

2019 Grace Chapel Program Sabbatical FAQ

1. Why is Grace Chapel having a Program Sabbatical?

We are a hard-working, mature church with a rich history that has historically included many programs. As the size of the church has steadily decreased over the past four decades and resources have become more constrained, we have not taken time to pause and reflect on our programs relative to vision and the resources required to effectively run them. We are struggling under the weight of keeping everything going. We are interrupting our “normal” to better understand God’s creation of spiritual rest, to respond to the Transition Team’s findings, and to implement/align to our renewed vision and values so that our volunteers and intended ministry audiences receive the best of our church, first.

2. What is the goal of the Program Sabbatical?

Goal #1: To intentionally step away from activity to obey God in His call to rest and allow Him to replenish us and give us His perspective on the status quo.

Goal #2: To intentionally seek God’s will for the foreseeable future through prayer, bible study and transformative dialogue in community.

Goal #3: To intentionally evaluate the alignment between the ministries and the renewed Vision and Values of Grace Chapel.

Goal #4: To intentionally make room for ministries that fully reflect the heart of the Vision.

Goal #5: To intentionally create healthy processes of communication and accountability and to provide the necessary training for their implementation.

3. What are the vision and values of Grace Chapel, who decides them, and how have they been identified?

The church-elected elders are our strategic thinkers. They pray and ask God to help them cast our vision and values. The following vision and values are an output of their time spent in prayer and gathering together:

Vision Statement: Living the hope of Jesus’ gospel in our communities.

Values:

1. Scripture-Centered
2. Seeking God
3. Nurturing Relationships
4. Equipping Believers
5. Serving our Communities

4. How long will the Program Sabbatical take?

The Program Sabbatical will be about 6-7 months long. This is only a first step in implementing our renewed Vision and Values. However, by the end we will have met Goal #4, making room for new initiatives that fully embody the heart of our renewed Vision.

5. What can I expect to see when this is all over?

We trust that God will give us a refreshed church body. We want to be focused individuals - coming together as a church - passionately aligning to our vision - moving cohesively - supporting opportunities - loving each other - living the Gospel every place we find ourselves, 7 days a week.

6. Which programs/committees can I expect to see in the Fall?

Sunday Programming (ABF, Children's Ministry, Greeters, Kitchen, Technology, Worship Arts, Youth Ministry), Agreements with other organizations (Global Outreach/OCC, Grace China Outreach, ESL Classes), and Organizational Support (Finance Committee, Child Protection Committee, Property Committee, Deacons, Elders, Pastoral/Office Staff)

7. How was the program reduction decided?

The Elder Team determined that all essential ministries to our gathering meaningfully on Sundays should continue without pause. Everything else that could be paused was paused. The exception are those ministries that represent agreements with other organizations, such as those supported and sponsored by the Global Outreach Team.

8. Can I still...during the Program Sabbatical?

All Sunday programming is continuing without pause during this season. Children's and Youth Sunday School, as well as ABF are continuing. In the Fall, there will be special gatherings in smaller group settings to learn more about our Vision and Values together. There will also be special moments to meet for fun, food and fellowship or worship & prayer, (or both!) -depending on what brings refreshment to your soul.

Gatherings that encourage worship, relationship, thanksgiving, peace and beauty are ideal during this special season. Some examples might be: A special worship event, a special gathering for catching up and prayer with a small group, a special prayer meeting focused on praise and thanksgiving, a group hike at Ridley Creek State Park (maybe incorporating a moment for silent prayer and meditation), going out to eat a special meal/ or a potluck...

To move cohesively through this season, we would encourage people who have ideas for gatherings to bring them to the sabbatical team so we can carry them out together in alignment with the sabbatical goals.

9. Who can I talk to if I have questions or need clarification?

Matt Meeder is the team's point of contact, but any team member can help you. The Sabbatical Team members are: Mike and Charissa Butrica, Chris Kirchner, Mike and Bethany MacArthur, Harris Mailman, Scott McClelland, Matt Meeder, Jeff Potter, Mallory Rorer, Donna Siddell, Linda Wasilchick, and Teresa Yacono.

10. How can I pray for Grace Chapel at this time?

Pray for ---

1. Peace, faith, joy, hope, and love for Grace Chapel
2. Protection for the Sabbatical Team, the Board of Elders, and Grace Chapel
3. Redemption and strengthening of our relationships
4. A true experience of restorative rest for the entire church
5. Wisdom for the Board of Elders and Sabbatical Team as they navigate the details of this special season of Rest, Reflection, and Refocus