



June 4, 2020

Presbytery News

Homestead Church Technology Upgrade Grant

Homestead Presbytery, through the Program and Grants Committee, is offering Technology Upgrade Grants of up to \$1000 to congregations who demonstrate need and vision. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic we seek to assist and support those congregations who would like to upgrade their technology to facilitate new models and platforms for worship and congregational gatherings.

Below you will find two versions of the Grant application. One is a fillable PDF form that you can download and just type in your responses and e-mail back the form; the second form is a word document if you prefer to print and hand write your application.

[Fillable PDF Grant Application](#)

[Word Doc Grant Application](#)

New Worshiping/Church Vitality Committee
A series of articles on the
7 Marks of a Vital Congregation.

The mark of a vital congregation we lift up this week is very relevant to what we are experiencing in society at this time. The third mark of a vital congregation is “Outward Incarnational Focus,” and it is characterized as ‘being the gathered community of Christ sent out! We go not because we have a strategy for new membership; we go because we have a Savior who commanded us to be on God’s mission...The church is meant to be a beacon of Christ’s grace, justice, freedom, and love. Outward Incarnational Focus means we daily take up our cross and follow to the marginalized of society, the poor among us, the suffering and sick, the stranger and enemy, the down-trodden and “the least of these.”’ The importance of living into this mark as Jesus’ disciples is conveyed in many Gospel passages, and particularly one that has taken special meaning for our denomination and many of our churches: Matthew 25; in which Jesus says in verse 40, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (All of this information and more can be found in the “Immediate Toolkit Resources” document published by Theology, Formation, and Evangelism of PMA).

In this time of the pandemic and social unrest, the needs of the “least of these” are being accentuated for us to see and respond to. Our churches have great opportunities to practice outward incarnational ministry with our immediate communities and greater society, and it all begins by stopping to see and hear the needs that are being expressed in the community around us. Hear and see the fear that those who are taking part in the protests live in each day of their lives. See and listen to the struggles of those around you who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Seek-out and understand the struggle for those who are immune-compromised.

Seek to understand and respond as God has given you the ability to, and you will be growing in vitality as your church becomes more outward incarnational focused. One church in our presbytery has done this by seeing the need for a space to build communal relationships and to provide food for low-income neighbors, so they started a community garden. Another church heard of children in their community sleeping on the floor at night, so they started a bed ministry. Many churches can do simple things such as looking at their church building from the stand point of someone who is not physically able to do what many of us can; what can you do to your building or in your community that would make it more welcoming to those who are physically unable to do what we can do? Or, you can use the MissionInsite resource the presbytery has subscribed to so you can learn more about the dynamics of your community in this time that personal contact can put our health in danger

How can you care for Jesus who is in the faces of the least of these among you? Put the answer to this question into action with the gifts God has given you, and your church will experience the vitality of having an outward incarnational focus. Now is a most opportune time for us to care for the least of these, if we will try to watch and listen with the heart of God.

On behalf of the New Worshiping Communities and Vital Congregations Committee,

Zac Wolfe
FPC Beatrice

Homestead Presbytery Prayer Meeting

June 1-5

Prayer in a Time of Anger, Unrest, and Injustice

Join us in a time of open prayer for such a time as this

Noon & 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday

If you have felt the need to pray over the last few days and weeks join with others from around the Presbytery in a Zoom Prayer Meeting at NOON and 5:00 pm every day this week, Monday – Friday, June 1st – 5th. It will be a time of open prayer for 15 minutes. Interim Executive Presbyter, Stephen Earl, and leaders from around the Presbytery will be guiding our time in prayer for our communities, our country, our world, and especially prayer that stands with and uplifts those whose voices have been silenced by our inaction and complicity.



Noon Prayer Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337021271?pwd=TFRFTHNldzIPVGljREN0a1dEOExMdz09>

5:00 pm Prayer Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87323786008?pwd=WHdpdGhxK0V3b2pYVXFqMzVydTN2QT09>



Coping with the impact of violence

Seeing or learning about violence that results in injury or death can evoke strong emotions and impact us on many levels, especially when it occurs in our community. As we try to cope with recent violence in our country, Cigna Behavioral Health, the administrator of the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)* provided by the Board of Pensions, [provides strategies to help you cope as well as to help children cope.](#)

If you would like to talk to someone about what you're feeling, you have 24/7 access to licensed clinicians through the EAP. Just call 866-640-2772 and ask to speak with a clinician, or log on to [Cigna's](#) website to schedule a call (one-time registration is required; use pcusa for Employee's Employer ID).

