

NorthStar Church Network - Church Staff Health Group Guidelines for Ministerial Sabbatical Financial Assistance

A sabbatical leave, unlike a vacation, is a time for reflection, study, and rest for ministers. This aids in the spiritual, mental, and sometimes physical, wellness of the minister.

We encourage NorthStar churches to develop a sabbatical leave policy. Churches will determine the eligibility guidelines for their full-time and part-time ministers to qualify for sabbatical leave. NorthStar will provide a one-time grant, to each church that develops a new sabbatical leave policy, for financial assistance for qualifying ministers, as funds permit.

Procedure: The church should contact the Executive Director, preferably by written letter, asking for assistance with the name of their minister, tentative dates of leave, and how the sabbatical is to be used.

Within 2 months of the conclusion of the leave, ministers are requested to write a letter to the association explaining how their time was spent and benefits of the sabbatical.

Provisions: \$ 500.00 for the first month
 \$ 500.00 for the second month
 Not to exceed \$1,000.00

Churches with a current sabbatical policy who have never received sabbatical financial assistance may apply for a one-time grant of \$300.00.

Book Resources: “*Clergy Renewal*”
The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning
By A. Richard Bullock and Richard J. Bruesehoff

“*Journeying Toward Renewal*”
by Melissa Bane Sevier