



*November 5, 2019*

## What Per Capita Means to You

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Congregations and Members of Homestead Presbytery

Re: Per capita contributions

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, the presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) annually make assessments that, in our presbytery, total \$45.10 per member. Homestead Presbytery is committed to paying the assessment for all our members because we treasure our relationship with the wider church. We firmly believe our congregations and the Presbytery's mission benefits when members contribute their share to the whole.

Why do we pay this assessment known as per capita? Because we value our Presbyterian heritage and identity. As a congregation we derive many material benefits from our Presbyterian association. At the General Assembly level, these include the oversight of preparation for ministers and the mechanisms for calling new ministers, the maintenance of the wonderful Presbyterian historical collection in Philadelphia, the biennial meeting of the General Assembly, resources ranging from training for ruling elders to assistance with immigration, and so much more. The Synod of Lakes and Prairies provides leadership training for COM members, boundary training for all pastors and Presbytery leaders, facilitates Presbytery events such as the Day of Discernment held earlier this year, human resource payroll and benefits administration, and many more services. The Presbytery portion enables support of our mission through: Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center; sending youth and adults to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium; the work of Homestead's newly formed Disaster Response Team; the Programs and Grants Committee that provides funding for shared mission opportunities and scholarship/grant assistance for church leaders and members; Committee on Ministry work with transitions in congregations, assistance

to Pastor Nominating Committees; exciting new opportunities for churches and leaders to explore your congregations vitality and vibrancy; salary and benefits for the Presbytery Staff-Executive Presbyter, Administrative Assistant, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer; and a multitude of connections and services.

But it is not these benefits alone that make us so deeply committed to the per capita offering. It is our shared sense of our Reformed heritage and our Presbyterian identity that compels us to take our covenantal relationship with the whole Presbyterian family so seriously.

Thank you for what you are doing to support the ministry and mission of Christ's church all around the world, including right here in Nebraska! We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen G. Earl  
Interim Executive Presbyter  
Homestead Presbytery

This letter was adapted from a sample letter provided by the Office of the General Assembly at: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/>. You can find many other helpful resources on per capita and mission funding on the website.

Here are several helpful articles on the discussion of per capita and the future of mission funding in the PCUSA. I encourage you to share them with your congregations:

<https://pres-outlook.org/2019/10/unified-budget-discussions-to-will-explore-ways-to-fund-the-denomination/>

<https://pres-outlook.org/2019/10/what-might-replace-per-capita/>

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2019/10/22/mid-council-leaders-gathering-concludes-hard-conve/>

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2019/10/29/so-many-signs-life-our-denomination-right-now/>

## Presbytery News

### Fiesta del Taco (& Silent Auction)

**When:** Sunday, November 10, 2019  
5:00-7:00 PM

**Where:** Heritage Presbyterian Church at 880

South 35th Street



All proceeds to be donated to Homestead Presbytery to help with ongoing flood relief.

Free will donations for tacos.  
Auction will end promptly at 6:45.

[Download the Flyer](#)



If you took one of the **"We Choose Welcome"** yard signs **WE WANT TO SEE!** Snap a pic and send it to Nancy Field at [nancy.field1@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.field1@gmail.com)

The Social Justice M&M will have more signs available at the November Presbytery Assembly in Laurel so make sure you grab one!



## Presbytery ASSEMBLY

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Registration ends on  
Sunday, November 10th at  
11:55pm!**

Register for the November 21st Presbytery Assembly at **Laurel United Presbyterian Church** before it's too late!!

**\*\*NOTE- The first registration e-mail says Wayne. That was a mistake!**





## Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

### WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA?

Would your congregation like to increase their impact in your community but lack the funds to get a big idea started? Do you have a project already in the works but could use additional funding to take it to the next level? Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation could be the answer to help you fund your project or program. We are offering annual grants to PCUSA churches and related organizations in Nebraska for new or ongoing outreach activities which enhance or expand some aspect of your ministry. Grants totaling more than \$164,000 were awarded during our last grant cycle. The Spring Grant Cycle process begins in December with grants awarded in April. Visit our website at [www.nebpresby.org](http://www.nebpresby.org) or call Audrey Richert at 402.420.9877 to learn more about our grant guidelines.

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## Miss out on the 2019-2020 Planning Calendar order?



2019-2020 Presbyterian Planning Calendar



You're in luck if you missed out on ordering the 2019-2020 Planning Calendars. The Presbytery has some extra calendars available for purchase!

Contact Jes at [hpooffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpooffice@homesteadpres.org) to get them before they're gone!!

**REGISTER**

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## Opportunities to Learn and Grow

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### Join us for a Weekend with Diana Butler Bass

November 8, 9, & 10



Diana's book, [Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks](#), challenges us to embrace all of life with an attitude of gratitude. This is not just a flip saying, this is a challenge to all of us when life is most challenging, to be transformed by the practice of gratitude, and to be a transforming agent in the world. Join us for conversations with Diana about gratitude and it's transforming power in our lives and in our communities.

