

### GUIDELINES FOR INTERIMS DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA

In accordance with Canon 16 of the Canons of the Diocese of East Carolina, it is the duty of the Vestry of each Parish or Mission of the Diocese to secure and provide the services of a Minister for the congregation. The canons further provide that no parish or mission should be without the regular services of a Priest for a period greater than (30) days.

Interim Priest: A parish or mission of the Diocese that has no settled minister but that has the present expectation and intent to call a new rector may employ a priest as interim priest. No priest may be called as interim priest without the prior consent of the Bishop. With regard to an interim priest, all of the regulations applying to priests-in charge apply, together with the following additional regulations:

1. In addition to the usual training and skill required of a parish priest, any priest called as an interim priest shall possess either practical experience or training in interim parish ministry with particular regard to transitional phases in the life of a congregation, conflict management and resolution, and development and extension of parish life and ministry. The determination of the experience or training required for interim ministry within these guidelines shall be made by the Bishop. The period of an interim priest's ministry within a congregation shall be characterized by intentional study and work toward the call of a new rector and the transition to a new parish life with the person so called, in addition to the normal life of the parish.
2. The interim priest, because of the particular ministry to which he or she is called within a congregation, shall not be eligible for consideration as rector of the parish except in the most unusual circumstances, and only with the consent of the Bishop. As far as possible, the right of the interim to be considered as rector shall be determined at the outset of the interim ministry in consultation with the Bishop, and shall be communicated to the congregation at the time.
3. The interim priest shall converse regularly with the Bishop or the Bishop's delegate with regard to the need or appropriateness of outside consultation in the various aspects of parish life, and shall cooperate with the Bishop or the Bishop's delegate in the search process for a new rector at the time the process begins, but shall not be responsible for nor lead that process, unless directed to do so by the Bishop.

**The guidelines should be maintained in every parish office within the diocese, and any questions arising regarding their meaning or implementation should be addressed to the Bishop's Assistant for Program and Ministry.**