



From the Elders of Sierra Bible Church

March 29, 2026

Dear Sierra Bible Church Family,

We are grateful for the way God continues to work in and through our church. As elders, we want to take a moment to share about pastoral sabbaticals, both as a general practice and specifically regarding an upcoming sabbatical for our Senior Pastor, Jesse Richardson, as well as future sabbaticals for Pastor Caleb Deiro and Brad Noel.

What Is a Pastoral Sabbatical?

At Sierra Bible Church, we have established in our bylaws that each pastor is encouraged to take a sabbatical of approximately three months every seven years. This rhythm is intentional and proactive, designed to sustain long-term, healthy ministry.

Pastor Jesse will be entering such a sabbatical in the coming months. In addition, Pastor Caleb and Brad are expected to take sabbaticals within the next 18 months as they reach similar milestones.

Why Do We Practice Sabbaticals?

A sabbatical is not a response to crisis, exhaustion, or uncertainty in calling. Rather, it is a planned season of rest, renewal, and re-centering.

Pastoral ministry is unique in its constant demands spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. Sabbaticals provide space for:

- Spiritual renewal and deeper time with the Lord
- Rest and physical refreshment
- Study and personal spiritual growth
- Reconnection, focus and dedicated ministry with family

We believe this time strengthens not only the pastor, but also their family.

The goal is simple: that our pastors return rejuvenated, refocused, and equipped with fresh vision for continued ministry.



Biblical Foundation

The concept of Sabbath originates with God Himself. From creation, we see a rhythm of work and rest woven into the fabric of life. As Jesus taught, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).

Sabbath is not meant to be legalistic, but life-giving.

Scripture reminds us that while specific days are not the ultimate focus (Romans 14:5; Colossians 2:16), the principle of rest is essential. It reflects our identity as people created in the image of God and dependent on Him.

Even Jesus, in the midst of constant ministry demands, regularly withdrew to rest and pray. In Mark 6:31, He invites His disciples:

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

In a culture, and especially in ministry, that often operates as if we must be available at all times, this pattern is easily lost. Sabbaticals are one way we intentionally reclaim this biblical rhythm.

Our Heart as Elders

We are not prescribing exactly how this time must be spent, but we are encouraging our pastors to embrace it fully, as a season to rest, seek the Lord, and be renewed.

We believe this is not only healthy, but faithful.

Thank you for your continued support, prayer, and unity as a church family. We look forward with anticipation to how God will use these seasons of rest to strengthen both our pastors and our church for the years ahead.

Yours in Christ,

The Elders of Sierra Bible Church