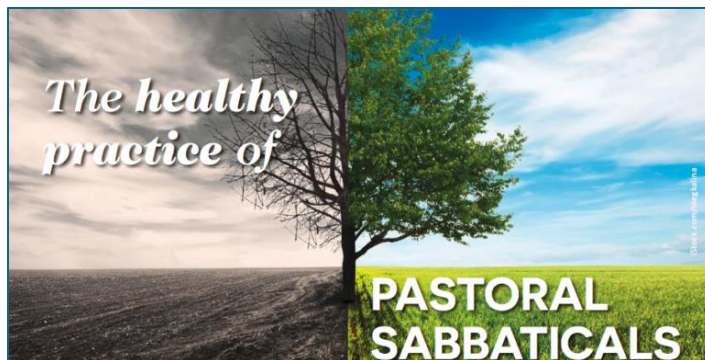


On Sunday, July 26, we announced that I and my family are granted a spiritual renewal sabbatical, from October 19 through the end of this, our 7th year at Community Grace. Since not everyone was in attendance, here is much of what was said that morning and in that evening's Q2 business meeting, and more!



Pastor Reg's Sabbatical FAQ's

WHAT IS A SABBATICAL AND HOW IS THE CG FAMILY SUPPORTING THE OVERSTREETS?

From Andy Corp, our Elder Moderator. "We want to take a moment to share good news with you that the elder board has granted Pastor Reg and his family a sabbatical and the end of this year as they finish their seventh year of ministry at Community Grace. We are pleased to make this announcement and share a little detail today, and even more tonight in the Q2 business meeting."

From Matt Starrett, Church Treasurer and former Elder Moderator. "During the preparation for Pastor Shawn and family's sabbatical last year, we learned much about the value of a pastor's sabbatical. Churches which invest in their pastors with a sabbatical typically offer this opportunity about every seven years, as appropriate. A sabbatical is not an extended vacation, but rather a season of rest, renewal, intentional spiritual growth, and a pouring into the pastor who pours out for others regularly. It is a gift that allows a pastor to step away from the heavy responsibilities of ministry to recharge physically, emotionally, and spiritually; a detachment to spend focused time with God, to reflect on personal calling, and to pursue intentional growth in areas that will better equip them to lead the church in the future. It is a wisely common practice in Charis Fellowship churches and part of a long-term health strategy."

From Reg. "At my previous church in WA, I witnessed firsthand the reenergization and longevity that sabbaticals brought to our pastors. My senior pastor took two sabbaticals in the 17 years I was there, and both times the sense was: 'We got our pastor back' – a revitalized and refocused great leader. The associate pastors were also granted sabbaticals – myself and family included one time! (And I was due for a second, but we chose to move to Indiana instead!) During all sabbaticals, other leaders and the church body were blessed numerous opportunities to grow in profound new ways."

Matt: "I want to express the Elder Board's recognition of the sacrificial way our pastoral team serves and give you, the church body, the opportunity to support Reg and the Overstreet family with your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as well, to cover some of their families travel expenses. Like the Masons' sabbatical, you will have the opportunity to give toward this. We have a Pastoral Care account that can be used for those who choose to give."

Andy: "We look forward to the Overstreet family returning with fresh vision and renewed passion to continue our work together, to advance Christ's glorious name and gospel into hearts and into the world."

WHO WILL BE PREACHING DURING THE SABBATICAL?

This is one of the most exciting parts of this sabbatical. The preachers are already secured and have already met together for prayer and planning for our all-church fall series through the book of James and then Advent

series in Luke 1-2. They are anchored by our pastors, Shawn and Steve, and missionary Mike Taylor, with one outside guest, Dr. R. Larry Overstreet who is giving mentorship to some of the younger preachers who will get enormously valuable experience. The list includes our own Tristan Spuller, Tyler Eckel, U.S. Army Chaplain Candidate Josh Pettifor, Zach Hill, and Ben Tucker!

WHAT ARE OTHER ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SABBATICAL?

- Scripture reading schedule and communication – Tristan
- Small Group leader weekly emails – Steve
- Small Group member inquiries and connections – Steve
- Staff and Elder Meetings – Steve, Staff Meetings; Andy, Elder Meetings
- Emergencies, counseling – all pastors
- Personnel decisions – non made without contacting me
- Budget matters – Matt Starrett, Steve Clason and Fiscal Team (Matt and Clason to send ministry leaders their 2027 budget proposal letters early this year—before I leave)
- Facility matters – only emergencies or costs above the threshold that constitution requires congregational approval
- Severe conflict – Elder board first, and they decide who shall be the point person. (Praying for none!)
- Contact new believers – Chuck
- Baptisms – Shawn
- Funerals – pastors decide as a group
- Preaching calendar is all set. Communication with speakers - Tristan.
 - Evaluation and feedback - Tristan and pastors
- Co-op – Shawn, with Team
- Facilities – Steve, Trustees, Cindy, Project Managers. Budget matters – Matt
- Christmas gifts, thank yous, end of year testimonies – Tristan and Shawn

WHAT ARE THE HEALTHY BOUNDARIES IN PLACE DURING THE SABBATICAL?

- Contact – Only as needed, with pastors, elders, and office team
- Emails – Will not be received. Out of office response plan
- Notify if tragedy or severe emergency occurs
- Teams, grow the ministry of CG!!!
- To the congregation – Pray for Overstreets. Overstreets will send a couple strategic updates to the body. Anticipate return, vision series, and start to 2027 ministry!
- General Budget and NEXT Initiative Giving – Steve, Shawn, and Staff. Starts in fall, weekly in December – We can and must hit our 2026 budget by end of December.

WHAT CAN WE ANTICIPATE COMING IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2027?

- Vision series, then new sermon series in book of the Bible
- Annual Reviews as normal
- Annual Meeting as normal, Sunday, February 7
- Elder Basecamp (doctrine and ministry leadership group for men)

I look forward to communicating much more before, trusting God to do GREAT things at CG and in our family during, the most incredible return of all time, and a hell-destroying glorious future ahead! I love you! – Pastor Reg