



*June 11, 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.

In the education time of our last presbytery meeting, it was inspiring to hear how churches are adjusting to the unique circumstances the pandemic has placed upon us. The spirit is moving in amazing ways as churches in our presbytery experience the joys of “reconnecting and reaching out to care for each other” as “deacons call members and make masks” for people of the church and community, “younger members helping older members” with understanding and using technology, “members doing work around the church to improve the church premises,” and “other organic ideas and ministries coming from church members.” All of these joys portray the living out of “the priesthood of all believers” vision that has been set for the church since the early days of the body of Christ. These joys also portray a mark of a healthy and vital congregation.

The fourth mark of a vital church according to the PC(USA) Vital Congregations Initiative is “Empower Servant Leadership.” Empowering servant leadership is described in this way, “Ministry can never be about a single pastor, but it is about identifying, equipping and empowering those servant leaders God puts in our midst... Every person should be equipped, nurtured, and supported to use their gifts to glorify God, through servant leadership; not just cliques of powerful people or continual burnout of the same leaders” to serve the church and greater community. (“Immediate Toolkit Resources” document published by Theology, Formation, and Evangelism of PMA.)

It has taken empowered servant leadership to maintain the relevant existence of our churches in this time, and it will take empowering servant leadership in creative ways for our churches to faithfully thrive in the future. Our churches need more than a pastoral figure or several “pillars” in order to thrive as Christ’s body. On top of faithful trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will need the gifts and talents of every member of our churches and communities to lead us into a future of health and vitality. So, as strange as it may sound, continue to creatively find ways to use the skills your members have and to use the gifts of those in your community because the hope of our future may just lie in the outcomes of the struggles of our present: creatively empowering servant leadership of all of God’s children.

On behalf of the New Worshipping Communities and Vital Congregations Committee,  
Zac Wolfe  
FPC Beatrice



## 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](#)

## How to view 2020 General Assembly



For more information on the 224th GA and to view the Livestream of the Assembly go to [ga-pcusa.org](http://ga-pcusa.org)

You can also see the Livestream on [Facebook](#)

[Download the Docket](#)



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](mailto:arichert@nebpresby.org) or 402-420-9877.

## 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

### *Walthill*

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Walthill 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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