

**CAUCC Congregation Lily Endowment Sabbatical Program**  
***Bridging Views Summer 2025***

Our church has been awarded a generous Lilly Endowment which is commonly considered to be a sabbatical grant solely for the pastor's renewal journey. However, a portion of the grant money supports congregation renewal activities to be conducted in Pastor Michael's absence. More clearly stated, **we also have our own sabbatical requirements to anticipate and fulfill.**

Lilly Endowment evaluators specifically suggested:

- The pastor's focus and congregation's engagement activities should show a **coherent**, parallel and supplementary experience.
- Proposals should reflect the **input** requested from the congregation.
- The strongest proposals frequently involve a **reflection** component.
- "...[We] **embrace the risk of change** that might renew the life and hope of a congregation."

Your packet of ***Bridging Views*** postcards heeds the above evaluators' suggestions and the voluminous input from the congregation. One powerful thread of your input directed us to learn from those whose experiences have led them to different viewpoints. Also, you requested to have an activity that can include "snowbirds" as well as "stay-birds". This is a simple, but important, grant activity.

- Each of you will have a voice to strengthen our community during our June through August summer sabbatical. In this packet are eight numbered postcards with two writing prompts. The first prompt is from **your** point of view or experience. The second prompt is asking you to **bridge into another's** experience and point of view, perhaps someone you struggle to understand. In earnest what do they really mean or need?
- It may help to talk with your multigenerational friends and family members, or just to observe strangers with a fresh eye.
- During the week noted on each card please complete and submit the designated postcard. We will collect and assemble them for display at the end of our sabbatical. The volume and breadth of your responses may shed new light on the culture of our church community. This is a chance to suggest and share, a chance for us to plant the seeds for new and renewed bridges within and beyond our church community.
- All responses are **anonymous**—TAKE A RISK! We urge you to step outside your comfort zone by choosing to consider how others may feel. Take time to deeply reflect. Help us make our own sabbatical an honest and purposeful portrait of who we are and where we might build our future.