/his own pension and insurance
15 benefits or switch to coverage on spouses' health plans; and
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17 **WHEREAS**, the IMAT could advise the Bishop and the MAS Council regarding the status of
18 interim pastors not currently serving interim appointments, both pastors recognized for this
19 purpose by the MAS Council and others; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, fifteen of the interim pastors rostered in the MAS agreed unanimously to support
22 this resolution at their regular gathering on May 8, 2004 (even though the number of interim
23 pastors who will benefit directly from this resolution will be smaller); therefore be it
24

25 **RESOLVED**, that the MAS in Assembly memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
26 America (ELCA) in assembly in 2005 to ask the Board of the Division for Ministry to develop a
27 comprehensive policy for the practice of interim ministry, including the nature of call for interim
28 pastors, the status of interim pastors *vis a vis* the clergy roster, and the status of recognized
29 interim pastors between appointments; and be it further
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31 **RESOLVED**, that the MAS in assembly memorialize the ELCA in Assembly in 2005 to request
32 the ELCA Board of Pensions to develop a specific procedure for sustaining pension and benefits
33 for recognized interim pastors between appointments.

Author: Keith Olstad
Contact persons: Jim Nelson, Convener, Interim Ministry Advisory Team, (612)201-5556,
Keith Olstad, (612)940-1534 or kthlbolstad@worldnet.att.net
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The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.

▶ **SA04.16.05.0** Voted to adopt Resolution RC2005-1.
Yes: 557
No: 12
Abstentions: 3