



DISCOVER CHURCH PLANTING

RECOMMENDED CARE PRACTICES FOR THE PASTOR

In addition to a pastor's personal spiritual disciplines, we offer this model as standard practices for DCP churches and encourage the church to adopt it at the beginning.

Sabbath

- We recommend a protected Sabbath day, other than the day of the church's weekly service.

Relationship

- Pastor should have at least one friend – a “journey partner” who is a peer outside of the church with whom they can share life joys & challenges. They should check in at least twice a month for support, encouragement and prayer.

Vacation

- 2 weeks paid – 4 Sundays off per year
- With 5 years experience: 3 weeks paid – 5 Sundays off per year
- With 10 years experience: 4 weeks paid – 6 Sundays off per year

Vision Day/Day with Jesus

- One full day per month off-site day of reflection. This is considered a “work” day.

Sabbatical

- We recommend a sabbatical of at least 8 weeks (no more than 12) after every 7 years of ministry leadership.

Continuing Education

- Provide a budgeted amount for the pastor to apply to at least one ministry conference or ministry course per year (if married, include the spouse).
- The DCP will provide 3 one-day church planter clusters per year.

Counseling

- One yearly counseling appointment for a general evaluation of emotional/mental health. Counselor should be a licensed professional Christian psychologist. The DCP will pay for one counseling appointment per year for the pastor for the first two years of the church plant.

Honor

- Either at Christmas or during Pastors' Appreciation month, the church should plan to do something to honor the Pastor and spouse (possible ideas: a love offering, cards/notes of appreciation, a special night out, etc.)