



# The Faster Pastor Express

Newsletter of the Association of Disciples  
Intentional Interim Ministers

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## A Network with a Mission

Leigh C. Earley Retiring Chair of ADIIM Steering Committee

The Association of Disciples Intentional Interim Ministers came into existence as the result of a conversation at an Annual Conference of the Interim Ministry Network (IMN) in 2006.

From the beginning, the Disciples Caucus at IMN meetings have been clear about two things: 1. We did not want to offer a competing, or denominational only training for Interims. 2. We did not want to develop a

“splinter group” but would cast our lot with the ecumenical group

Back in the mid 1980’s a few of us attempted to form a Disciples/UCC group, to help facilitate the movements toward partnership between our denominations and later Jerry Kirkpatrick sent out feelers about a possible support organization for Disciples interims.

When ADIIM formed Jerry was invited to be



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## From the Editor's Laptop

Norman Stolpe



I have had four interim pastorates. They went seamlessly from one to the next. I've gone from preaching one Sunday in one congregation to preaching in another the next. For my last transition I negotiated with one congregation to leave a little early and with the other to come a little late so we could have two weeks, not just

for family vacation but to see my 94 year old mother before she died.

I am now a couple of months between interim pastorates waiting for the next opportunity. I've conducted a few funerals and driven hearse and limo for several. I must confess some degree of anxiety and impatience.

In my daily time in the

Psalms, “wait on the Lord” keeps jumping out at me. I'm learning in a fresh way to trust.

Also, I'm appreciating being on the receiving end of preaching and participating in worship I neither plan nor lead.

I'm beginning to receive this time as God's gift of refreshment and renewal.

## A Network with a Mission

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part of the first Steering Committee along with Terry Foland, Sharon Kiesel, Mike Weiman, Burley Herrin, Margaret Hickman, and James Cotton was the convener.

ADIIM started with three goals:

1. To create a network of mutual support, information sharing and prayer among all Intentional Interim Ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada.

2. To educate the church in it's three manifestations, local, regional, and general, to the unique purpose, benefits, and uses of Intentional Interim Ministry.

3. To create and maintain a set of acceptable standards for members while keeping well within the standards, procedures, and the Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada. As well as those accepted practices within the Interim Ministry Network, Inc.

Terry Foland shepherded us through the process of affiliating with the Disciples Home Mission.

Under James Cotton's leadership we developed By-Laws, established a web site, had a booth at the General Assembly and got grants for our initial work on offering webinars. After James, I stepped in and Chuck Roland now becomes the third convener.

Along the way we tried a weekly computer Chat room. That got a few members together around a specific topic, and also had an Oasis chat site encouraging members to raise questions, share resources, etc. We also keep talking about a mentoring program – to assist especially new interims.

As we have learned from these efforts, we have accomplished some important things. Our Newsletter has taken on a much more attractive and professional look since Norm has taken the role of editor. We have had a booth at the last four General Assemblies (including 2015). We have offered Webinars nearly weekly (except summer). We have conducted contract IMN Training events in partnership with Hope Partnership in 2014 and 2015. We now have a small scholarship fund to assist others in obtaining training.

We have always had a mission. What is the mission for the future? I would suggest three things for further consideration.

First, build on what we have. We need to continue making training available, and as much as possible affordable. We have talked about taking the Webinars and making them into an on demand or tutorial style available to members from the website.

ADIIM needs to continue to be visible at General Assemblies. We need to continue the quality of the Newsletter – but of course that means some people need to write some helpful articles to be included.

Second, we must keep working on networking with and supporting each other. ADIIM has lots of wisdom in its members and former members – that needs to be shared. We have tried several ways and need to keep working, dreaming and exploring.

One of the issues has been the lack of a critical mass of willing members to offer their wisdom or council on particular topics. We need to start the mentor-

ing process – even if it is a very small scale.

Third, we need someone who has the skill and wisdom to help us get our website to be more functional for visitors and for those who seek to keep it up. ADIIM can't get stuck with something just because we've tried or done it. We need to keep thinking about better ways to meet the original need

Finally I want to add a few words of thanks to all who have been a part of steering committees during these past years. Because we all have limited time, we do not get everything done we had hoped. For my part in whatever shortcomings our groups have had, I ask your forgiveness. I still believe in Interim Ministry as a key to helping a congregation make positive change during a transition. I will be involved in training, and the webinar conversions, but it is time for new blood – new ideas – a new day.



