

Sabbaticals: You Can and You Should

Oasis 2018 Seminar

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Why haven't you taken a sabbatical?

Why doesn't your church have a sabbatical policy?

- The goals of a sabbatical are rest, renewal, restoration and longevity.
- Sabbaticals uphold the principle of Sabbath.

Just as the sabbatical year was a biblically based provision to restore a farmer's depleted field after six (6) years of planting and harvesting, a sabbatical period for those in the ministry provides time for rest and renewal.

Peterson, Eugene. Desert and Harvest a Sabbatical Journey. Leadership Journal, Winter Quarter 1998, Vol VIII, No I.

- Sabbaticals are not a vacation, an escape, a study or medical leave

Sources & Resources:

(Peter)

A variety of resources that will get you thinking about the why, the where and the how of sabbaticals...

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence-Sabbaticals, Christian Reform Churches

<https://www.crcna.org/SPE/resources/sabbaticals>

A helpful paper on sabbaticals that provides both biblical and practical insights...

Dallas Theological Seminary: *Sabbatical, Helpful Hints for a successful sabbatical*

<https://www.dts.edu/download/alumni/placement/DTS-Alumni-TheSabbatical.pdf>

Bullock, A. Richard and Richard J. Bruesehoff. *Clergy Renewal-The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning*. The Alban Institute, 2000.

Sevier, Melissa Bane. *Journeying toward Renewal. A spiritual companion for pastoral sabbaticals*. The Alban Institute, 2002.

Buchanan, Mark. *The Rest of God. Restoring your Soul by Restoring Sabbath*. Thomas Nelson Inc., 2006.

Sabbatical Resources:
(Mike)

For good thought provoking suggestions...

<https://makeyourbreakaway.com/articles/sabbatical-suggestions/>

A very encouraging blog on taking a sabbatical (the first of a three part series)...

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-ultimate-guide-to-taking-a-sabbatical>

These websites offer a starting place to research places which offer low or no cost accommodation for pastors and missionaries (with and without their families) while travelling on retreat. Many places will accept clergy from both the USA and CANADA.

<https://www.crcna.org/SPE/resources/sabbaticals>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/march/free-or-discounted-getaways-for-pastors.html>

<http://thechn.org/About/about-chn>

This book is at the top of a lot of lists for a very good reason... provides a concise and clear guide to sabbatical planning...

Bruesehoff, Richard J and Bullock, A. Richard. *Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

You will find these two books by Dawn and Peterson on a lot of Sabbatical reading lists because both authors are sharp theologically and offer much practical wisdom and encouragement...

Dawn, Marva. *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*. Eerdmans, 1990.

Peterson, Eugene H. *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction*. Eerdmans, 1993.