



Last week, we shared a bit about my history in interim ministry. Today, the tasks of the interim period and how those have found expression at Christ Church.

I received interim training with The Interim Ministry Network (<https://imnedu.org/>). IMN collaborated in publishing one of the landmark texts on interim ministry entitled *Temporary Shepherds*. That book outlines five core interim ministry tasks that actually got included in several of my interim letters of agreement.

Those tasks are:

Coming to terms with Christ Church's history.—Developing a more comprehensive understanding of your story and coming to terms with anything that might “trip up” a new rector if left to fester. The Holy Conversations and Holy Cow survey revealed some of those rough edges and we've taken steps to address those.

Discovering a new identity, a new sense of mission.—Stepping back and taking a larger view of how Christ Church has changed as new people have come and some have left and how the community is changing. This transitional moment challenges us to update our sense of identity and calling. Fr. Dave's ministry and your responses carried you forward into new space. The new rector will be leading a different church. We've begun that ongoing process of revisioning.

Helping Christ Church's leadership to grow and change.—Leadership tends to shift with a change of rectors. New leadership needs to be developed and some leaders given permission to alter their roles or to take a sabbatical. We've seen some lay leaders and staff shift to different responsibilities and new leadership step up to take on additional ministries.

Revisioning linkages to the larger church. A parish experiences the diocese and the larger church largely through the clergy's eyes. The transitional period opens the door to a refreshed vision and strengthened relationships with the larger church. We've opened an ongoing conversation with Bishop Frank around the last transition, one that has strengthened our relationship with him and the diocesan staff.

Establishing a new commitment between people and the new priest to engage in their mission together.—The parish will not be “hiring” a rector. You will be discerning a call for someone best suited to serve as rector of a different and revisioning parish.

Obviously, as interim ministry has unfolded over the last two decades; those five tasks have been supplemented by others. More on that and my responses next week.

God's peace,

David W. Perkins+, Interim Rector