



January 21, 2021

Presbytery News

IMPORTANT PRESBYTERY REMINDERS!

- **We have a Presbytery Meeting coming up on February 20th.** It will be via Zoom again. Keep an eye out for the registration e-mail early next week!



From the Stated Clerk

There will not be a new *Book of Order*. “The 224th General Assembly referred all items of business which had constitutional implications to the 225th gathering,” said Laurie Griffith, associate director for Constitutional Interpretation in the Office of the General Assembly. “That means there were no changes to the Book of Order and the current edition is effective through 2023.” Griffith says this is a first in the PC(USA).

The *Book of Order* can be downloaded at [download](#).

“Hope for the Journey Ahead” Church Vitality Reflection NWC&CV Committee of Homestead Presbytery

This week we recognized the transition of leadership in our country and with it we welcomed the most diverse administration our country has ever seen. However, it will not be enough just for this administration to be diverse. If our leaders continue to listen to the same types of voices our country has in the past, then the diversity of

the cabinet will mean very little. It is only if the administration ensures that the diverse voices are given equal voice and authority in visioning and decision making that this diverse administration will lead our country to a healthier state than we have been in the past. If they choose to only listen to the traditional voices of authority, then our country will continue down the same path that has led us to where we are now.

It is the same with our churches. Our churches are at a time and place of choice as to what voices we allow into the process of deciding for the present and visioning for the future. If we continue to give authority to the same voices as we have in the past, then we will continue down the same roads that have led us to where we are and will project us further down these roads in the future. However, if we live into the diversity within our churches and more specifically our sessions (as the spiritual leaders of our churches), then we receive a greater representation of God's desire for our church as the Holy Spirit unites our diversity into a common understanding of the present and vision for the future. This is what healthy churches are able to do.

The *Vital Congregations Initiative PC(USA)* supports the living into of the diversity of our churches and hearing God speak through the diversity of voices we have around us. One of the "7 Marks" of a vital and healthy congregation is "Empower Servant Leadership" which describes how "we are all called to do our part in membership of the body of Christ. Every part is necessary. Every part is valuable, and every voice is important" (*Vital Congregations Toolkit*, p. 2-5). A healthy church not only says that all members and voices are important, but they treat each member and voice as important to their current and future existence. One way the importance of members is shown is by listening and receiving the diverse voices that are in our church, even if they are challenging us to see and be differently because it is the truth that God has spoken to them. As we were reminded in the lectionary reading from 1 Samuel last Sunday, God often times speaks the truth to those in authority (like Eli) through those who are not in authority (like Samuel) just as God did through Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Jonah, John the Baptist, the disciples, Timothy (just to name a few) and continues to do so today.

A healthy church lives into its diversity (however that may look) and listens to its diversity of voices for guidance in the present and future. Healthy churches do this because they understand that God has a strong propensity for speaking through the voices that traditionally have not been put in a place of authority by society. But, when we listen to these voices, we acknowledge the importance of every voice in our church and open ourselves to the truth God has for our present and future; a future that may involve change, but more certainly will involve greater health. May we lift up the diverse voices of our churches and live into the vitality that awaits us.

Here's to hope for our journey ahead,

Zac Wolfe on behalf of the Church Vitality Team
Pastor of FPC Beatrice
Moderator NWC&CV Committee

**FREE 3-day Virtual Conference for 4 people in
your Presbytery**



APCE Virtual Event

February 4-6, 2021

Then the one seated on the throne said,
"Look! I'm making all things new."
Revelation 21:5a

ARE YOUR CHURCHES BEFUDDLED BY COVID DISRUPTIONS?

**LET US INSPIRE AND SUPPORT YOUR EDUCATORS AS THEY
SERVE NOW AND ANTICIPATE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AHEAD!**

APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) offers your presbytery the opportunity to enhance Christian education in your churches by identifying up to 4 people in faith formation (educator, pastor, volunteer) to attend **FOR FREE** our 2021 virtual Annual Event, Anything but Ordinary Time.

February 4-6, 11:00 am – 6 pm (Eastern) each day

Download
Flyer

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Introduction & Training Via Zoom



- [List of Church Safety/Security Resources](#)
- [PDF of NPSG Presentation by Mark Williams](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security - Notice of Funding](#)

[Opportunity - NSGP](#)

- [Link for sharing Zoom video](#)

A New Lectionary Podcast for a New Year



If you're looking for a way to find an extra bit of inspiration as you prepare your sermon from week to week, check out a new lectionary podcast called "Listen for the Word." Each week, Rev. Alan Brehm and Rev. Christy Dempsey discuss a passage from the Revised Common Lectionary using their unique training and expertise. Alan has a Ph. D. in Biblical Studies, and taught at the Seminary level for over ten years. Christy has a Ph. D. in in Modern European History with a specialty in the Protestant

Reformation, and has taught at UNL and NWU for 15 years. If you're interested, go to www.listenfortheword.com, or subscribe via Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or Spotify.

Join us March 2 for a Day of Interactive Stewardship Education

We are excited to offer a Day of Learning that will include three workshops with stewardship and church leaders in a casual, virtual setting. There will be time for questions and answer and an opportunity to see colleagues from across the country.



Join us March 2 for great content from the Presbyterian Foundation:

- 8:30 am PST/11:30 am EST - Church Mission and Sustainability with Stephen Keizer and Rev. Gail Monsma
- 11:00 am PST/2:00 pm EST - Virtual Campaigns and Online Giving with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley and Karl Mattison
- 2:30 pm PST/5:30 pm EST - Practical Tips for Church Budgeting with Olanda Carr and Rev. Dr. Jonah So

[Register Today](#)



**Accepting Apollos Applications, Transcripts
and References**

January 15 through April 15, 2021

Could you use \$4,000 per semester for up to 3 years?

APOLLOS SCHOLARSHIPS

You are eligible for an Apollos Scholarship if you are...

1. An individual who possesses qualities of excellence for ministry
2. A member of a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation
3. Currently under the care of a Presbytery as an Inquirer or a Candidate
4. Accepted or enrolled as a full-time student in the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts or Dual degree program in one of the 10 Presbyterian seminaries

For qualifications & application visit
omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org

2021 applications are now being accepted

Apply and learn more here!

Homestead Wednesday Zoom Forums

According to the survey that the Presbytery sent out, the consensus seems to be that the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month, is the day that the majority of the group feels is the best day to hold the now monthly Zoom Forum gathering.

The next Please sign up below to make sure you're registered to receive the Zoom link. Zoom information for the gathering will be sent out monthly on the Tuesday before the Zoom gathering. This will be set at a recurring gathering so you will be able to save the link to use every month. That being said, we will still send it out every month to those registered incase you lose or misplace the link.

Register Now!

Weekly Prayer Requests

Lincoln Westminster

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

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