

Sabbaticals Report 2024

It is lovely to be able to report that six ministers were able to complete their Sabbatical in the Connexional year 2022-23. A variety of experiences were reported and in general the ministers benefitted for the time away from Circuit.

In this Connexional year four ministers will be taking their Sabbaticals. Again, there is a good variety of aims and the Sabbaticals Advisory Group look forward to reading their reports towards the end of the year. Examples of past reports can be found on the District website.

I have tried to facilitate the initial setting up of the Support Groups for the Ministers taking their Sabbatical but unfortunately my efforts have gone unheeded by many circuits. It is vitally important that every CLT knows when their staff are likely to be taking a sabbatical. Northampton District has a policy of not actually approaching the ministers until the November of the Connexional year prior to the one in which the Sabbatical is due (i.e. if the Sabbatical is due in 2025-26, I will contact the minister in November 2024). When this happens, the Circuit Meeting should already have appointed a Support Group Convenor, so that they are on board from the beginning. Therefore, the Circuit Meeting needs to do this at the June meeting or at the September meeting at the latest.

Via the District Office, I sent out a message to all Superintendents and Circuit Administrators asking that Sabbaticals is a permanent agenda item for the Circuit Meeting, so that decisions can be made in good time. Please can you do this. It will make the preparation for the Sabbatical so much easier for the minister.

I would like to end with a huge thank you to our District Chair, for the support she has given me over the last few years. I would also like to thank Revd Israel Selvanayagam for serving on the Advisory Group and wish him well for the future.