



June 18, 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](#)

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

How do you worship? What an open question...by intention! For as many congregations and individuals there are the answer is slightly or greatly different. Regardless, it seems clear to me that both scripture and the Spirit calls us to make worship a central part of our lives and our walk with our Lord and Savior.

Regardless of how you worship, it is easy to feel at times that we are simply “going through the motions”. To be fair, that feeling might come from many places in your life or in the life of your congregation. That leads to the question, “If that is the case, how do we get unstuck?”

A good start is to re-establish what worship is foundationally. Here is an excerpt from a great resource available to all of you from the PCUSA:

Spirit-Inspired Worship vs. Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship

“These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.” (ISAIAH 29:13)

- *Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter God, and experience wonder.*
- *Worship is active participation in the living relationship of the triune God, thus all should feel welcome just as they are to come.*
- *Worship challenges, teaches, transforms, encounters, convicts, and sends people out different.*

You can find resources to help you

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/resources-from-the-office-of-vital-congregations/>

Mind you, this is just a beginning, and there are many other ways to make your congregation be more vital. Worship, however, is something profoundly central to our very being as Christians and an important piece of bringing the Gospel to all around us. Prayers and peace to you all!

Shalom, Darin Bentzinger (Panama Presbyterian Church)



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



from **Lament to Hope**
Lamentations 5:20-21

How to view 2020 General Assembly

June 19, 26 & 27

For the first time in our denomination's history, we are preparing for a General Assembly that will be totally online. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly has had to make some difficult decisions as we looked at numerous options ranging from a full assembly agenda to our final decision to shorten the assembly and to **focus solely on critical business issues.**

For more information on the 224th GA and to view the Livestream of the Assembly go to ga-pcusa.org

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

[Download the Docket](#)

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

Wayne

The Wayne congregation has adapted to the changes COVID 19 has brought into our lives. We are worshiping on Sundays via Zoom which is working well for us and the attendance is consistent. The congregation also has the opportunity to check-in at a Tuesday morning fellowship time. Many of the pastors in Wayne are working together to create an ecumenical prayer service asking for guidance and healing in this time of COVID 19 which will be broadcast on a local radio station. FPC hosts the Wayne Food Pantry and we have been gratified by the amazing support of local people and business, the pantry is well prepared to assist persons in need in Wayne County.

Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

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Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684



