

SABBATICAL FAQ DRAFT

1. What is a sabbatical?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines sabbatical as “a break or change from a normal routine.” A ministry sabbatical is intended to be a time of rest and renewal for mind, body, and soul for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the pastor. This should be a time to connect with God on a deeper level and without the distractions of the normal day-to-day life.

Contrary to what many believe, a sabbatical is much more than just an extended vacation. The goal is to both intentionally and completely disconnect from the norm, including routines, responsibilities, and relationships. Eugene H. Petterson states: “The original intent of Sabbatical is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures; a time in solitude and to be with God, not a time to interact with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to the pastor in midcourse, it is not going to come by an infusion of intellect, but by renewal of the Spirit.”

We see the concept of frequently withdrawing for time with the Father in Jesus’ life. He regularly took time for prayer, meditation, and renewal. In the same way, it is important for pastors to follow His example. Full-time ministry includes constant demands, and without intentionally taking time for rest, he can begin to operate out of his own strength or even experience burnout. But a pastor who has spent uninterrupted time with Jesus is prepared to lead with enthusiasm and in the power of the Holy Spirit. This benefits not only the pastor, but the entire church family he serves.

2. Can I talk to Mark?

Mark will not be available for any church business. However, we are still all friends and family, so don’t feel like you have to ignore him, especially if you see him around town. He will intentionally be away from his phone and email during this time as he seeks to truly disconnect from routine and responsibilities in an effort to truly connect with God.

3. When will Mark leave? When will Mark be back?

Pastor Mark will be off from all routines and responsibilities related to his role as lead pastor of MVCC beginning May 31, 2021. He will return to this role and responsibilities on the September 1, 2021.

4. There is a crisis, who do I contact?

For those already connected at Mountain View, please feel free to contact your Life Group Leader, any member of the [ministerial staff](#), or the [Elder Team](#). And, of course, never hesitate to contact the church office at (540)727-0297 or visit our webpage at mountainviewcc.net.

5. There is a funeral, who do I contact?

In this event, please contact the church office and a ministerial staff member will contact you. There are several ministerial staff members who are experienced and will be available to assist you during this time.

6. Who will be teaching/preaching?

Pastoral staff, members of our Elder Team, and other ministry leaders are working together as a team to teach and inspire the Mountain View family throughout the summer. You won’t want to miss what they have to share!