



Re: Senior Pastor Sabbatical

MPC Church Family:

In our church, it's standard practice for our Senior Pastors to take a sabbatical. James hasn't yet taken one, so the elders have encouraged him to do so this summer.

A sabbatical provides an opportunity for proactive rest and refreshment for our Senior Pastor, ensuring a long and fruitful ministry with our church. Some key details regarding James' sabbatical:

- This sabbatical will begin on May 16.
- This year's Congregational Meeting will take place on May 15 and we will use part of that time to pray over James.
- While James is on sabbatical, our pastoral staff will be preaching and we will welcome several guest preachers. Our Executive Pastor, David Stephenson, will temporarily fill James' other ministerial duties.
- James will be back preaching and fulfilling all of his duties in late August.

You may be wondering, "*why is James taking a sabbatical? Is he okay?*" We can answer that with a resounding "yes," and I would like to report that not only is he well, the fact that he can take this sabbatical is a sign of the health of our church. MPC has a sabbatical policy and it is only permissible if certain criteria can be met, and all of them were met easily, which is a testament to James's leadership as well as the outstanding pastors and staff we have serving our church.

This sabbatical is a proactive time of rest for James, during which he will teach a class at Reformed Theological Seminary, work on writing projects, and enjoy extra time with his family as they prepare to send his oldest daughter to college. During his sabbatical, James and his family will attend services and you're encouraged to chat and connect with him - just please refrain from talking about official church decisions and related topics. We want this time to be an opportunity for him to rest among his church family.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to David Stephenson. Please be praying for James and our entire staff as they minister to our church family.

Resting In Him,
Andy Laperriere, Chair of the Ministry Support Committee
on behalf of the Session of McLean Presbyterian Church

McLean Presbyterian Church

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