



Rev. Jeffrey McDowell
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3-8-17

Dear Rev. Losey and the PPR of the Trumansburg UMC:

I was very pleased to attend your meeting last evening and affirm your vote to endorse a 3 – month *Pastor's "Formational and Spiritual Growth leave"* as outlined in the Book of Discipline paragraph 350. I have taken such a leave once during my time as Pastor, and will be taking another one in 2019 while in the role of Superintendent. With the constant demands on our Pastors from within the local church, the district and the conference, and considering the changing role of churches in our society, it is imperative that clergy have regular times of Sabbath rest, and opportunity for renewal in the midst of this calling. Now, more than ever, we must encourage our clergy to take care of their own souls.

Weekly renewal and annual education time is expected, as is vacation time. But there is no substitute for an actual leave when a spiritual leader can totally disengage from the constancy and urgent nature of Pastoral duties. This leave will permit your Pastor enough time and space to truly reflect, re – tool, and renew his soul. When he returns, he may even find that the church has rediscovered its strength in the lay ministry already present. During my term as Superintendent I will be promoting this among our churches and clergy so that it becomes a regular practice.

If you should need any help finding pulpit or pastoral care coverage, please contact me. I look forward to what will come to both church and Pastor in this great experience. I look for approval from your Church Council so this leave can be planned for through your PPR committee.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff McDowell".

Rev. Jeff McDowell