



*December 9, 2021*

## Presbytery News

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### 2021 Remittances are due January 4th!



January 4, 2022 is the last day that we will receive/deposit remittances for 2021. Any 2021 remittances received after Jan 4 will be recorded as 2022 remittances.



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**2021 Per Capita letters have gone out detailing what Per Capita payments churches have made through October 31, 2021. In this letter you will also see what membership and Per Capita for your church will be for 2022.**

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**TOMORROW (12/10) IS THE DEADLINE  
FOR APPLICATIONS**

# FOR PRESBYTERY STATED CLERK POSITION.



Homestead Presbytery is currently seeking a Stated Clerk. Because Homestead Presbytery is going through a period of transition and the Strategy Team is determining a permanent staffing plan, the term of service for the Stated Clerk will be for one year, January 1 – December 31, 2022. The salary for 2022 is \$19,000 plus \$2000 for continuing education. The current Stated Clerk job description is attached.

To apply for the position of Stated Clerk for Homestead Presbytery, please submit your resume detailing your experience related to the position of Stated Clerk. We also want to hear why you are interested in this position and what you bring to the position. [Candidates for the position of Stated Clerk must be either a Ruling Elder or a Teaching Elder in the PC(USA).

**Resumes will be accepted through December 10, 2021.**

Email resumes to John Nellessen, [jnellessen1@windstream.net](mailto:jnellessen1@windstream.net), or mail (to arrive by December 10) to John at: 3800 W Burgess LN, Lincoln, NE 68523.

## STATED CLERK JOB DESCRIPTION

### *Prayers for Rev. Teresa Bartlett and Family*

Homestead Pastor, Teresa Bartlett's father, Glen Confer recently passed away. Please keep her family in your prayers as they grieve this loss. The Celebration of Life will be held at Essex Presbyterian Church in Essex, Iowa on December 10th at 10 am.

Glen L. Confer 1931-2021 Glen L. Confer, age 90, of Red Oak, Iowa formerly Essex, Iowa, passed away Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at the Good Samaritan Society in Red Oak.

Glen attended Garfield #5 country school and graduated from Red Oak High School in 1949. He served in the United States Marines from 1951-1953 during the Korean War.



He was united in marriage to Carolyn Carlson on November 25, 1954 at the Essex Presbyterian Church. They lived in Red Oak for a short time before moving to Morton's Mill, where Glen farmed and drove truck for Penwell Grain. One daughter, Teresa, was born in 1956 and daughter, Becky, joined the family in 1959. In 1960, Glen and Carolyn moved to

rural Essex, Iowa, where son, Chris, was born in 1961. They resided at Pineview Farms until 2013 when they moved to Red Oak, Iowa.

[Full Obituary Here](#)

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## *Prayers for Family of Rev. Dr. Donald Davidson McCall*

The Reverend Dr. Donald Davidson McCall, DD; Commander US Navy, retired; and affectionately known as "The Rev." September 27, 1929 to November 30, 2021. Donald was born in Beirut, Lebanon to parents working in the Syrian Mission Field of the Presbyterian Church. The family was called back to the US during WWII, and settled in Hastings, NE where his father was a college professor, and his mother was a social worker.



Donald was an Ordained Pastor, Presbyterian Church (USA). He served seven churches during his career: Tecumseh, NE, St. Paul, MN, Rochester, MN, Grand Island, NE, and Lincoln, NE (3). He was known for his unique, insightful, emotionally intelligent, and eloquent sermons.

[Read Full Obituary Here](#)

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## **Church Vitality Initiative Kicks Off in 2022!**

The Church Vitality Team has been receiving training and preparing for the Vital Congregations Initiative to kick-off in 2022. We hope you and your church will join us! If your church desires to take part in this 2 year discernment and action process or would like more information, please contact Zac Wolfe at [pastorzacwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzacwolfe@gmail.com).



The Church Vitality Team plans to have an online kick-off event in January and will communicate details when they are set.

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# Blue Christmas

A Service of Remembrance  
& Hope

*For those who find rejoicing hard work.*

As the calendar turns to December, the constant refrain on radio and television as well as in stores and churches, is about the happiness of the Christmas Season - about getting together with family and friends and being happy! The holidays can be difficult for us all any year – but especially in 2021 they are seemingly overwhelming for many. Let's face it – we are living in a stressful and challenging time as we try to learn how to live with the reality of COVID-19 and the limitations that horrible virus has placed on each of us. That reality, plus a recent (or anticipated) death of a loved one; the loss of a job; war and rumors of war; or a plethora of other life events make it difficult for many people to feel “in the mood” for celebration and joyous moments this year. Advent (the days of December leading up to Christmas) and the “good news of great joy for all people” fall on unhearing ears for many. Indeed, for many people, this is a time when losses feel especially acute.

