

Sabbatical Time for our Lead Pastor, Gregg DeMey, in 2023

An update from the ElmhurstCRC Senior Leadership Team

Over 35 years ago, Elmhurst CRC had the wisdom to develop a Sabbatical Time policy¹ as part of our responsibility for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of our ordained pastors and their families. Sabbatical Time gives pastors a much-needed period of rest and rejuvenation and generates opportunities for personal and professional growth that benefits not only our pastors, but our church and our ministries.

By the end of 2023, Pastor Gregg will have accumulated five months of Sabbatical Time. It is Gregg's desire, with the strong support of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Elders, to use his available Sabbatical Time in four segments over the course of 2023. Together with a small advisory group, Gregg, along with Sarah, have been giving considerable thought on how that time can best be used – to the benefit of Gregg, his family, and the church. The planning for Gregg's Sabbatical Time must take into consideration the fact that Sarah works full-time and that any plans Gregg makes must work for Sarah as well.

On November 20, SLT Chair Rob Petroelje and SLT Personnel Committee Chair Erika Rooks Wilgenburg will provide a high-level overview of the plans that have been made thus far and how Gregg's many responsibilities will be dealt with in his absence.

¹*The Sabbatical Time policy provides one month of paid time off for each year of pastoral service in our church. The pastor must be in their fifth year of service at ECRC before the accrued time can be used. Beginning in year five, they must use some or all of their Sabbatical Time since any accrued time in excess of four months is forfeited. Per our policy, Gregg will have accrued four months by the end of 2022, and another month in 2023, which would be forfeited if he does not take any Sabbatical Time in 2023.*