

Important Information: Pastor Peter's Sabbatical 2026

What is a sabbatical?

A sabbatical offers a pastor time to retreat and rest from the day-to-day pressures of leading a church, rest and relax with family, reflect on and renew their vision, revive their creativity, and return with a restored passion for ministry.

The Douglas Baptist Church Sabbatical Policy states: *A Pastor will be eligible for sabbatical leave consideration after completing a minimum of seven years of continuous service with the Church as a Pastor. After the initial sabbatical, a pastor will be eligible for sabbatical leave consideration after each additional five year period as a Pastor with the Church.*

Pastor Peter has been our Lead Pastor for just over 20 years and his last sabbatical was in 2015. The constant demands of ministry are draining and don't always allow for time to recharge and refocus. Taking some time to step away now will allow Pastor Peter to rest, grow and come back ready for the next chapter of his ministry here at DBC.

"God is up to something here at DBC so I want to be rested and ready to follow the moving of Holy Spirit in our midst!" - Pastor Peter

When will Pastor Peter be on his Sabbatical and what will Pastor Peter be doing?

Wednesday, April 8 to Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Pastor Peter's sabbatical will consist of three main components: 1-Personal Renewal, 2-Ministry Reflection, 3-Family Responsibilities.

Here are a few of the highlights and some examples of how Pastor Peter will be spending his time while on Sabbatical:

- Study- A self-directed study of the apostle Paul and his writings.
- Reading- Lots and lots of reading.
- Travel- Visiting the Mediterranean region with Patricia. While in the region they will have the opportunity to visit biblical sites such as Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessaloniki, and Rhodes.
- Personal Ministry Assessments
- Pastoral review, visioning, goal setting, and planning
- Family Focus- Intentional connection that fosters health and challenging conversations within his own extended family.
- Relaxation- Rest more, walk more, fish more, bike more and go on a personal retreat.

At the end of each month brief summary reports will be forwarded to the Deacons Ministry. A final summary report will be given to the Church Council through the Deacon's Ministry.

Will Pastor Peter be away for his sabbatical?

There will be times when Pastor Peter is out of town during his sabbatical. However, those times will be staggered so as not to put undue hardship on his family.

Where will Pastor Peter be going to church while he is on Sabbatical?

Pastor Peter may slip in the back from time to time, however, in order to retreat from the pressures of ministry, he will also be attending other churches during his sabbatical as well. This will also provide Pastor Peter with a unique opportunity to experience different styles of worship and gain insights that will benefit our congregation going forward.

Will Pastor Peter be responding to personal messages?

Pastor Peter considers his church an extension of his family so if you see him while out and about by all means stop and chat. Please do, however, try to respect the fact that we are providing him with time to step back from pastoral ministry and the stresses that come with it. Pastor Peter will not be checking his church email and be limiting his time on social media.

Who will do Pastor Peter's "job" while he is on Sabbatical?

The Deacons (along with other folks here at DBC) will be asked to help cover some areas with specific individuals being identified as points of contact in the case of questions or emergencies.

Marion and Dan Jamer are both ordained ministers with the Canadian Baptist of Atlantic Canada and call DBC their home church. They will be stepping up while Peter is on Sabbatical. Marion is our Deacon's Coordinator and Council has agreed that Dan should come on staff for 15 hours a week for 3 months (which was planned for in our 2026 budget).

Dan will be in the office two mornings a week (Monday and Wednesday). The office will also be staffed on Tuesday mornings by Maggie Gilmore and Thursday mornings by Maureen Maillet. Dan will be involved in visitation. Both Marion and Dan will be speaking on Sundays along with some others from our congregation.

What if there is a death in our church or community?

The Jamer's will be the point of first contact and do their best to be available to officiate at any funerals that arise. They have a wealth of pastoral experience and have been involved in many funerals. If Pastor Peter is in the area, he is willing to participate but the Jamer's will seek to support the family and work with the funeral home to coordinate all the details.

Questions

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to talk with one of our Deacons.

Marion Jamer (Coordinator) marion@douglaschurch.ca, (506) 321-1462
Gage Monteith, David Anderson, Charles Eagar, Heather Eagar, Edwina Corey

Background on Rev. Daniel Jamer (506-467-1402)

Pastor Dan brings nearly five decades of faithful pastoral ministry to our church as he serves as interim pastor during this season. He and his wife, Marion, have been married for almost 51 years and are blessed with four children and seven grandchildren who bring them great joy. Dan deeply values family and sees it as one of God's greatest gifts.

Over 48 years, Dan has served congregations across New Brunswick and beyond, and since retiring from full-time ministry in 2018, he has continued to use his gifts to serve churches through interim roles in several communities. He has also had a long-standing passion for camp ministry, serving at places like Shiktehawk, Green Hill Lake, Tulakadik, and Edith Lank—spaces where he has seen God work powerfully in people's lives.

Before pastoral ministry, Dan began his career as an elementary school teacher and still enjoys time in local schools as a supply teacher. In his spare time, he loves cooking, crafting (through his small business Maritime Designs by Dan), walking, gardening, and spending time at the beach—especially in PEI, where he gathers “treasures” for his crafting creations. If you're wondering how to spot him, just look for the red Silverado pulling into your driveway—it's an easy way to remember his favourite colour too!

Dan shares daily words of encouragement through his online reflections. He considers family and friends to be a true blessing in his life and Dan is looking forward to getting to know more of his DBC family as he steps up to help during Pastor Peter's sabbatical.