



Senior Pastor Sabbatical April 12 - July 9, 2021

Dear Central Family,

I am looking ahead to the next season of my ministry at Central. I have been honored and humbled to serve as your Senior Minister since August 2012. My ministry at Central remains one of the greatest blessings of my life. I want to continue to lead and serve with purpose and passion. Therefore, after over eight years, I am taking a Sabbatical, beginning later this spring. **The goal is to return refreshed and renewed for the benefit of our Central family.**

A sabbatical (from the Biblical word “Sabbath”) is an extended time of rest, renewal and study. It is a time apart for the strengthening of Spiritual and creative energies. This will be my first one in 27 years in ministry. Many pastors I know have returned from a sabbatical with a fresh sense of energy, clarity and vitality. Those are some of my goals for my Sabbatical. My other goals are listed in the “FAQ” section of this letter.

Ministry is often regarded as a “never-off-the-clock” calling. However, every job, every vocation and every profession comes with a distinct set of pressures, demands and challenges. The ministry is not unique in this regard. I certainly have felt depleted and fatigued at times, especially during the last 12 months or so, and I have been feeling the need to restore and renew my passion for a lifetime of ministry. **I love this congregation very much, and I want to serve it with as much enthusiasm, vigor and faith as I can.**

In some ways, the possibility of a Sabbatical has been considered for over two years. It has really come to fruition, though, in the last six months, thanks to a dedicated and faithful **Senior Minister Sabbatical Planning Team: Nick Teixeira (chair), Bettilu Charlton, Linda Fisseler, Joe Cook and Gene Richardson.** Additionally, Beth Toben, Georgia Green, Steve Wilson and Michele Ryan have offered input and planning. Hopefully, the FAQ section will answer any questions you might have, but feel free to contact me or anyone on the Sabbatical Planning Team.

Thank you for praying, praying and praying some more for me and my family during the Sabbatical. Know that I will be doing the same!

In Christ,

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. - Exodus 20:8b-11