

**A MODEL OF INTERIM PASTORAL COACHES FOR  
OHIO ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCHES  
IN PASTORAL TRANSITION**

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The principal focus of this project was the development of a model for training retired Ohio Assemblies of God (AG) ministers to serve as intentional interim pastoral coaches in Ohio AG churches experiencing pastoral transition. In recent years, congregations in the Ohio District of the AG have experienced an overall marked increase in pastoral turnover. The Ohio District is following the long-standing AG paradigm of providing Sunday morning pulpit supply and a hurried search for a new pastor. However, this paradigm neither addresses congregational needs during the transition period nor allows adequate preparation for the new long-term pastor.

Research for this project centered on assessment of the following: (1) receptivity of the Ohio District AG leadership to a new paradigm of intentional interim pastoral care in transition congregations, (2) the ability of retired Ohio AG ministers to learn and serve as intentional interim pastors, (3) perceived needs of pastoral transition congregations by congregational leaders, (4) the wider potential for intentional interim pastoral ministry throughout AG Districts in the United States, and (5) resources and training materials for intentional interim pastors available from other denominations. Data collection included surveys of Ohio District AG leaders, retired Ohio AG ministers who have served as interim pastors, congregational leaders of churches in pastoral transition, and AG district officials across the United States.

The author's completed assessment received such positive response from the Ohio District Presbytery of the Assemblies of God that a strategic plan was implemented for training retired Ohio AG ministers to serve as intentional interim pastors.