

What is a Sabbatical?

Overview

Our Senior Pastor Jeff Allen will be embarking on a sabbatical starting June 1 – August 19, 2012.

The theme for his sabbatical is “Igniting Connections” in which he will seek to connect with family, friends, and faith history.

Purpose

Talented church leaders frequently exit the ministry due to burnout and fatigue. As described by the Alban Institute, a “Sabbatical is a time to receive, to be nurtured, to dig deeper into yourself, your relationship with God and your own roots and stories, so that you can be renewed, refreshed and revitalized by the breath of God”. This sabbatical will provide Pastor Jeff with the opportunity to renew, refresh, and recharge.

Why is a Sabbatical Important?

A sabbatical not only provides the pastor with much needed time, it also presents an opportunity for the congregation to lean forward in faith as they grow in ministry during the pastor’s absence. In fact, the vision for a sabbatical was included in the original agreement made between Pastor Jeff and Faith Community Church when the call to serve our congregation was extended in 2005.

What will Pastor Jeff be doing?

It is the purpose of this sabbatical to experience a time of rest and renewal – physical, intellectual, emotional, relational, and spiritual. The Alban Institute reminds us that “Jesus models for us what we need to do in sabbatical and daily ministry: keep moving toward Abba, the Father—in prayer, in teaching, in travel and especially in moving from community to community.”

During the summer of 2012 it is Pastor Jeff’s intent to create an environment of disconnection from the daily tasks of ministry enabling him to Ignite Connections that renew and help him to grow even closer to God.

What will happen at Faith before, during, and after the Sabbatical?

Farewell Celebration

A Send-Off Celebration is planned for the May 6, 2012
Faith Family Reunion.

Various people in Leadership

Competent staff and leadership are already in place to move the ministry forward during this time of sabbatical. Faith’s ongoing equipping of staff, Consistory, and gifted volunteers will enable us to continue to provide for the

needs of the congregation in its outreach and ministry to the community.

During 2012, Faith will partner with Western Theological Seminary to provide an intern (*Jonathan Ytterock*) to supplement staff and lay leadership.

In addition to the seminary intern, Dan Leewaye (Youth & Discipleship Director), Curtis Klinger (Elder), and others will work under the oversight of Teri Jones (Director of Worship) to provide engaging proclamation from the Word of God in Worship.

Growth & Renewal Emphasis

During the sabbatical, it is also envisioned that the intern, staff, and consistory will engage with the congregation in its fourth round of church health assessment using the *Natural Church Development process guided by *Rex Schultz (consultant).

Return Celebration

A Return Celebration is planned for the October 7, 2012
Faith Family Reunion.

A Word of Thanks

Thanks to the Planning Team and Consistory throughout this process.

Planning Team

Joe Unrein, Sr., Jim Husted, & Phil Trimble

Leaders & Contacts

Outlined below are the anticipated primary leaders and contact persons during the upcoming sabbatical:

Joe Unrein, Sr.

Vice President of Consistory

Providing oversight of the Directional Board, Consistory, and Elders in ongoing Mission & Ministry.

Jonathan Ytterrock / Seminary Intern

Day-to-Day, Care, Preaching

Providing daily ministry service to the congregation, provide "care" ministry under direction of LynnAnn Huizingh, Preaching, and will serve as the "Lead" in the *Natural Church Development (NCD) process.

Curtis Klinger

Day-to-Day Ministry Support, Preaching

Providing Elder support to the WTS Intern and staff in the daily ministry and its service to the congregation. Also provide Proclamation of the Word in Worship.

Dan Leewaye

Staff & Discipleship, Preaching

Providing primary leadership of the Staff and Discipleship ministry. Also providing assistance and support to the WTS intern, and provide Proclamation of the Word in Worship.

Teri Jones

Director of Worship

Providing leadership and direct oversight of Worship.

Susan Keesen

Diaconal Overseer & Administration

Providing leadership and oversight of Administration.

LynnAnn Huizingh

Care & Adult Discipleship

Providing leadership oversight in Care with support from WTS intern, Curtis Klinger, Care Team, and the Elders. Also providing oversight in Adult Discipleship.

Rex Schultz

****Mentor & *Church Health Coach***

Providing mentoring for the WTS intern and coaching the Natural Church Development process.

Sabbatical Timeline

- Planning: November, 2010 – April, 2011
- Sabbatical & Grant Plan Approval: by the Consistory, April 12, 2011
- Grant Plan Submitted: May 12, 2011
- Anticipated Lilly Grant notification date: September or October, 2011 (*declined*)
- Town Meeting Communication: Ongoing
- Farewell Celebration: May 6, 2012
- Pastor Jeff Departure: June 1, 2012
- Pastor Jeff Return: August 20, 2012
- Return Celebration: October 7, 2012

Resources / Learning More

www.lillyendowment.org

* Asterisk items are contingent upon notification and receipt of a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

www.alban.org

10 copies of "Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning" are available for the congregation for checkout at the Information Desk.

2012 Consistory

Elders: Joe Unrein, Sr. (Vice President), Carolyn Barnett,

Curtis Klinger, Nancy Pittman, Rita Riedel, and Phil Trimble

Deacons: Janis Nossaman (Chair), Dick Annett, Verneda Belvill, John Light, Nick Morstad, and Louise Smith



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Faith Community Church

2012 Sabbatical Frequently Asked Questions

This brochure is provided by the Sabbatical Planning Team and the Consistory of Faith Community Church to address some of the Frequently Asked Questions regarding the sabbatical of Pastor Jeff Allen planned for the Summer of 2012.

Please read the enclosed and feel free to contact any of the individuals referenced in this brochure with additional questions.

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