

PASTOR LANE'S RENEWAL LEAVE: Facts & Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Renewal Leave?

Under Paragraph 350.3 of The United Methodist Book of Discipline, "a clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the church council, and the district superintendent." A renewal leave is defined as a time freed from normal duties intended to prepare pastors to return to their pastoral appointments, empowered to continue their ministries.

Has Pastor Lane ever taken a renewal leave?

In her 11 years of pastoral ministry, Pastor Lane has not taken a renewal leave.

How long will Pastor Lane be on leave?

Pastor Lane will be on renewal leave for 11 weeks, from June 17 through September 3, 2019.

Will Pastor Lane return as our pastor at the end of it?

Yes, Pastor Lane will continue as the lead pastor of St. John's upon her return.

Why is this a good time for Pastor Lane and for St. John's UMC to have her take the leave?

It has been a busy two years in the life of the church since Pastor Lane's appointment began July 1, 2017. We have completed The Walk campaign, sold two rental properties, seen some staff turnover, and we have weathered financial challenges. The congregation is stronger and healthier than we have been in a while. As we celebrate that Pastor Deirdre's appointment becomes full time in July, it seems like a good time to pause and, like Pastor Lane, focus on our own renewal as we prepare to enter into a new season of ministry together.

What will she do while on leave?

Renewal leave is a time for a pastor to shift gears in order to rest, study, reflect, or travel in order to return to the ministry renewed and refreshed in body, soul and mind. Pastor Lane will focus on self-care, spiritual care, and family care as she temporarily steps away from the day-to-day duties of pastoral ministry in the local church.

Lane will be reconnecting with spiritual disciplines and engage in some new ones. One of the ways she will do this is by taking an 8-Day silent retreat in August at a Jesuit retreat center. She will continue meeting with her Spiritual Director and looks forward to worshipping with her family at various churches.

Lane will also use this time to be more present with her family. They have some family travel plans in place while Ben and Julian are off for the summer, and then Ben and Lane will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a trip to France and Italy.

Additionally, Pastor Lane will participate in "Creativity for Communication," with her Advancing Pastoral Leadership (APL) Cohort, for a week in July, as they develop methods for creativity and innovation in storytelling, preaching, and conversation.

What should I be doing during this time?

Continue to be a faithful member of St. John's! This means remembering your church membership vows of upholding SJUMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

So, **PRAY!** Sign up to receive the Prayer List if you aren't already on it (contact Mari Walker) or sign up to pray and write cards for our Card Ministry (contact Danielle Blackwood). **COME TO WORSHIP!** Bring friends with you. Reach out to those you haven't seen in worship, and tell them that you miss them and hope they'll come on Sunday. **BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS!** Use e-giving or online banking to keep up with your offerings while you are out of town (Click "Give Now" on our website for more information). **SERVE!** Volunteer to help with Summer Sunday School, VBS, our visitation ministry, or the Shepherd's Market. Use your God-given spiritual gifts to offer God's grace and compassion to those around you. **SHARE YOUR STORIES!** Tell others what God is up to in your life and in the world. Get to know someone new; connect with someone you haven't connected with yet.

Who will preach and be in charge of worship?

Pastor Deirdre will be present to lead and preach in worship. We are also excited to welcome a few guest preachers this summer like our District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Irby, and some of the retired clergy within the congregation. Morgan Dynes, our Summer Ministry Intern, will also have opportunities to preach and lead in worship.

Who will handle administrative and pastoral care needs in Pastor Lane's absence?

Pastor Deirdre, our Associate Pastor, will be shepherding our church community, with the support of our incredible staff, gifted lay leaders, ministry intern, and retired clergy. St. John's is in great hands!

How can I keep up with Pastor Lane while she is on renewal leave?

Pastor Lane will not be checking her communications (emails, texts, voicemails) during her leave, however Pastor Deirdre and our District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Irby, know how to be in touch with her if there is an emergency.

Prayer is one of the best ways to stay connected. Lane will be keeping you in her prayers throughout her time away – and she hopes you will keep her in yours.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church