

Sabbatical Proposal: Marilyn Rudy-Froese  
September 19, 2016 through January 2, 2017

**Sabbatical Focus**

**Study**

1. Reading: I have books on my shelf that are waiting to be read, and hope to focus in the areas of leadership, discipleship and ecclesiology. I continue to ponder what leadership looks like for pastors in our time, what it means to be “the church” and how it is that we form followers of Jesus; how we make disciples.

Tentative Book list (more ambitious than realistic, and ever-evolving)

Moschella, Mary Clark, *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*

Eugene Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*

Eugene Peterson and Marva Dawn, *The Unnecessary Pastor*

Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship*

Christine D. Pohl, *Living Into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us*

Alan Kreider, *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*

Carol Howard Merritt, *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*

Gary E. Peluso-Verdend, *Paying Attention: Focusing your Congregation on What Matters*

Todd Wynward, *Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow an Untamed God*

Gil W. Stafford, *When Leadership and Spiritual Direction Meet*

2. Exploring Doctor of Ministry programs: For more than 5 years, I have been contemplating pursuing a DMin, but for various reasons have not done so. However, this idea has not gone away and the pull to do so has become stronger. Between now and the end of my sabbatical, I want to explore several programs and then potentially apply for a DMin. (applications for most programs are due November/December, with the start of the program in January/February)
3. Teaching at Conrad Grebel: I have agreed to teach the course, Church and Ministry, again this fall. It gives me the opportunity to continue to think intentionally about ecclesiology and pastoral ministry, and to be part of forming new leaders for the church. I found it highly rewarding to teach last fall and am grateful for the chance to build on this experience.

**Renewal**

1. Quilting: I have some unfinished projects I'd like to finish, as well as many dreams for new projects! I've been aware in the last year or so that I haven't made enough time for this.
2. Singing: I will join my former choir, along with 200 other Mennonites in Kitchener-Waterloo, for a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, in December. This is another area of my life that has always nurtured my soul and has been dormant for the last 4 years. I will participate in rehearsals throughout the fall when I am up to teach. I am also singing in St. Joseph Valley Camarata this fall and will perform Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* in October.
3. Family: I hope to spend longer blocks of times in Kitchener-Waterloo, with our boys and my parents. While I make frequent trips, they have tended to be short, so I'm planning for a couple blocks of a week or so, in conjunction with my teaching times, to spend time with family and friends. Allan and I are planning a family trip in December over Christmas when our kids are out of school.