



DAVIDSON COLLEGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 N. Main St † PO Box 337 † Davidson, NC 28036

June 18, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of Davidson College Presbyterian Church,

The Session of Davidson College Presbyterian has a sabbatical policy whereby full-time religious professionals are eligible for a 3-month, paid sabbatical after serving 6 years of full-time ministry at DCPC. These periods of rest and renewal take their cue from the biblical call to rest on the seventh day of each week and every seventh year. Robert Alexander just returned from his sabbatical on June 1 and I will start mine this Saturday, June 21, returning mid-September. While I am away, Robert will serve as the acting head of staff, while my committee support work and other ministries will be divided up among various staff members. It will be a team effort, I know.

You will see me around town, I am sure, and we are allowed to talk to each other. You just won't see me in pulpits, lecterns, committee meetings or on site or online. After a global pandemic, two presidential elections, a capital campaign, five staff searches, serving as the interim director of youth ministry this spring and a multi-year building renovation- all during the last six years- I will look forward to a different pace of life for the next few months.

While our sabbaticals are intended primarily for rest and renewal, we are also asked to focus on a topic or project while away. David Brinson learned to play the banjo on his sabbatical and Matt Wiggins completed the internship part of his counseling degree while on his sabbatical. My focus is on traditions that better integrate a theology of body and spirit. For instance, there are many religious groups that have physical pilgrimages as one expression of their spirituality. I have already begun research into this practice and will, in fact, be doing part of a pilgrimage this summer. I will be sharing more about that practice and others when I return.

I am so grateful DCPC has this policy and while I will miss y'all greatly while away, I look forward to what I will learn and sharing with you when I return.

Grace and peace,

Peter J. M. Henry
Pastor

**We are the body of Christ worshipping, learning, serving, loving, giving,
seeking to realize God's vision for the world.**