



*August 20, 2019*

## Words from our Interim Executive Presbyter

I am blessed, thankful, and privileged to serve as your Interim Executive Presbyter. In these first three months I have spent much of my time learning and listening, visiting churches and New Worshiping Communities for worship and special events, meeting with Sessions, Presbytery committees and groups, pastors, Presbytery and congregation leaders, candidates for ministry, and many others in a variety of settings. Homestead is gifted with a wealth of faithful, skilled, and creative pastors and church leaders; congregations committed to serving their communities and exploring new and innovative ways of mission and ministry; and elected leaders and staff devoted to serving the Presbytery. There are challenges and opportunities ahead in our ministry together. We are and will be called on to recommit ourselves to the mission of Jesus Christ to enable Homestead Presbytery to fulfill our current Mission Statement:

**As Homestead Presbytery we are called to:  
Proclaim God's Love and Grace  
through worship and living as faithful Disciples of Christ Jesus.  
Lead as servants,  
who guide others in accomplishing the church's call to Discipleship.  
Equip the churches for a life in Mission,  
to become actively involved in expositions of Faith, Justice and Peace.**

In this time of transition there will be changes, not for the sake of change, but to enable us to serve faithfully and effectively in today's world. There will be new opportunities to share dreams and visions of how God is calling us into the future. And there will be invitations to "roll up our sleeves" and be about the work of planting and nurturing seeds of reconciliation, trust, cooperation, and hope. Again, I am thankful to be with you on the journey ahead, and with God's help, I will "pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." *BOO 2019-21 Constitutional Questions*

At Council meeting on July 18th I shared the following as part of my commitment for at least the first six months:

To focus on these "Guiding Words" in our ministry together:

- Trust
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Relationships

- Building Capacity
- Hopeful Imagination

To give extra attention to:

- Disaster assistance and preparedness (*Gary & Sue & Team*)
- New Worshipping Communities & Church Vitality (*John & Committee*)
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (*Brian & Kathleen & Committee*)
- The Pastoral Leadership Revitalization Program through the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (*Homestead will have 6 pastor participants: Teresa Bartlett-First Wayne, Michael Hill-United North Bend, Sarah Gengler-First Schuyler, Karen Moritz-First Christian Church Lincoln, Zachary Wolfe-First Beatrice, and Edward Yang-Federated Columbus; and 1 pastor coach: Sue Collier, First Lincoln*)
- Developing and building the capacity of the Presbytery office, including our financial administrative procedures, to better serve the Presbytery, its congregations, and our relationships with other councils of the church

Some Ideas & Goals for the Fall and Beyond:

- Provide a series of workshops & seminars on Church Vitality & Revitalization
- Explore what it would mean for Homestead Presbytery to accept the General Assembly's invitation to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery, a new initiative and commitment of the PCUSA  
(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>)
- Experiment with different ways of meeting, worshiping, learning, conducting meetings, and communicating as a Presbytery

-Stephen Earl  
Interim Executive Presbyter

## Becoming a Matthew 25 Church



[-presbyterianmission.org](https://www.presbyterianmission.org)

### Where to Begin?

There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. We aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

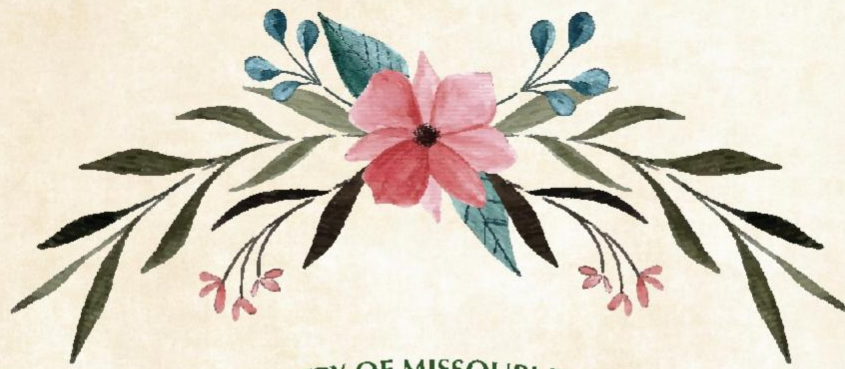
- Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

