



**Mosaic Church, Cadyville**  
**Sabbatical Proposal for Rev. Jordon LeBlanc**  
**Presentation to LBA November 17, 2021**

To say we have lived through unprecedented times over these last 18 months has become cliché, but all have felt its effects. Providing spiritual guidance and direction throughout not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also added local, regional, and national challenges have combined to create a unique strain on pastors across the world. Additionally, the extraordinary changes in mission focus and finances have added to the burden of leadership throughout this last year. The result is that I recognize the acute need for rest and renewal. The last two years have been draining physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. An intentional and focused time of rest and renewal is modeled throughout Scripture but is illustrated well by Jesus' commitment to retreat and solitude.

For all of the reasons listed above, I am requesting a ministry sabbatical for January 2022. A sabbatical is a vehicle given in our denomination for pastors who have a long history of service. According to our guiding document, pastors are encouraged to take a sabbatical "at least every seven years of service" (*The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, 724*). This mechanism allows the church to empower their pastor(s) to return to full strength and gives the congregation some latitude to step up in leadership roles that are temporarily available while the pastor is gone.

With my formal request in view, I aim to provide a plan for this sabbatical and thus detail my goals for personal restoration, spiritual formation, and professional development.

**Personal Restoration**

*The category of personal restoration involves resting and recharging while taking intentional time away.*

- January 1-9: Travel to visit family and spend some leisure time away.
- January 14-17: A weekend trip for Jordon and Jennifer
- Intentionally engage in increased mental health services

**Spiritual Formation**

*The category of spiritual formation includes intentional engagement with God for spiritual renewal. This involves various outlets; personal and corporate spiritual practices (retreat, solitude, prayer, counseling, etc.)*

- January 21-24: Spiritual retreat for Pastor Jordon at Silver Bay YMCA.
- Books to read:
  - *When Everything's On Fire* by Brian Zahnd
  - *Live No Lies* by John Mark Comer
  - *Following Jesus* by Henri Nouwen

**Professional Development**

*The category of professional development includes participating in opportunities to further develop as a pastor/leader while also garnering new ministry ideas and strategies that could be used at Mosaic Church.*

- Attend Sunday Service(s) at various local churches; churches both in or out of state- January 9, 16, 23, 30
- Meet weekly with my spiritual mentor, Rev. Don Curry.

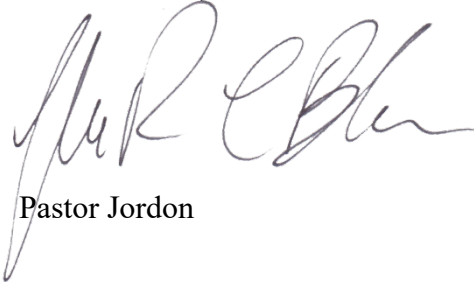
- Spend time each week connecting with pastors and leaders I know and trust (digitally and online), including:
  - Rev. Christopher McFadden
  - Dr. Brannon Hancock
  - Rev. David Drury
  - Rev. BJ Norrix
  - Rev. Don White
- Virtually participate in: “Going Wide: Why they Love to Attend” Ministry Conference (Andy Stanley)
- Books to read:
  - *The Emotionally Healthy Leader* by Peter Scazzero
  - *The Wounded Leader* by Henri Nouwen
  - *Win the Day* by Mark Batterson
  - *At Your Best* by Carey Nieuwhof

### **Sabbatical Boundaries**

- Day-to-day church leadership will be assumed in partnership with the church staff (Pastor Franklin, Barbara Shute) and the Local Board of Administration (James Jock, vice-chair).
- Preaching schedule is being created in collaboration between Pastor Jordon, Pastor Franklin, and Sarah HerrNeckar. Three guest preachers have been invited to preach, in addition to the HerrNeckars.
- Church/ministry emergencies can be forwarded to Pastor Jordon but must be approached to James Jock first before reaching out. Members of the LBA should be the only ones who bring ministry concerns to the LeBlanc’s.
- The LeBlanc’s are taking a break from ministry, not relationships. Not only are relationships allowed but encouraged. The content of the conversations will be different in this season: please keep ministry talk to a minimum.
- The Local Board of Administration will work with Pastor Jordon before his sabbatical to identify and assign primary responsibilities during his time away.
- Following the sabbatical, we will have a prayer service and meal on February 6, 2022.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support through this season.

For the Cause,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark E. Blum', written in black ink.

Pastor Jordon