## Final REMINDER

### ADIIM/Hope Partnership

September 21-25, 2015

### Fundamentals for Transitional Ministry:

### The Work of the Congregation

ADIIM is again sponsoring an Interim Ministry Track as part of the Hope Partnership Event in Indianapolis September 21<sup>st</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>. This time the course will be the second course, also known as the “Five Day Course.”

The first course focuses on the Work of the Transitional Leader (Interim Pastor). The second course focuses on those things the Congregation needs to address during a time of transition. Of course our role, as Intentional Interim Pastors, is to resource and equip the congregational leaders.

Attending the second course is open to anyone who attended the first course either last September or February 2015 or any IMN sponsored FTM-L event. **So tell your friends and colleagues.** This is likely the only time we will be able to offer this course in the foreseeable future. The cost will never be this low again.

Cost of \$1,200 includes IMN Tuition, materials, faculty (an ADIIM member), and Fieldwork plus Room and Board (Monday Dinner through Friday Breakfast). Our course starts Monday at 1:00 p.m. so you have Monday morning for travel and concludes Friday at Noon (lunch will be on your own). Registration cut off is about 30 days before the event, after that contact Leigh for availability.

The cost is just a few dollars more than tuition alone for an IMN course. In addition there are scholarships of up to \$50.00 available to ADIIM members.

If you have **not** attended the three day course, but would like to take advantage of this incredible deal, contact Leigh Earley at [leighearley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leighearley@sbcglobal.net)

## Insight from IMN Annual Conference

Chuck Rolan incoming Convener of the ADIIM Steering Committee

I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Interim Ministry Network’s (IMN) most recent Annual Conference. If you have never attended, I encourage you to as the collegiality and continuing education opportunities are incredible. As I attended workshops and presentations, one theme occasionally surfaced: whether interim or transitional ministry as we know it today is basically pathologically-based or life-giving based?

Let me illustrate. In one work-

shop we were discussing the “best practices” of the collective wisdom of the gathered group. One of the best practices discussed was the “time line exercise” where congregations name and claim their historical journey that has brought them to this place and time. (Personally, I have found this an extremely powerful and productive exercise!) During the discussion one participant asked: “Isn’t it better for a congregation to let the past be the past and move onto its potentials ... opening up old

wounds can be hurtful and non-productive.” Our facilitator, John Keibel the newly seated President of IMN made a very helpful observation.

John made the distinction between the old “five tasks” of the interim process and the newer “five focus points” we now use to conceptualize transitional ministry. The old task of “coming to grips with history” was deliberately changed to the focus point of “heritage” because the word-

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# Association of Disciples Intentional Interim Ministers



## We're on the web!

ADIIM Information website

<http://www.adiim.org/>

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/disciplesinterims>

## Who We Are:

We are ministers with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who have received specialized training to assist congregations during the “in between times” of called pastorates.

## What We Do:

We assist congregations transitioning from one called pastor to the next. We help congregations work through the five Focus Points of transitional ministry: Heritage, Mission, Leadership, Connections, Future.

## Send \$50 per year membership dues to:

Disciples Home Missions

PO Box 1986

Indianapolis, IN 46206

attention Lonna Owens

with ADIIM dues in memo line

## Insight from IMN Annual Conference

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ing of “coming to grips” the Interim Ministry Network did imply a therapeutic intent which, under some circumstances, could add insult to injury if not carefully processed. The newer “focus point” of “heritage” affords a more neutral starting point from which a transitional minister can engage a congregation’s story without the implied notion that “I am here to ‘fix’ you!”

“Wow,” was my reaction as I once again came to appreciate and celebrate the gift that is

work and the dedication, passion, and discipline that has gone and continues to go into this work and calling of transitional ministry. I am grateful for the Association of Disciple Intentional Interim Ministers (ADIIM), the Interim Ministry Network, and for you for your ministries.

## Steering Committee

- Kathy Bryant 2015-16 filling unexpired term
- Larry Colvin 2015-2017
- Peggy Hickman 2015-2018 Membership Coordinator
- Bill Meyer 2015-2018
- Richard Newman 2015-2017
- Katrina Palan 2015-16 filling unexpired term
- Chuck Rolen 2015-2018 Convener

### Meet Bill Meyer

other steering committee bios to come

Bill Meyer, a second-career Disciple pastor living near Akron, Ohio, helped Ghent Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ) transition from an all-Anglo older congregation to a blended congregation with a Korean majority and Korean-American pastor.

He is currently finishing an interim at 1st Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Kent, Ohio and working with other pastors to form the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Reconciliation and Justice.

He has an MDiv and a Masters in Clinical Pastor Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary.

He and his wife Kim have three grown children.