

To whom it may concern,

When faced with the task of searching for a pulpit minister after releasing our preacher of twenty-plus years, we decided it would be a good move to employ the Interim Ministry offered by Jerrie Barber. The outcome of that decision has seen growth of our family as well as our eldership.

In our first meeting with Jerrie, he asked about the history of our congregation as well as the details of how we had come to need a different preacher. Jerrie has developed his own process of how to deal with the problem of overcoming the attachment of a preacher of long tenure, but realizes that his process must match the needs of different congregations.

Through sermons, workshops, classes, and committees, as well as an in depth search into our congregation's history, we feel that we have become aware of who we are and how we think. This allows us to ask the hard question "Are we the kind of family that can attract the kind of preacher that we want?"

Jerrie laid out, step-by-step, the process that he would use in the beginning and that process was followed just as he said, no surprises. Jerrie did however, adjust some of his planned classes to meet the schedules of members and added some meetings when the need arose.

Jerrie's experience and willingness to step in to help a congregation get through a very uncertain time are wonderful assets, what could be his greatest asset is his wife, Gail. While no one could blame her for being reluctant to open herself up to relationships while knowing she would be moving on soon, this is not the case. Gail immersed herself into our family as if she had found the place she would spend the rest of her days. Gail's actions made the Interim Ministry much more of a personal experience than it might have been.

In summary, Jerrie Barber's Interim Ministry would be recommended by the eldership of the Shady Acres Church of Christ. Just make sure he brings Gail.

Steve Howell Steve Howell

Lewis Lineberry Lewis Lineberry

James Price James Price

Steve Turnbow Steve Turnbow