



July 23, 2020

Presbytery News



JUL WEEK 5	MONDAY 27 Publish Presbytery Packet	TUESDAY 28 3:30 pm Presbytery Staff Meeting	WEDNESDAY 29 1:00 pm Weekly Zoom Forum	THURSDAY 30 4:00 pm Presbyterian Women Meeting by Zoom
	FRIDAY 31	SATURDAY 1	SUNDAY 2	NOTES:



Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation
Opening Doors to Brighter Futures

Spiritual Wellness Journey Workshop



Do you feel like your connection with God is a mile wide and an inch deep? Have you struggled to discover meaningful ways to sustain your spiritual health? In this workshop, participants will gain a better understanding of spiritual wellness. They will assess their own

spiritual wellness and identify their God-shaped connection style. They will also create an action plan to position themselves to develop a closer relationship with God and others. Presented by Rev. Dr. Candace Adams, ACC. [Click here to download flyer for more information.](#)

WHEN: Saturday, September 12, 2020 @10:00 am-2:30 pm (Central Time, with break for lunch)

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent in Welcome Email)

COST: \$75.00/participant

OPSF is offering 10 scholarships of \$50 each to pastors and lay pastors within or 13-state region for this workshop. (The first 10 qualified registrations will be sent a reimbursement check of \$50.) To qualify for the scholarship, please email your paid registration receipt to Joyce at opsf@opsf-omaha.org.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Faithful Emergency Preparedness Workshop

A Faithful Emergency Preparedness workshop will be held virtually. Faith Leadership is invited to join us July 28th, 9am-4pm, to discuss emergency preparedness within your faith community, emergency planning, active shooter response, FEMA assistance to houses of worship, and how to get involved in community emergency planning. This is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supported workshop. The last few years have emphasized the need for our partnership within our communities. Please join us to discuss how we can work together to provide resilient communities.

REGISTRATION IS FREE

REGISTER by July 23rd, 2020

Contact Dodge County Emergency Management at: dodgecoema@gmail.com

Virtual workshop information will be provided in registration confirmation.

Participants must have access to computer, tablet, or phone to attend.



WHEN: August 27, 2020 (10-11:30am CST, break for lunch, 12:30-2pm CST)
WHERE: Zoom! Of course.

This event is sponsored by the Faith, Education and Leadership Development Committee (FELD). Steve Keizer leads the Ministry Relations efforts for the Presbyterian Foundation. He helps congregations create a culture of generosity in the church, offering seminars and workshops, developing gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and providing coaching to finance, stewardship, and endowment committees.

FELD believes that a culture of generosity is especially important due to the complicating factors of the pandemic. Join the Zoom call and discover a new approach to faithful giving in the church!

The cost for this event is FREE! However, we do need you to register so that we can send you the Zoom link.

Questions? Please contact Becky Balestri at becky@opsf-omaha.org or 402-709-0568.

[REGISTER
HERE](#)

New Worshiping/Church Vitality Committee

A series of articles on the 7 Marks of a Vital Congregation.

Mark # 3: Outward Incarnation Focus vs. *inward institutional survival; closed communities of assimilation/exclusion*

A couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to work with a congregation (of another denomination) as they went through a period of discernment. They were preparing to call a new pastor and they wanted to discover their congregation's gifts and calling. They were eager and full of good will as we began exploring the ways in which God might be calling them to look outside their doors and minister within their own community. This would, they hoped, lead them to understand the skills their new pastor would need to bring to the church and community.

We used a hybrid asset mapping approach – looking at the assets of the congregation (and writing them on a flip chart), then pairing those assets with needs and opportunities in the community. The ideation evolved roughly like this:

Idea: We have a large fellowship hall that is only used for an hour a week. Why don't we open it up for: a food pantry; an after-school program; a wellness program; invite the people in our community to come for coffee every Tuesday ... and the list went on.

Then came the, “yes, but ...” clause. Who is going to be there to open and close the building? What are our insurance liabilities? Will it create extra costs (utilities and cleaning)? What if people outside the church (non-members) start wanting to use our facilities for other things? Where do we draw the line? We can't let the church be so overused that it starts to wear on carpets. And finally, getting exasperated, one member of the congregation raised their hand and blurted: *'I don't even know who these people are!'*

The story has a happy ending – or actually a happy beginning. After a couple of more meetings they went back to their Bibles and picked Matthew 5:13-16 (salt & light!) as their mission focus and created a new list of assets and community needs.

Two years later, the church member who didn't “even know who these people are!” is doing laundry for the homeless; and the church board chuckles every time the utility bill goes up. They called a retired pastor – they're busy enough!

Carla Patterson, Auburn Presbyterian Church
Homestead Church Vitality Committee

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](#)



Register today for the next Matthew 25 Online Event

**When: July 26
2:00-3:00pm**

The focus of this event (second in a series), is **Dismantling Structural Racism**. We will hear from several mid council leaders and pastors about their experiences addressing the Matthew 25 focus of Dismantling Structural Racism and White Supremacy. Each leader's congregation or mid council is at a different place in their process. There will be information and resources available for those all along the spectrum of engaging this issue.

Leaders of this event will be :

Elder Elona Street-Stewart, co-moderator of the 224th General Assembly and Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Rev. Ryan Landino, Presbyter for Transformation – Presbytery of Great Rivers

Rev. Marsha Mount-Shoop, Pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

Rev. Karen Brown, Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, MD

Rev. Denise Anderson, co-moderator of the 222nd General Assembly and PMA Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice and Rev. Shanea Leonard, Associate for Racial and Gender Justice will also provide resources and perspective on the intersectionality of the multiple issues within the discussion.

Registration is free. Whether a congregation or mid council has accepted the Matthew 25 invitation not, all are welcome to participate in this event. More information and a link to the registration site are included below. Please feel free to forward his invitation to any and all of your congregations.

REGISTER HERE!

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](#)



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](#)

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

Prayers are requested for honorably retired Homestead pastor Rev. Dennis Hett, who recently suffered a fall that required an ER visit and stitches. While he is at home now, his health is still quite fragile and he is expecting an appointment with home health care. Please pray for his recovery during this time.

Alexandria

The Alexandria Presbyterian Church is joyful that we are now back worshipping in our sanctuary. While we are thankful for the technology that helped us to worship even in the midst of the pandemic, we are thankful to be able to worship together in person. We pray for all of those affected by the virus. We also ask prayers for our shut ins - who have been very shut in (and are likely to still be shut in when this is published.) We pray our church may remain a strong witness to God's love and grace in our community and beyond.

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

Interim EP: 803.556.3355
Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684