**How can the national church help?**

Our goal is to be a clearinghouse of resources, training materials, devotional and preaching aids, success stories, curricula and more — everything to help you strengthen relationships, transform your church, and bring alive your commitment to “serve the least of these” in your community and around the world.

## Pertinent Presbytery News





THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU  
TO THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF

*Christine Dempsey*

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT  
IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**AUGUST 25, 2019**  
*10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE*

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
1517 S. 114TH STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68144

*Celebration Brunch Served In the Fellowship Hall  
Following the Service*

**HOSTED BY CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE**



**Get your  
2019-2020  
Book of Order**

**\$9.00/ Book - Pickup at the Presbytery Office**  
**\$10.00/ Book -Ships to your address**

You can place your orders by clicking below or fill out an

order form at August's Presbytery Assembly.

**The ordering will be open until  
Sunday, August 25th at 11:55pm.**

**ORDER NOW**

**Digital Download of 2019-2020 Book of  
Order**

## Opportunities to Learn and Grow



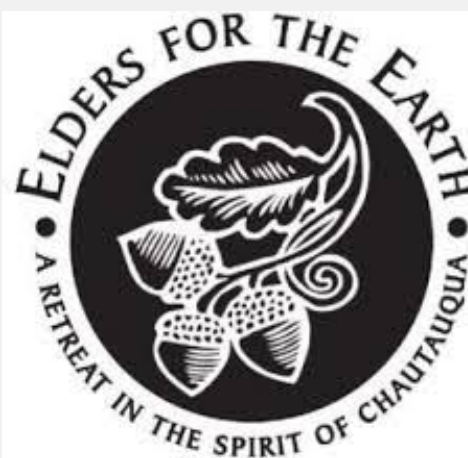
**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

### **Bread for the World**

Senior Regional Organizer Zach Schmidt will be in Lincoln the first week in September. First Plymouth United Church of Christ is hosting Zach with a "continental brunch" at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday September 7th, 2019**, for members of the Lincoln community who are concerned about hunger issues.

Contact Tim Shaw at [timothyfshaw@gmail.com](mailto:timothyfshaw@gmail.com)  
or Bill Wehrbein at [wmw@NebrWesleyan.edu](mailto:wmw@NebrWesleyan.edu)  
by September 4th to register to attend!



**October 13-15, 2019  
Platte River State Park**

Elders for the Earth is a retreat dealing with Climate Change. It's a multi-day gathering including fellowship, lectures, music, the arts, being in nature and even some fun in the midst of the climate crisis.

This event is geared towards those 50 and over, but all are welcomed (faith-based and secular)

Single day or full registration is available.

E-mail: [Elders4theEarth@gmail.com](mailto:Elders4theEarth@gmail.com)  
More Info at [Elders4theEarth.com](http://Elders4theEarth.com)  
Phone: 402-431-2338





# PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

## Tools for Building Resilience

A workshop presented by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in partnership with Missouri River Valley and Homestead Presbyteries. There are TWO different dates below!

At this workshop you will learn:

- Recognizing your own signs of stress
- Learn tools to use in difficult moments
- Increase calm and effective responses to stress
- Make lifestyle choice to promote resilience

**Date:** Tuesday, 9/10/2019

**Registration:** 1:00 PM

**Workshop:** 1:30-5 PM

**Location:** Camp Calvin Crest  
2870 County Road 13, Fremont, NE

**Date:** Monday, 9/9/2019

**Registration:** 1:00 PM

**Workshop:** 1:30-5 PM

**Location:** Federated Church  
2704 15th Street, Columbus, NE

[Register for Columbus](#)

[Register for Fremont](#)

## Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering



**September 13-14th**  
**Camp Calvin Crest**

We start out on Friday at around 5:00 with a light dinner and conversation with our guest speaker, Jenny Lee, our PW Churchwide Moderator. She is our First Korean Moderator. Saturday is the main day starting around 9 and should be out by 3.

