

How Do We Get Started?

- Contact your Associational Missionary or the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to make a presentation to the church body and explain the SmartStart process.
- For information, call 501-376-4791 ext. 5103 or email jsheffield@absc.org or gmccallister@absc.org.

Next Immediate Steps...

- The church should formally agree to enter into the SmartStart Interim period.
- A SmartStart Interim Pastor will be identified and approved by the church.
- A timeline will be adopted for the eight-week process to begin.

Other Important Notes...

- The SmartStart Interim is structured, but includes flexibility.
- The church can identify what areas of need should be addressed prior to a new pastor's arrival and make plans for how to address them.
- Any decisions made during the SmartStart Interim will be made by the church, according to current practices.
- Following SmartStart, the church should have a plan for leadership in the duration of the interim time.



SmartStart Interim Ministry is a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention through the Cooperative Program.

10 Remington Drive ■ Little Rock, AR 72204

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A Plan *for your* First Weeks *Between* Pastors



SmartStart
Interim
MINISTRY

Why Consider SmartStart?

- To invest the first 8 to 12 weeks of a pastoral vacancy in actions to help the church prepare for a productive transition.
- To calm the natural anxiety and provide immediate pulpit supply.
- To create awareness of areas that need to be addressed before the arrival of a new pastor.
- To provide information on leadership options for the church for the duration of the interim time.

Who Leads During a SmartStart Interim?

- The formal SmartStart Interim time lasts eight weeks.
- A trained SmartStart Interim will fill the pulpit and guide the church.
- A leadership team consisting of existing, church-approved leaders will meet with the SmartStart Interim to help bring information to and plan activities for the church.
- Selected churchwide activities will help the entire church participate in and prepare for the transition period.

Goals of a SmartStart Interim

- Help the church prepare spiritually for the search process.
- Discover areas that need attention before a new pastor arrives.
- Help the church clarify how ministry continues during the interim.
- Help the church understand options and choose direction for long-term interim leadership.
- Form and train a Pastor Search Committee.

What Happens During a SmartStart Interim?

THREE TOOLS OF THE SMARTSTART INTERIM

1. Interim Leads Sunday Worship

WEEK	WORSHIP SERVICE THEME
1	Seeking God's Direction
2	Finding God's Purpose
3	The Church As the Body of Christ
4	The Mission of the Church
5	What Is a Healthy Church?
6	What Is My Role in the Church?
7	Who Are Our Ministry Partners?
8	Committing Our Future to God

2. Leadership Team Meets Weekly

3. Congregational Involvement

- Prayer
- Training
- Activities designed by interim and leadership team
- Celebration Fellowship

