
Nuts and Bolts

- ◆ The Director of the Center for Leadership Formation, the D.S., and the Coordinator of Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry can be helpful in working with the clergyperson and the SPRC in planning for a Clergy Short-Term Sabbatical.
- ◆ A Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist (TIIMS) will be appointed to serve the congregation as an interim pastor during the short-term sabbatical.
- ◆ The Coordinator of Intentional Interim Ministry will work with the pastor, SPRC, and D.S. to negotiate and complete a TIIMS covenant assignment.
- ◆ During the short-term sabbatical time, the D.S. may be invited to preach at least once at the church.
- ◆ During the short-term sabbatical time, the clergyperson is to be in touch with the D.S. for support, assistance if needed, and accountability.
- ◆ The D.S. will be available to the local congregation for guidance in regard to emergencies during the short-term sabbatical.
- ◆ The D.S. shall have a time to meet with the returning clergyperson and SPRC of the local congregation for a debriefing about the short-term leave.

For further information, contact:

Rev. Bonnie Osteen
Coordinator of Transitional
Intentional Interim Ministry
713-521-9383 or 877-774-2700

Ext 314

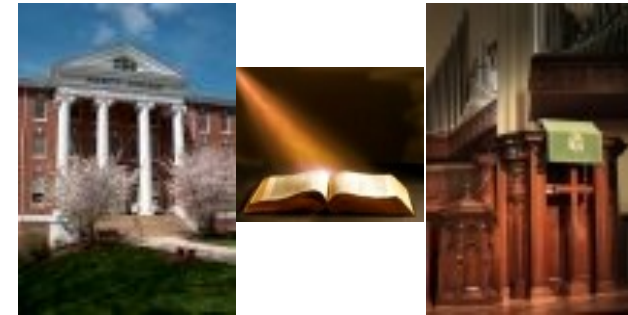
Mobile 409-392-7565
bosteen@txcumc.org



5215 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002-

Clergy Short-Term Sabbatical

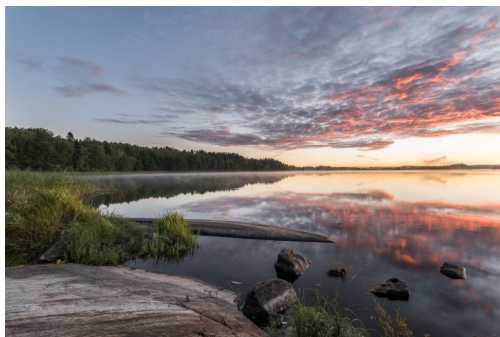
Texas Annual Conference
of the
United Methodist Church



“Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2b, NRSV

Considerations Drawn from ¶ 350.3 Book of Discipline *Sabbatical Leave*

- ◆ Available to Full-time Local Pastors, Associate, or Clergy members in full connection
- ◆ Intended duration of 3—4 months (shorter sabbaticals can be negotiated)
- ◆ Compensation during the short-term sabbatical is maintained with the local congregation or salary-paying unit where the clergy is appointed
- ◆ Written plans for study or travel should accompany the application.
- ◆ Sabbatical leaves can be granted after completion of any six consecutive years of full-time service or the equivalent for part-time appointments



Purpose of a Short-Term Sabbatical

The purpose of a short-term sabbatical is the edification of the pastor, educationally and/or experientially in their leadership of the local church. Short-term sabbaticals may be granted for the following or similar purposes:

1. Study in a particular area of pastoral or specialized ministry
2. Advanced degree work
3. Pilgrimage
4. Spiritual formation
5. Learning a new type of ministry or worship style
6. A practicum in a particular type or style of ministry
7. In depth research in areas of ministry or pastoral leadership
8. Intercultural experience
9. Language immersion experience
10. Writing and reflection on an intense personal or pastoral experience

Benefits of a Short-Term Sabbatical

- ◆ Encourages longer pastorates
- ◆ Enhances the role of spiritual leader
- ◆ Allows personal and professional development
- ◆ Prevents burnout
- ◆ Encourages congregational self-sufficiency

Application for a Short-Term Sabbatical

- ◆ Complete the application form for a short-term sabbatical describing the purpose, scope and duration of the sabbatical. Submit it to your D.S. and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for their review, support and signatures.
- ◆ Send your original, completed application with the signatures of your SPRC chair and your D.S. to:

Short-Term Sabbatical
Rev. Deborah Hawboldt, Director
Center for Leadership Formation
Texas Annual Conference
5215 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
- ◆ The application is approved by the Cabinet, and the Coordinator of Intentional Interim Ministry is notified. The D.S. will notify the applicant of the progress.