

## THE REVEREND ANNE H.K. APPLE IS ON SABBATICAL THIS SUMMER

On March 22, 2018, the session of Idlewild Presbyterian Church (IPC) approved a sabbatical for the Reverend Anne H.K. Apple, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Evangelism, during the summer of 2018. Idlewild's sabbatical policy states: "The purpose for a Sabbatical for Leadership Team Staff is to provide a time of personal renewal and to better equip the Leadership Team members for subsequent ministry at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. A Sabbatical should be requested and approved only on a reasonably foreseeable belief that the Leadership Team Member will continue in ministry at Idlewild for at least two more years."

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Why do congregations provide sabbaticals?**

The purpose of a sabbatical is to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing.

"Sabbath leave will enable the pastor to be renewed through the vital pursuit of intentional study, extended time spent in spiritual formation, and fresh mentoring by respected teachers. Sabbath leave enables pastors to return to the responsibilities of the congregation with new energy, spiritual vision and effectiveness by renewal through rest and reflection." *(from the Presbytery of the Mid-South Manual of Operations)*

#### **What areas of ministry does Anne anticipate exploring and what will the sabbatical include?**

Anne's sabbatical theme is "Navigating Hope and Despair: Love's Imagination as a Catalyst for Change." She plans to explore specifically: In the chaos of living life in the 21st Century, what imaginative practices of faith could be instructive for nurturing creativity and ministry especially for a church in significant transition? She will visit cities

(Kansas City, Boston, St. Louis, Seattle, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Asheville) and meet with theologians and physicians in those locations, in addition to exploring art museums and taking hikes. Walter Brueggemann and Anna Carter Florence will be conversation partners in helping to make connections to biblical faith and the practice of preaching.

#### **How long will Anne be gone?**

Anne's sabbatical began May 27, 2018 and she will return to Idlewild and preach on Sunday, September 9, 2018. The sabbatical will include time for rest and renewal, time spent with family members, research with interfaith physicians and theologians, explorations of art in several large cities, and time spent intentionally in nurturing imagination through engagement with nature in hiking, and different artistic activities.

#### **How can our congregation participate?**

You can follow Anne's blog, *LimitsofLonging.wordpress.com*, where she is exploring the topic, "Navigating Hope and Despair: Love's Imagination as a Catalyst for Change." A summer reading list is also on the blog. Anne's sabbatical advisory team will be participants in the reflection and conversation.



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