

Peace River Presbytery
GUIDELINES
for
STUDY LEAVE (SABBATICAL) PROGRAM

The purpose of the STUDY LEAVE (SABBATICAL) PROGRAM is to provide, in cooperation with the session of the congregations an opportunity for full-time professional staff members to spend three months away from the parish. It is envisioned that the staff person would use his/her two weeks of continuing education time, and an additional ten weeks granted by his/her session to increase pastoral skills in a setting free from the demands of the parish. This three month sabbatical should not include the annual month-long vacation time. It is hoped that this same study leave program would be available to full-time church professionals serving in a non-parish setting.

At the end of the study leave the pastor/staff person would return to the church family renewed by the extended absence from routine congregational pressures and by new insights and skills gained during the leave. It is hoped that this will enable church professionals to discover a newness in their professional life that some seek by changing positions, even though they do not feel a need to move otherwise.

GUIDELINES:

1. Sessions would approve the participant's leave of absence and would continue to pay his/her salary during the study leave time. Sessions would give guidance and suggestions regarding the content of the study leave.
2. Study leave participants will be expected to apply their annual continuing education funds toward the cost of the study leave.
3. To qualify, participants would have completed 5-7 years of continuing service to their parish and would agree to continue at least one additional year after the study leave before taking another call.
4. It is expected that all participants will provide a written evaluatory report both to his/her session and to the Committee on Ministry.