In addition to phone consultations, the EAP provides in-person or virtual counseling sessions with a dedicated counselor. Through September 30, 2020, **you can take advantage of four additional sessions, for a total of 10 sessions per issue.** There's no cost to you, and all EAP services are completely confidential. Your family members and anyone who lives with you can use the EAP, too.

During this time of high stress and anxiety, employees who are not eligible for the EAP and retired members can call Cigna's Behavioral Resource Line at 866-912-1687 to connect with qualified clinicians

Greetings from the Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly!



Literally, greetings! Many presbyteries have reached out to ask for a word of encouragement and connection in these times, so Vilmarie and Cindy have prepared a brief video that you are welcome to use at any gathering before the 224th General Assembly is convened.



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

NEBRASKA PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS

Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation Board of Directors awarded grants totaling \$137,211 to nine churches or organizations in April to partially

fund projects which support outreach activities to enhance or expand some aspect of their ministry. Grantees and their projects include:

- Hope Presbyterian Church (Omaha) for food and supplies to fill backpacks for distribution at their local elementary school
- New Life Presbyterian (Omaha) in support of their free neighborhood after-school enrichment and food program
- PMRV PDA (Omaha) for home rebuilding supplies for ongoing work weeks related to Spring 2019 flooding
- First Presbyterian Church (Gordon) to upgrade their technology and increase internet capacity to livestream their worship services
- Palmyra Presbyterian Church (Palmyra) for first aid kits to distribute community wide as an outreach project
- First Presbyterian Church (Lincoln) for installation of a hearing loop to enhance the worship experience for the hearing impaired
- Eastridge Presbyterian Church (Lincoln) to enlarge their existing food pantry and build an adjoining ADA compliant sidewalk ramp to address increasing food insecurity in their community
- Church of the Plains (Edgar) for an upgrade to their recording and livestream equipment
- Community Presbyterian Church (Fairfield) for improvements to their sound system and internet throughout their building to allow all areas to be used for community events

With our current restrictions on gathering, the projects to upgrade technology are crucial to reach congregations and community members with new and creative methods, and projects that address food insecurity in our communities are needed now more than ever. NPF is proud to partner with all our grantees to help support their mission and share the love of Christ.

The next grant cycle will begin again in December and we don't anticipate any changes to our project funding or grant application schedule. If there is a project your congregation has dreamed about doing but lacked resources, or a current program you offer that you would like to expand, we would love to hear about it. Questions? Contact Audrey Richert at arichert@nebpresby.org or 402-420-9877.



FRAUD ALERT - URGENT

There is a scam email being sent to Church members asking you to purchase gift cards. Members at Westminster have been victim to this scam.

Please DO NOT RESPOND to it! It is a fraud attempt.

Be assured that a Church staff member will **NEVER SOLICIT YOU** in this manner.

Weekly Homestead Zoom Forum



Click the video above to watch yesterday's Zoom forum. They happen weekly on Wednesday's at 1pm. Click the link below to register. You will receive a confirmation e-mail from Zoom with the link to connect to the meeting.

[Register now!](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Wakefield

Like everyone else, we in Wakefield are dealing with this pandemic in a variety of ways. Our worship has mostly moved to a combination of Zoom and Facebook Live with transcripts sent weekly to those without the technological resources. We haven't really even begun to talk about when it will be possible to resume in person worship as the virus has recently become quite active in our area with the large egg processing facility in Wakefield. Before all this began we were looking at ways to live into being a Matthew 25 church and incorporating some of the church vitality resources as well. How that plays out on the other side of this is anyone's guess. Pray for our efforts to remain a community – a family of faith in spite of our separation. Also for our leadership as they begin to prayerfully consider the next steps. And pray for all those impacted by this pandemic in any way.

Homestead Presbytery
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Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

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