

A Specialized Interim Minister (SIM) can help

Providing:

- *An objective and less anxious guide whom all members can trust*
- *An experienced pastor ready to immediately meet the needs of the congregation in transition*
- *A trained consultant who can defuse conflict, lead a self-study with integrity, and prepare the congregation for their next pastor*
- *A confident leader who understands the joys and pitfalls of congregations in transition.*
- *A friend who wants to see God's will for your congregation come to be fully expressed in your ministry and the lives of your members*
- *A fellow disciple speaking the Truth in Love by the power of the Spirit*



**For more information on
Specialized Interim Ministry and
for contacts with SIMs available to
serve your congregation please
contact**

Elaine Tetreault
Coordinator of pastoral services
RCA Office of Ministry Services

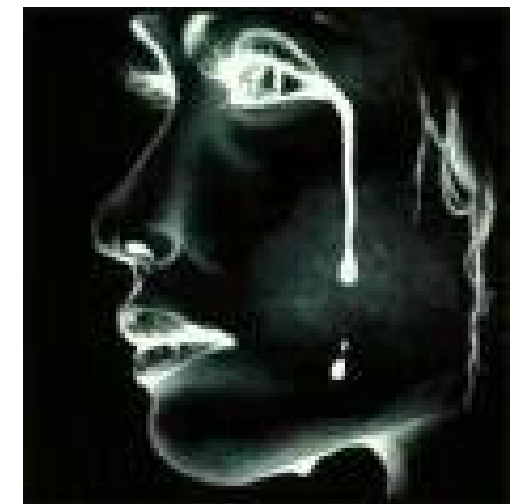
475 Riverside Dr.
New York, NY 10115
Phone: 212-870-3071 ext 3252
(800) 722-9977 ext. 3252
E-mail: etetreault@rca.org
www.rca.org

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Reformed Church in America

Specialized Interim Ministry

after Pastoral Abuse



Our pastor betrayed our trust How can we trust again?

When your pastor abuses his position he or she leaves behind an emotional train wreck. Beyond the direct victims of the abuse lies a church full heartache. Some members lash out in anger. Others will refuse to believe the charges, having known nothing but a “loving pastor”. They may even blame the victim. Still others suffer disillusionment and battle against a loss of faith in God. Losing trust in the each other, the denomination and pastors in general, these churches can devolve into self-sabotage and symbolic fights. In the process they often end up hurting each other, adding to their already deep pains.



It will take more than time to heal this wound. You will need a pastor with the skills to help individuals and the congregation as a whole heal so that you can embrace your next pastor with joy. You need a Specialized Interim Minister [SIM] known as an “After Pastor”. Unlike other SIMs the After Pastor will stay with you for several years, walking you through your grief and healing, preparing you for a future fruitful ministry.

Abuse comes in many forms

We are all painfully aware of the clergy sex abuse scandals which have made headlines across the country. Yet that is only one form of abuse committed by clergy.

- Sexual Abuse: Forcing unwanted sexual acts or being sexual with a vulnerable individual such as a counselee or minor.
- Verbal Abuse: Using language to control another through denigration .
- Mental/Emotional Abuse: Willfully inflicting mental or emotional anguish on another through threat or humiliation.
- Physical Abuse: Any act of violence *against* another person inflicting harm.
- Financial Abuse: Using your position of authority to divert funds to personal benefit.
- Spiritual Abuse: Controlling or manipulating another person through religious or spiritual authority. This can often be at the root of other forms of abuse.



What you can expect from an “After Pastor”

A Steady Pastoral Presence – The After Pastor above all pastors. He or she will commit to loving your congregation, even as they sometimes act unloving toward each other and even the After Pastor. She or he will visit and listen and console and encourage with the Word of the God and the Grace of Jesus.

Disclosure – Those who have been victims of

pastoral abuse need to feel heard. The community cannot heal until those who have suffered believe that the congregation joins them in their pain. The After Pastor will creatively guide the congregation to provide times, places and ways for the voice of the victims to be heard and affirmed.



Healing – Disclosure exposes the wounds. Yet they must be healed. Through preaching, teaching, visiting and counseling the



After Pastor will guide members to the Great Healer, Who “bore our pains and carried our diseases” to the cross.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation – The confusion and emotions of pastoral abuse often leads congregation members to lash out at each other. Guiding us to forgiveness and reconciliation, the After Pastor release us from old patters of reaction into a new freedom of love.

Vision for a Future – As healing and reconciliation take hold, the After Pastor will guide



you into seeing God’s good future, His plan for your church’s continued ministry

Praise the Lord