**Ministry Renewal Leave (Sabbatical) Request**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church**

**Minister Requesting Leave:**

**Proposed dates:**

**Plans/goals:**

**Activities/learning that will take place:**

**Outline of benefits for the ministerial staff member:**

**Outline of benefits for the church:**

**Detailed explanation of how the ministerial staff member’s work will be carried out during their absence:**

**Cost to the church (if any):**

**Ministry Renewal Leave (Sabbatical) Request (Sample)**

**Fourth Baptist Church**

**Minister Requesting Leave:** Rev. J.C. Preacher

**Proposed dates:** June 1, 2024 – July 6, 2024

**Plans/goals:** January 2024 will mark 10 years of ministry for me and my family here at FBC. In that time, the church has blessed us with regular family time, and we are grateful for that. However, now that our children are older, I am finding two great needs in my life and one desire.

First, I want to continue my ministry here for at least ten more years before retiring, and I want to finish strong. In order to do that, I need to hear from pastors who are farther along in their journey than I am.

Secondly, my wife and I desire a deeper connection with one another. As we move from one stage of life to another, we do not doubt our love and commitment to one another but want to focus extended time with each other.

Finally, my desire is a little selfish, but the busy demands of ministry have never allowed me the time to pursue it. For many years I have wanted to take a road trip along Route 66. Along the way, I plan to visit with some pastor friends and enjoy the sites with my wife.

**Activities/learning that will take place:**

Here is a projected timeline of my Ministry Renewal Leave

June 1-4 Reconnect Marriage Retreat, Ridgecrest, NC

June 5 Interview with Dr. Roy Smalls, Rehoboth BC, Greenville, SC

June 6-8 Family Time

June 9 Worship at Smithville Missionary BC and lunch with Pastor Scruggs

June 10-24 Rt 66 Road Trip (fly to Chicago, rent RV, drive to Santa Monica, fly home)

Interviews & Fellowship with pastors in Springfield, IL, Tulsa, OK, & Flagstaff, AZ. I am working on a schedule for midweek worship on the road.

Sunday worship is currently scheduled for Redeemer Church in Amarillo, TX and Gracia de Dios Iglesia Baptista, San Bernardino, CA.

June 25-29 Fishing, rest, reading, reflection

June 30 Worship at a local church TBD

July 1 Lunch with seminary friends being planned

July 2-3 Preparing to return well to FBC, sermon prep

July 4-6 Family Time (Happy Birthday, America)

**Outline of benefits for the ministerial staff member:**

Most of my adult life has been joyously spent in ministry. I cannot remember a week when I was not preparing to preach at least once. I am not sure how a month break from that aspect of ministry will affect me, but I assume I will be more than ready to return to the preaching ministry, with a world of illustrations, when I come back.

The Lord has blessed me with a woman who loves me and her Lord deeply. I am ready to spend some time trying to demonstrate how much her sacrificial service to ministry and family means to me. This sabbatical is not just for me, but also for her.

My scheduled time to worship with congregations of various styles and cultures will hopefully give me a greater understanding of what God is doing in our churches across America. I look forward to reconnecting with old friends and to making new ones who have walked this road I’m walking. I expect to grow in my resolve to finish well.

**Outline of benefits for the church:**

The church will benefit in many ways. They will learn firsthand that although I am the shepherd here, I am not alone in my ability to care for them. Having to rely on the staff, deacons, and other leaders will be a learning experience for them.

The church will also benefit from the example my wife and I hope to present as a couple who love the Lord and one another well.

The church will no doubt hear stories of our travels and will share in the things I hope to learn from other pastors and congregations along the way.

**Detailed explanation of how the ministerial staff member’s work will be carried out during their absence:**

The leadership here at FBC and your local association will take good care of the church while I am away. Dr. Coverton, who has preached at FBC several times over the years, will step in to preach for each of the six Sunday mornings I am on leave. Being the summer, Wednesday nights will be a mixture of family activities, outreach, and VBS. I trust Peter and Jill to keep the day-to-day ministries going. The deacons have each been assigned families to care for in my absence. They have developed a system for emergencies which includes our staff and Sunday School teachers.

**Cost to the church (if any):**

I am grateful that the church takes good financial care of me and my family. I have discussed this with the finance team, and they have agreed that the Marriage Retreat will be covered under Conference Expenses. Because we will not be attending the SBC, we will save those regular expenses. I will be using some of my regular book allowance before I leave, but that is already budgeted. The honorarium for Dr. Coverton preaching on Sunday is an additional expense for the church.