With this in mind, there is a gathering for any and all (joyous or overwhelmed) at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church (5750 South 40<sup>th</sup> – the southeast corner of Old Cheney and 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln) on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Called “Blue Christmas” (and held on the night with the longest amount of darkness in the northern hemisphere) YOU (whether this is your regular place of worship – or even if you have no regular place for worship) are invited to a service of HOPE. This will be a candlelight service of readings, music, quiet reflection and well-being.

For more information, please call 402-421-3704 or email questions to [office@southernheights.org](mailto:office@southernheights.org)

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# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## A gift opens doors.

—PROVERBS 18:16

**God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift.**

Seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of moving past what separates us, God offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

As we support the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek to not only meet needs, but to meet people, to come through the door that generosity opens. We open the door to celebrate “God is with us!”

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future – who point us to God.

## 50%



50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy opens doors of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

## 50%



50% of your gifts opens doors which lead to relief for church workers and their families when critical needs arise.

Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to **91999** to give or visit [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/christmasjoy) to learn more about how your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering makes a difference.

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## Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

### **WHAT HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO DO?**

Does your congregation want to increase their impact in your community but lack the funds to get your 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 and mission. The online application process begins in December and grants will be awarded in April. To learn more about our grant process, you can visit our website at [www.nebpresby.org](http://www.nebpresby.org) or contact Audrey Richert at [arichert@nebpresby.org](mailto:arichert@nebpresby.org) or 402-420-9877.

### **KESSLER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation offers financial assistance for PCUSA pastors who are experiencing an urgent financial crisis. Applicants must be an active or retired installed or commissioned pastor who has, or is currently serving, a Nebraska congregation and currently residing in Nebraska. For more information on the Kessler Fund, please visit our website at [www.nebpresby.org](http://www.nebpresby.org) or contact Audrey Richert at [arichert@nebpresby.org](mailto:arichert@nebpresby.org) or 402-420-9877.



## **Well, What Do You Expect?**

by [Mary Kay DuChene](#)

Sitting with a pastor and a key lay leader in the congregation, I heard each desperately trying to get the other to understand them. For the pastor, it seemed as though nothing they did was acceptable to the lay leader, and yet the pastor has found themselves working harder and harder through the pandemic. For the lay leader, it seemed as though things were stagnant in the congregation, the congregation hadn't come back after the pandemic shutdown, and the pastor wasn't doing the right

things to change it. I asked them what their expectations were for each other.

As a matter of fact, three times in the last week I've found myself talking about mutual expectations in a variety of settings. Hindsight being 20/20, I wish I would have hit this topic hard at the beginning of the pandemic, but alas, who knew?

Pastors are joining "the great resignation" in alarming numbers. At LeaderWise, we've seen a significant increase in pastors who are leaving their calls, or leaving ministry altogether. So much so that we've engaged a career counselor who can accompany pastors who are leaving ministry. If you haven't read about The Great Resignation, here's just one recommended reference. Barna, [in a survey earlier this year](#), found one-third of pastors have seriously considered leaving full-time ministry. This when the number of pastors entering ministry had already been in steep decline. What's going on?

Pastors can't be pastoral in the ways to which they are accustomed. Navigating the ever-changing pandemic protocols (and not being able to satisfy most people in the midst of it) has been nothing short of hair-pulling. Learning new online technologies for worship and ministry adds stress and time to the already packed week. And then Sunday morning (or Wednesday night, or...) only a few people show up (online or otherwise). So, what do we expect, except that pastors will say, "I've had enough."

And that's a good question, "what DO we expect?" What do you expect of me? What do I expect of you? Having conversations about mutual expectations can go a long way toward creating a healthy and realistic vision for ministry in any given season. I recommend that pastors, staff, and lay leadership have them at the beginning of one's ministry, or during a time of particular transition or stress, such as now. Another time to stop and sit down for some careful conversation about expectations is when it appears as though conflict is brewing.

So maybe it's too late for many, but if you haven't had an intentional conversation about expectations, well then, please, just stop. Stop everything you're doing and schedule time to do just that. Lay leaders, what are your REAL expectations for the pastor? Are they reasonable? Pastor, what are your real expectations for your lay leadership (and staff? and congregation)? Are they reasonable? Pastor, what are your real expectations for YOURSELF? Are THEY reasonable? Be open, honest, vulnerable. Try to find a place of common ground and agreement. Because trying to do what we've always done before is NOT working in this day and age. We need to reset our expectations, try new things, be ok with failure, and perhaps slow down and take some breaks. We need to stop pushing harder and harder.

I would like to put the onus on lay leadership to invite this conversation. If you're a pastor reading this, forward it to your board leader, and tell them I asked you to send this article along. Lay leaders, if you care about your church and your pastor, invite this conversation. If you need help, find an outside person (LeaderWise or otherwise) to facilitate it. Your ministry is

too important to ignore this!

Above all, be well.

## Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

**402-413-2143**

Make sure to write down the new number for  
Homestead Presbytery!



## Weekly Prayer Requests

### *Lincoln Korean*

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

### Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

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

Office: 402.413.2143  
Interim EP: 803.556.3355  
Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684



Visit our website