



June 25, 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.

"By this everyone will know that you are disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

There are seven marks of a Vital Congregation, this week we look at number six; "Caring Relationships".

How does someone know you care about them? Don't go Google it, I'll give you the answer; *they need to be heard* and know they add value to the relationship/congregation.

What does a caring relationship look like in your mind? How about in the context of your church/congregation? Everyone desires a place to belong, where others care about us and we care about others. As members of a church, our hope is that our congregation can be that place for us, and also for the others who walk through our doors (physically and virtually).

However, hope is not a strategy, so we need to move beyond just hoping our church, and ourselves are a place of caring relationships. We need to step into intentionally building an environment that demonstrates daily, our love for one another. To do this we must be open to some conversations, sometimes hard conversations to evaluate and make certain we are the caring disciples we're called to be.

So what is your next step? Here are a few questions to consider and work through (*consider them for when you're in-person at your building and also virtually*):

- What practices of caring relationships does your congregation cherish most?
- What would a neighbor/community visitor say about the environment of caring relationships?
- How does your congregation respond in caring for the sick, marginalized, grieving, lonely? What about the alcoholic, the racially profiled, the abused child?
- How does your church handle conflict?
- What relationships in your church need to be reconciled?
- How do you foster and nurture lasting relationships in your community, with your presbytery, and beyond?

There you have it, if you're serious about the sixth mark of Caring Relationships begin the work of having the conversations on the above and other important questions. It's what we're called to do.

Chris Hansen
Executive Director
The Co-Op 513



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](#)



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](#)

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



Rev. Ivan Rymes

Word has been received of the death of Rev. Ivan Rymes – (5/11/1926 – 5/11/2020) - who served within the bounds of Homestead Presbytery at the York Presbyterian Church from 1979 to 1988. Ivan was a graduate of SFTS, served in the military with his identical twin brother, Rev.

Erwin Rymes on the USS Tuscon, and received his Doctorate of Ministry degree in 1986. You can read a full memorial of his life [here](#).

Should you wish to send condolences to his family – please address them to his daughter, Susan Holler, 433 E. Summit Street, Bolivar, MO 65613.

Homestead Presbytery

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Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

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