



*July 2, 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](#)

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

So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

The pandemic has forced all congregations to think about their church communities in new ways. What have we missed about being with our church families? Maybe this time has also given us a chance to think about our mission as a congregation and given us time to answer the question, “Are we a healthy congregation?” The seventh and final mark of a vital congregation is examining our ecclesial health.

Ecclesial health is about all people of God coming together in what we say and what we do, because we believe that we are ambassadors of God’s message of reconciliation in a broken and fearful world. It is about how we are church, how we enact and live out being church together. There are going to be critics and unhealthy functions of the church, because we are flawed and sinful human beings. Yet we have a Savior who is not finished reconciling the church and the world to God, and we get to be ambassadors and witnesses in Christ.

While it is uncomfortable to talk about, it is necessary. A part of being a healthy church community is our willingness to offer financial support. Have we continued to send in our pledges even though we were not meeting in person, keeping in mind that the work of the church continues?

Here are some other questions to ask yourself when thinking about your congregation’s ecclesial health:

- How would you describe the ecclesial health of your church?
- Do you feel like your church centers life with prayer at the heart of all things?
- What is the mission of your church? Who wrote it? How does your church live into its mission? How does your budget reflect your mission?
- What are the core values and vision of your church? Does everyone know and share them?
- Does your congregation do well to embrace change?
- When was the last time a dream led to incredible new vision and ministry in your church?
- Are people stakeholders in being a part of your church? Do they feel committed to values and mission? Do they feel they are necessary in dreaming, envisioning, and decision-making process?
- What are the policies for pastor(s) and staff in your church? How are they evaluated? Supported?
- How does your church teach stewardship and tithing?
- Who makes decisions in your church? Are they transparent? Do all get buy-in; are all opinions heard?
- Is your budget sustainable? How is it assessed? Who determines spending?

Most important to becoming and maintaining a healthy church community is a focus on prayer and continued discernment on God’s will for us. Always keep in mind, 1 Corinthians 12:14, “Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

Doris Martin  
Ruling Elder  
First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice



## Stepping Into Leadership

OPSF is offering fully paid scholarships for the July online Adaptive Leadership series.

### **Stepping Into Leadership**

Wednesdays in July from 4-5 pm (central) via Zoom

[Scholarship Application](#)



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

## 2020 Racial Ethnic Student Scholarship

The Racial Ethnic Scholarship Fund is an educational assistance program designed to encourage Racial Ethnic students to complete their college education and graduate with an academic degree to prepare for life-long employed, elected or volunteer service.

Funds for this program are provided by the Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Deadline to apply: September 30th**

[Scholarship Application](#)



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

## Pandemic Support Grants

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic could materially diminish income streams and threaten staffing and ministries across presbyteries, churches and camps, the Synod has identified approximately \$251,000 to date which can be used to support the staffing needs of affiliated organizations. \$104,000 of these funds were made available in the form of a new Pandemic Support Fund from revenue streams that would otherwise have supported the Synod's own personnel budget. It is intended that loan funds from the federal Paycheck Protection Program will enable the Synod to avoid staffing reductions itself.

Grants will be offered on the basis of need within three organizational segments:

- Churches whose vitality would be threatened by disruption to staffing and ministry programs;
- Churches and ministries in need which serve historically marginalized communities; and
- Camps, particularly as they seek to maintain programs staffed by college students.

[Complete Grant Directions & Applications](#)

## **The Art of Transitional Leadership**

Learning Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church Pastors, Staff, COMs and Congregational Leaders



**October 11-15, 2020**

Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota

Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing community, leading a congregation through change is both challenging and rewarding. It takes knowledge, skill, resilience and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of change in a way that leaders and congregations thrive. This training is for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor) or are experiencing ministry in these transitional times. It satisfies Week 1 requirements for those who wish to be Interim Pastors.

Note: This event will be held. We will decide by the of July whether it will be in person (our hope) or online. The retreat center has instituted pandemic guidelines for physical distancing, masks and hand cleaning that all participants will be expected to follow. They will be sent out in early August if we can meet face to face.

[More info & Registration](#)

## **Weekly Homestead Zoom Forum**



WEEKLY ZOOM FORUM

FAITH, NOT FEAR.



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*

### *Wymore*

We are excited to be holding “drive-in” worship since Mother’s Day. With help from the Program-Grant Committee, we were able to purchase FM transmission equipment to broadcast to vehicles in the parking lot. We rejoice in the opportunity to be together (but at a distance) and worship as a body of Christ. We miss many other normal summer activities, but pray that our more vulnerable members will be safe in this time of prevention.

### **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



