

## **Who Will Preach for Us?**

*The period in which the congregation is without its pastor is called the "interim period." This means, " between the time the former pastor leaves and the new one comes." Providing someone to preach in each worship service during the interim is referred to as "filling" or "supplying the pulpit." One of the duties of the Pastor Search Committee is to provide the one who will preach in the worship services (unless this duty is assigned to another group of members by your Church Constitution).*

*During the absence of a pastor, everyone wonders who might be preaching in his place. Here are two methods that are used by congregations to "fill the pulpit:"*

- a. A recognized and experienced minister is asked to preach on a variety of different occasions. This is often referred to as "supplying the pulpit" and the one who preaches is said to be the "pulpit supply." Using this method requires a constant enlistment of ministers and can be a difficult job.*
- b. A recognized and experienced pastor is asked to serve as temporary pastor. This does not mean he will become the new pastor. It merely means he will be the primary person preaching in all services of the congregation and serving in ways common to a pastor (sometimes making hospital visits, counseling needs, etc.) This is often referred to as an "interim pastorate" and the one who serves is said to be the "interim pastor." His work is completed when the congregation secures its new pastor. It is often understood when a retired or inactive pastor agrees to serve as interim pastor, he also agrees not to allow himself to be considered as a candidate for the pastor position.*

**Note** – By contacting the **Minister / Church Relations Office** of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at **toll free 1-888-446-1453**, you can request information about and/or receive help with securing a "Traditional" or an "Intentional Interim." (See "Now That Our Pastor Has Left, What Should We Do First?")