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Sabbatical Planning Update

Planning for a sabbatical has its challenges for Jennie, her family and the congregation. We are applying for a grant from the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program. If granted, it will cover Jennie's expenses for study, travel, retreat, and rest. It could also cover extra expenses LOUCC would incur while she is gone, including pulpit replacement and, perhaps, a special project LOUCC might want to embark upon for our own Sabbath renewal or growth.

Jennie's sabbatical will be in the summer of 2017 however, because the grant application requires details soon, Jennie has to figure out what educational programs are available for particular weeks long before any catalogs have been printed. Along that line is the joy/challenge of choosing from a myriad of places, activities or opportunities that could enrich and renew her spirit. Time and energy are both limited; what will work for a family with two small children is another concern.

Jennie's sabbatical is not happening in a vacuum. We, LOUCC members, are part of that journey. We also have choices and challenges for our sabbatical. For example: What can we do to enrich our part of the journey? How will we resolve issues that arise? What are our fears or concerns for this special time for the congregation?

We invite you to think about the potential challenges of this time and how we might turn them into possibilities. This will be part of our discussion during our Annual Meeting after church on Sunday, January 31.

Pam Rossio, Gary Tandy, Bee Neufeld, and Jennie Ott
(Sabbatical Planning Team)