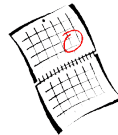


Five Reasons Your Pastor Should Take a Sabbatical

1. **A pastor has emotional highs and lows unlike most other vocations.** In the course of a day, a pastor can deal with death, deep spiritual issues, great encouragement, petty criticisms, tragedies, illnesses, and celebrations of birth. The emotional roller coaster is draining. Your pastor needs a break—many times a break with no distractions.
2. **A pastor is on 24-hour call.** Most pastors don't have an "off" switch. They go to sleep with the knowledge they could be awakened by a phone call at anytime of the day. Vacations are sometimes interrupted. It can be an exhausting vocation, and a sabbatical can be a welcome time to slow down.
3. **Pastors need time of uninterrupted study.** It doesn't usually happen in the study at church or home. There is always the crisis or need of the moment. Church members expect sermons that reflect much prayer and study. The pastor's schedule often works against that ideal. The sabbatical can offer much needed, and uninterrupted, study time.



4. **Pastors who have sabbaticals have longer tenure at churches.** Pastors who have sabbaticals are much more likely to stay at a church because they are less likely to experience burnout.
5. **Pastors who have sabbaticals view the time off as an affirmation from their churches.** Pastors know the church loves them because they support and encourage a sabbatical. Pastors need affirmation. Sabbaticals can accomplish that goal.



How long will Dave be gone?

Dave's last day in the congregation is Sunday, May 24. He plans to be back in the office Tuesday, August 25 and his first Sunday preaching is August 30.

Pastor Sabbatical 2015

Explanations of Sabbatical policy and answers to some FAQ's



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What is Sabbatical?

Sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath meaning to rest or cease. Sabbatical leave is a time for the pastor to disengage from ministry to allow for study, reflection, and rest. The goals in this time are growth and renewal for the pastor *and* the congregation. Such a period of release can renew and restore pastors whose deeper wells have been drained from ongoing ministry.

It is not a time for routine work, career assessment, job search, or retirement planning.

Why should a pastor take a leave?

Sabbatical leaves are good for the pastor, good for the congregation, and good for the church. Pastors stay longer and serve with greater enthusiasm if their ministry includes opportunities to learn and exposure to other ministries. They experience spiritual refreshment, new vision, strengthened skills and wider perspectives.

Congregations also benefit from a chance to exercise lay leadership gifts.

(Ephesians 4:12)

Mennonite Church USA Covenant of Understanding

MC USA and Central Plains Mennonite Conference recommend renewal leaves to guard against pastor burnout. In order to encourage significant growth in ministry and to increase the likelihood of longer pastoral tenure, the following sabbatical policy is in place:



For each year of completed service to this congregation (other than the year in which a sabbatical leave is received), one month of sabbatical leave may be granted, not to be used until the fourth year of ministry here, with subsequent three-month sabbatical leaves during the eighth and twelfth years of ministry.

During the sabbatical, the pastor will receive full salary and benefits as exist in the then current covenant of understanding.

Following a sabbatical, the pastor agrees to provide a minimum of one year of service to the congregation..

Relax
Refresh
Renew

Who is responsible for preaching and pastoral care?

Taric will assume preaching responsibilities for two Sundays per month and guest speakers for the remaining Sundays.

The Elders will be responsible for any pastoral care needs that may arise in Dave's absence. (Russ Roth, Tim Troyer, Don Yeackley, Sid Burkey)

What will Pastor Dave be doing?

My primary focus is to nurture and nourish my relationships with God, Tammy, and our children.

For continuing education, I will participate in Paul Baloche's "Modern Worship Series" course to help me in my role as a pastor and worship leader.

Tammy and I plan to attend a five-day spiritual retreat in Michigan at Bloom Tree Ministries.

www.bloomtreeministries.org

I also have plans to build a guitar as a way to discover and appreciate the art of luthiery. (1Chronicles 16, Ephesians 2:10)

