

# Sabbatical In The United Church of Canada



All called, settled or appointed ministry personnel who have completed five or more consecutive years in their present pastoral relationship are entitled to at least three consecutive months set aside from the pastoral relationship and pastoral responsibilities for a time of study, retreat, prayer, rest, recreation and realization.

During this time regular salary and benefits are paid by the pastoral charge.

See the United Church website for more information.

## The sabbatical handbook:

[http://www.united-church.ca/files/handbooks/sabbatical\\_policy.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/handbooks/sabbatical_policy.pdf)

## Sabbatical Learning Circles

[www.united-in-learning.com/sabbatical](http://www.united-in-learning.com/sabbatical)

Peer Support for Ministers on Sabbatical: A monthly conference call to reflect with and connect with others on sabbatical leave.

Peer Support for Lay Leaders while the Minister is away: Share resources and ideas and reflect with others in similar circumstances on learnings and challenges.

Facilitator: Tim Scorer, Vancouver BC

Cost: \$50

Format: The learning circles will be held over 6 months via monthly conference call



Sabbath means we live in *time*, in the *present*.

Sabbath means we practice *shavat*, or *cessation*: it means we stop.

Sabbath means we do these things in order to ready ourselves for *recreation in community*.

Harris, Maria. *Proclaim Jubilee! : A Spirituality for the twenty-first century*. (Louisville: John Knox, 1986), p.27.

# Toward Daring Discipleship



HAMILTON  
CONFERENCE  
The United Church of Canada

June, 2010  
Sabbatical



Sabbatical: 1645, "of or suitable for the Sabbath," from L. sabbaticus, from Gk. sabbatikos "of the Sabbath" ... related to sabbatical year in Mosaic law, the seventh year, in which land was to remain untilled and debtors and slaves released.

Online Etymology Dictionary <http://www.etymonline.com/>

***In Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time . . . Sabbath acts as the religious summons to be present.***

Harris, Maria. *Proclaim Jubilee! : A Spirituality for the twenty-first century*. (Louisville: John Knox, 1986), p.27.

# Planning a Sabbatical



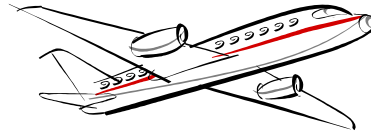
- Start laying the groundwork at least a year before the sabbatical is scheduled to begin.
- Engage with your family / significant others in your planning.
- Ask yourself some questions: - In what places in my life do I need renewal? Where are the places of stress? The places of excitement for ministry?
- Focus on a passion and soul-search how you might focus your sabbatical where you have energy.
- Educate the church community concerning the nature of 'sabbatical' and your reasons for requesting one.
- Engage the congregation in the sabbatical focus.
- Be flexible around the time frame, being conscious of the needs of your community.
- Pre-plan with the congregation to facilitate your absence.
- Follow appropriate procedures for sabbatical request etc.
- Schedule relaxation and spiritual renewal time into the sabbatical.
- Give yourself time to re-acclimatize when you return.
- Seek out ways to live into and share your sabbatical learning.



# Sabbatical Study Overseas

Several global partners of the United Church have offered to host clergy on sabbatical:

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/global/sabbatical>



**Latin American Biblical University: San Jose, Costa Rica** is an Ecumenical Theological College located in the mountains in San Jose on the outskirts of the city only 40 minutes from the rainforest. While courses are in Spanish, many faculty are English-speaking. Spanish lessons may be arranged and it is possible to sit in on classes or talks being offered in English to visiting groups. .

**Evangelical Theological Seminary: Matanzas, Cuba** has close ties with The UCC. Courses are in Spanish, but there are programs for exposure groups in English.

**Center for Global Education, Cuernavaca, Mexico** is well known for its role in innovative grassroots education, alternative health practices, base Christian communities, and economic cooperatives. CGE in Cuernavaca provides a safe space for LGBTQ persons and can offer lesbian and gay home-stays.

For specific information about sabbatical options in CGE please contact [Anne Lutterman-Aguilar](#) at The General Council Office

# Sabbatical Funding



The **Flora Jane Baker Clergy Sabbatical Fellowship Program** provides funding for up to four United Church congregational ministers a year.

These individuals must be in approved sabbatical study at Queen's theological school, in one of these four streams: Clinical Pastoral Education; Transformational Leadership; Youth Experience; or Theological Studies.

A bursary up to \$10,500 and office space are available as part of the program.

<http://www.queensu.ca/religion/theology/leadership/clergysabbatical.html>



The **McGeachy Senior Scholarship** is designed to foster development of leadership who will inspire and challenge the church.

This "senior" scholarship is for persons established in their life work and is *not* generally intended for those who have sabbatical income. A scholarship of less than the maximum amount, with reduced funding for time, however, may be awarded to an applicant with sabbatical income if the committee evaluates their proposal as having exceptional merit.



<http://www.united-church.ca/adultlearning/awards/mcgeachy> or Tel: 416-231-7680 ext. 4142