There is no charge for the Friday night dinner and activities. You may stay overnight for a small fee and the



**Synod of Lakes and Prairies**  
**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**New Synod Event: 'Art of  
Transitional Leadership'**

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is planning a new event this fall -- "The Art of Transitional Leadership" -- that will provide ministry skills training for today and tomorrow's church pastors, staff, committees on ministry and congregational leaders. It is set to take place Monday through Friday, September 16-20 at Christ the Kind Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota.

Saturday cost is \$15.00. 1 registration form will be sent to each church to make copies, or you can contact Terri Sherman at 402-525-6008.

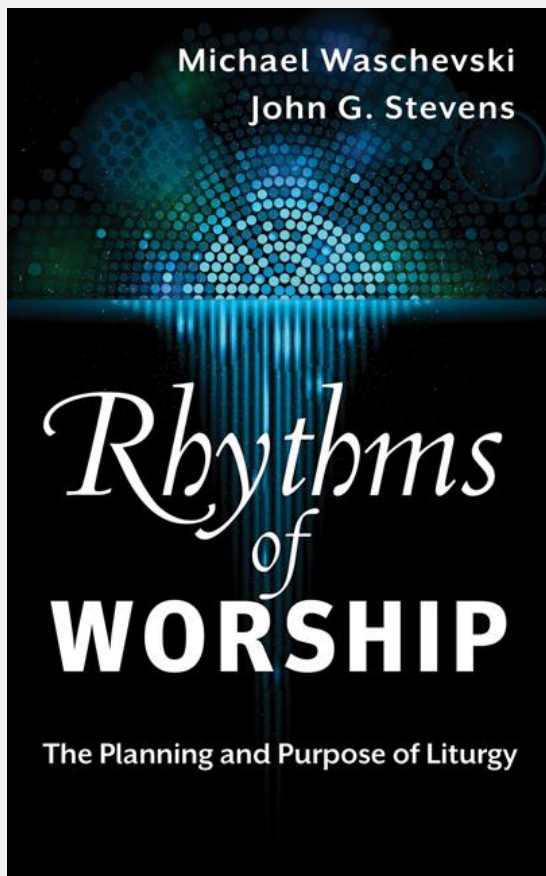


## CLP/CRE Program

The overall goal of the Christian Leadership Program of UDTs is to strengthen the church through quality theological education for lay persons. While the courses offered are particularly designed for lay pastor candidates, they will serve the needs of all lay persons who are contributing their gifts to the ministry of their local church. Church officers, Christian education leaders and teachers, and persons who wish to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith will discover a rich opportunity through this program.

[More Info / Apply Now](#)

## *Get Lost in a Book*



[Click Image to Order!](#)

There are many books written for liturgical experts, but not many for laypeople. This book bridges that gap. In clear, everyday language, Waschevski and Stevens describe why Protestants worship and help to equip worship planners and leaders for excellence in their tasks. The authors explore the different elements of the worship service and how each expresses our Christ-centered faith. They also describe the feasts and festivals of the liturgical year, helping the reader understand and appreciate these special times and seasons in worship. An additional chapter considers music and arts in worship. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter invite discussion in local congregations. This book will be a valuable resource for pastors, worship committees, members, and all others who engage in worship planning and leadership.

*Weekly Prayer Requests*

*Please keep James Splitt, of Laurel Nebraska, in your prayers  
as he recovers from surgery for skin cancer.*

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## *Alexandria*

*Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Alexandria congregation. may they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.*

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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

