

**Sabbatical Leave Grant**  
**Presbytery of Great Rivers**  
Updated February 2026

The Presbytery of Great Rivers has approved a Sabbatical Grant program aimed at helping pastors and churches with the cost of a sabbatical. Sabbatical leave is a carefully planned period of time in which a pastor is granted leave away from his or her normal ministerial responsibilities in order to spend an extended period of time in rest, renewal, and recovery, through prayer, reflection and relaxation. Sabbatical leave is not vacation, nor is it continuing education. Sabbatical leave can be a needed break from the long hours, high pressure, personal sacrifice, and 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week nature of pastoral ministry.

Sabbatical leave can be a time of prayer, rest, study, and travel, either at home or abroad. It can provide the needed change of scenery and pace that can help prevent burnout for the pastor of a congregation. Sabbatical leave can also be beneficial for the congregation in that the pastor may return from sabbatical leave with renewed energy and rediscovered zeal for ministry. It is also a time when congregations can refocus its energies around the leadership of the church and discover new energy from within.

The PGR Sabbatical Grant is available to PGR pastors currently serving a church who are planning a Session-approved sabbatical. Pastors may request up to \$2000 to cover sabbatical-related expenses and up to \$500 to cover the church's expenses during the pastor's absence during the sabbatical.

If you are interested in applying for the Sabbatical Grant, please fill out the application below and send it to the Commission on Pastoral Leadership: [PGRCPL@greatriverspby.org](mailto:PGRCPL@greatriverspby.org)

## Sabbatical Grant Application

The Presbytery of Great Rivers offers Sabbatical grants up to \$2000 for minister members of the Presbytery who plan to take a Session-approved sabbatical. Pastors seeking the grant should fill out the application after their Session and the Commission on Pastoral Leadership have approved the sabbatical time and plan.

Pastors may also ask for funds up to \$500 to help their congregation with expenses such as pulpit supply preachers, pastoral care providers, and session moderators.

### I. APPLICANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone & Email

Have you previously taken a sabbatical? Yes  No

If yes, please give the date(s) and the length of time: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested (up to \$2000): \_\_\_\_\_

### II. CONGREGATION

*(If you serve more than one congregation, please attach a separate sheet for additional information)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone & Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Clerk of Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Phone

Date of Session Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested (up to \$500): \_\_\_\_\_

### III. PLEASE ATTACH YOUR SABBATH SABBATICAL PROPOSAL INCLUDING:

- Sabbath Sabbatical purpose
- Sabbatical description
- Estimated total sabbatical cost, budget, and funding sources
- Expected dates of Sabbath Sabbatical
- Benefits you expect to gain from the experience and the benefits to the congregation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date