**Friday dinner and conversation** - 6:30 - 8:30 pm @ Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln (5750 S. 40th St, Lincoln)

**Saturday Lectures & Lunch** -  
9:30 - 3:30 pm @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)

**Sunday Worship** - 11 am @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)

**NOTE:** Reservations are required for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. For more information and registration, visit [fpclincoln.org/grateful](http://fpclincoln.org/grateful)

*Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church Lincoln, Southern Heights Presbyterian Church, and Homestead Presbytery*



Friends learning with friends.  
Join us in interfaith dialogue  
to foster a better, more  
tightly-knit community right  
here in the capital city!

Background for the discussion  
will come from Barbara Brown

## **Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process**



With today's rising level of anxiety in society and its resulting impact on families, there is little doubt that such anxiety will impact the church with increasing intensity in the years ahead. The resulting elevation of pressures within congregations and the increasing demands which that

Taylor's [Holy Envy](#).

**Gatherings 7:00pm-8:30pm on the 4th Monday of the month**  
(October 2019-April 2020) at  
Bryan West  
(16th and South St.)

There is no cost and you can easily register by clicking the button below!

For more information, contact  
Thomas Dummermuth  
([tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto:tdummermuth@eastridge.org))  
or Lew Kaye-Skinner  
([lew@kayeskinner.com](mailto:lew@kayeskinner.com))

[Facebook Page](#)

[Register Here](#)

places on clergy make it imperative that leaders step back occasionally from the fray to assess their own capacity for managing themselves in a calmer, more differentiated way.

Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as self-differentiated leaders within their own ministry setting. It will provide a safe forum for processing challenging situations in one's ministry, while also facilitating reflection on a way of thinking about the human condition which has implications for all aspects of life.

**Location:** Lombard, IL (Chicago area)

**Group B dates**

November 11-13, 2019

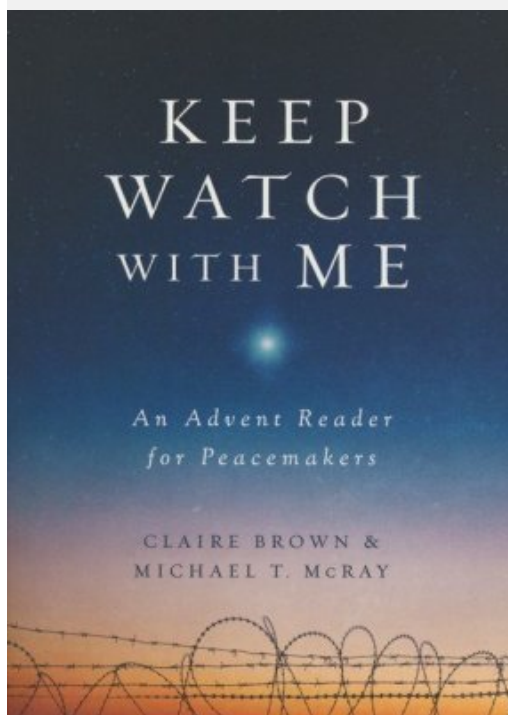
March 9-11, 2020

May 18-20, 2020

The deadline to register with **a savings of \$200** has been **extended to October 14, 2019**.

[Register Here](#)

## *Get Lost in a Book*



The season of Advent, as the church prepares for the birth of Christ, is a penitential season of reckoning with our need and the needs of the world. Keep Watch With Me offers stories, reflections, prayers, and spiritual practices to sustain and challenge the faith of those who work for justice and peace, and long for the coming of God with us.

Keep Watch With Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers is a collaborative daily devotional featuring diverse contributors: black, white, LGBTQ, Latinx, Palestinian, incarcerated, Native American, Australian, Americans, Irish, South African, clergy, laity, activists, authors, organizers, and more.



## Weekly Prayer Requests

### *Dunbar*

Dunbar-is a small congregation that has a big heart. We have a wonderful coffee and fellowship after church every Sunday. The prayers that we need are for our congregation's health, happiness and faithfulness. That God will continue to bless our members.

### *Fairbury*

Our Praises: We have had our installed pastor for over a year now. We have a monthly Bible study group and seasonal weekly Bible studies. We have Sunday School for all of our age groups. We have a men's group and a women's group. We have youth groups for our elementary children and our high school kids. We have a choir who loves to sing. We have a book reading group. We have seasonal events such as Pot Luck Meals, Member Appreciation, Harvest Celebration and Living Crèche. We have active Elders, Deacons, and Trustees who truly lead our congregation. Our congregation knows each other and we support and encourage each other. We have individuals and families and they span each age group from newborn to 90's.

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### **Homestead Presbytery**

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

**Monday-Thursday** 9:00am-4:00pm

**Friday** 9:00am-12:30pm

Office: 402.474.0612

Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684

