

Sabbatical Survey – Input on Congregational Activities

So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

– Hebrews 4:9-11a

Sabbatical leave shall be provided as described in synod guidelines. Sabbatical leave can be discussed at any time and shall be added after at least 5 years of the call. It is the intention of Good Soil that there will be sabbatical leave for Pastor Harrison during years 5-7 of the call.

– Letter of Call approved by Good Soil on 5/3/2020

We are in the early stages of crafting a renewal experience in summer 2026 for Pastor Marissa and the congregation.

- Farewell Sunday will be 5/24/26 (Pentecost) and Welcome Back Sunday will be 9/20/26 (Pastor Marissa's 10-year ordination anniversary is 9/17/26).
- Goal: to strengthen the shared ministry of the pastor and congregation so that we can pursue our calling together with even more passion into the future.
 - Pastor Marissa has covenanted to continue serving Good Soil for at least a year following renewal leave.
- The congregation will contract with other rostered ministers for pastoral services and coverage while Pastor Marissa is away, in addition to guest speakers, facilitators, and/or workshop leaders for activities the congregation is interested in exploring during summer 2026.
- The Sabbatical Planning Team is seeking grant opportunities to help offset the cost, but sabbatical leave will take place regardless if grant funding is secured.
- The experience is designed to be a time of intentional renewal for *both* the pastor and congregation. It is shared work in hopes of shared benefits, and we need your input! Please respond to these 5 questions:

1. What brings you joy and meaning at church?

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2. What things help you rest and restore in the context of faith and congregational life?

3. In terms of renewal and rest, what things/activities/events would nourish our congregation during summer 2026?

4. What are some examples of events you'd like to see to get to know the people in this faith community better?

5. What questions do you have about Good Soil's upcoming sabbatical/renewal time?

Name: _____ (optional)