

SABBATICAL OVERVIEW

District Superintendent Stan Reeder

INTRODUCTION

Given the repetition of the routine and the demands of daily problems that seem “ordinary,” it is easy for me as a district superintendent to lose spiritual perspective, resort to my own talents and resources, or depend on my own efforts and energy. God’s Sabbath principle applied to a superintendent’s ministry, and provides an opportunity to rededicate (sanctify) one’s life and work to the Lord, reacquire God’s perspective, and freshen one’s spiritual health. In this way, the entire Body of Christ benefits and is blessed by the scriptural sabbatical. It provides more than just a chance to recharge one’s strength for another season. It should also be a life and soul-changing time when perspective, rest, and the Holy Spirit come together to perform a deep work, resulting in years of hope-filled, energetic, enthusiastic, and joyful ministry.

TIMING:

Having completed six years of ministry on Oregon Pacific District Church of the Nazarene, in keeping with our Journal’s directives, the sabbatical is for 12 weeks, extending from *[specify dates covered by the sabbatical]*.

MY COVENANT: *I promise to . . .*

Renew my hope in the Lord:

The scriptural sabbatical is not only intended for rest, but also as a time to be holy unto the Lord. In order to ensure both attributes I will be careful to set aside . . . **[To be completed]**

Daily time for Scripture and Prayer:

Weekly time for memorization of and meditation upon Scripture.
Weekly writing based on daily times of Scripture study and prayer.

Refresh my marriage:

We will enjoy having evenings and weekends together, rather than so frequently being apart with my travels. We are planning an extra weekend getaway **[To be completed with appropriate dates and places]**. We are also planning a total of _____ weeks of travel together.

Reconnect with Family:

One of the costs of ministry is potentially living at great distances from family. This sabbatical will be a time to reconnect with our extended families, many of whom we have not seen for years. **[Complete with appropriate information and plan]**.

[We will also be spending time with our adult children and grandchild joining them for six days from August 1-6 in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. Our visit to Newfoundland will culminate with traveling to attend Janet’s extended family’s reunion in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, on the weekend of August 7-10. We anticipate a crowd of well over 100. I will also

spend about a week in Western Canada starting June 22. Janet will not be able to be with me, but I will have the opportunity to visit my 93-year-old parents, my brother, and many close family friends]. NOTE: This is a sample, to be completed with appropriate information and dates.

Recreate in nature:

There is no better way for me to experience disengagement than through recreating in nature. [I plan to spend approximately one week hiking a stretch of the Pacific Coast Trail between Charlton Lake (just east of Waldo Lake and north of Highway 58) at mile marker 1932 to Lava Camp Lake at Highway 242 at mile marker 1990 (58 miles) or to Big Lake Youth Camp at mile marker 2003 (71 miles) or to Highway 20 at mile marker 2007.4 (75 miles).] NOTE: This is a sample, to be completed with appropriate information and dates where applicable.

MY COVENANT: *I promise to not...*

- Engage in any of my regular responsibilities such as connecting with pastors/churches, preaching, teaching, crisis intervention, mediation, and all administrative work.
- Lead any broader ministry responsibilities, including Regional District Superintendent Facilitation, Northwest Nazarene University trustee board, and Nazarene Theological Seminary trustee boards, or USA/Canada Regional Office initiatives.

OUTCOMES:

With the Holy Spirit's deep work, I anticipate spiritual, relational, physical, and emotional rejuvenation that will empower me for another full season of hope-filled, energetic, enthusiastic, and joyful service to the Oregon Pacific District and beyond.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

I deeply appreciate the district advisory board's support for this sabbatical. My request would be for the continuance of regular salary and benefits, as well as the ability to access the regular travel budget, in order to facilitate expenses incurred through sabbatical travel.