

## **Pastor Sabbatical Grants (PSG)**

### **A Sabbatical for the Pastor**

(rca.org)

To be successful, renewal and revitalization require congregation-wide initiatives led by consistories and other leadership groups within the church. But renewal rarely begins that way; renewal of a congregation most often blossoms from the renewal of a single person—the pastor. And many times, that personal renewal is fostered by a sabbatical.

*What is a sabbatical?* A sabbatical is a time to focus in-depth on things that are important to a person's work and life with the church. Sabbaticals for pastors are highly recommended in order to renew the calling and creativity of our spiritual leaders. Such sabbaticals should include intentional times for reflection, rekindling the spirit, and deepening spiritual life and family relationships.

*Why should we give our pastor a sabbatical?* A congregation should arrange for a pastor's sabbatical because it's biblical, and because both the pastor and the church need it. The sabbatical year practiced by the Hebrew people was the final year in a cycle of seven years (Leviticus 25:3-4). It was also a time when the Hebrew people had the opportunity to renew their trust in God as the provider of all of their needs, even during the time when they did not labor.

After a pastor has served a congregation for five years or more, they have a tendency to take God and one another for granted, often falling into frustrating patterns rather than finding a faithful and creative future. A sabbatical for the pastor can provide time to focus on reading, writing, preaching, and prayer, and forces members to exercise their ministries for the good of one another and the gospel.

*How does the congregation benefit?* Roy Oswald says, "Granting a sabbatical leave to a pastor becomes a great way for congregants to once again claim certain roles within a congregation that correspond with the gifts they have been given by God."

### **RSC Grants**

To encourage and assist the pastoral and congregational revitalization, the Regional Synod of Canada (RSC), established Pastor Sabbatical Grants to be funded by Mobilizing for Mission ([MFM](#)). These grants will be awarded up to a maximum of \$10,000. Applications must demonstrate clearly how the Sabbatical is expected to lead to renewal for the pastor and the congregation.

Sabbaticals should be for a period of 2 to 4 months. Applications will be made by the pastor and the consistory on the prescribed forms. Classis approval will also be required. We will consider only grant requests for which no other grants have been received.

Grants will only be considered when the Pastor has served in his/her current church for at least five years and previous grants have not been funded in the past five years.

**Application for Regional Synod of Canada**  
**Pastor Sabbatical Grant**

1. Name of Pastor and Church:

2. Date Installed in Church:

3. Amount of Grant Request:

4. Purpose of Sabbatical:

5. How has the sabbatical proposal been processed within the church? (consistory and congregation)

6. Description of Planned Activities and Timeline (including length of sabbatical)

7. Is a Budget of Costs of the Sabbatical attached? (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
For the Pastor

For the church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are the intended benefits for the pastor?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the intended benefits for the church?  
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10. How will the church provide for pastoral duties during the sabbatical?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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11. Is a copy of the church's latest financial statement and budget attached? \_\_\_\_\_

(required)

12. How will the pastor and church process the insights gained during the sabbatical?

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**Approval**

<b>Pastor</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
<b>Consistory:</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____

**Classis:**

<b>Name:</b>	_____	<b>Position:</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
<b>Name:</b>	_____	<b>Position:</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____

**Regional Synod of Canada Inc. :**

<b>Name:</b>	_____	<b>Position:</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____
<b>Name:</b>	_____	<b>Position:</b>	_____	<b>Date:</b>	_____