

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**

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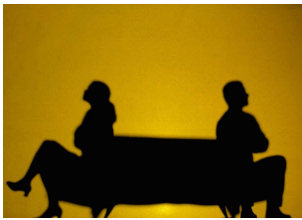
Reformed Church in America

Specialized Interim Ministry

For a Church in Conflict



What happened to our happy church family?



In any healthy church there will be differences of opinion.

When these differences grow into division and angry conflict, they strike at the heart of God's will. The causes can be many:

- No unifying vision
- Lingering unresolved hurts
- Sinful patterns of church life
- New members with new ideas

No church is prepared to call a pastor in the midst of conflict. Ongoing conflict will wear down church and also your pastor, if you have one. And God's mission for His church comes to a halt. No one wants to attend a church in conflict.

A Specialized Interim Minister [SIM] can help. A SIM will bring to your church the skills and caring to resolve the conflict and restore the harmony.

...so that they may be one as We are one —
John 17:12

An honest, impartial, experienced pastor



A SIM will only stay one to two years. This gives your SIM the freedom to both love

everyone involved in the conflict openly and speak the truth each one needs to hear. Without the baggage of your past or need to establish a long tenure, the SIM can impartially help you assess the causes of your conflict and draw all the members to seek repentance and reconciliation without concern for their future ministry. Along the way, you will be drawing on years of ministry experience with many churches.

Conflict resolution

Your SIM will understand the sources of conflict in a congregation .

Using biblical principles he or she can "speak the truth in love" and both mediate and lead you into a new unity.

Healthy church leadership

Many conflicts arise because church leaders have not been trained to lovingly lead and oversee God's people. Your SIM can teach your leaders how to change patterns of (mis)behavior that become fertile ground for conflict. Beginning with their own lives and styles of leadership,



the SIM will draw the elders and deacons to more honest, loving, Christ-like practices and show them how to instill these in the whole congregation.

Seeking God's vision

Conflicts over worship styles, outreach methods, new ministries cannot usually be resolved simply by compromising. The congregation needs to find a higher calling: God's calling. Your SIM will lead you in a journey of discovering God's will for your church based on your God's work in your past, His gifts in your church today, prayer, and the opportunities for ministry in your community.

Consultation for churches in conflict who have pastors

Conflicts do not wait for pastors to leave. And their resolution does not have to wait, either. A SIM (or a team of SIMs) can come in as a consultant to assist your Pastor, Consistory or Congregation as a whole to find resolution and a better future. For SIM consultation teams contact Rick Veenstra in the Great Lakes Region office

