



October 29, 2020

Presbytery News

Homestead Presbytery Strategy Team

Q. Hey, I went to the Day of discernment in 2019 and I wonder what ever happened to our ideas?

A. Glad you asked. The Strategy Team has been combing over what you said and to build upon this we will be contacting your church soon to review what was said and listen to new ideas so our team can help the Presbytery move forward.

Strategy Team Members

- Thomas Dummermuth – Eastridge Lincoln, Clergy
- John McPhail – Columbus Federated, Ruling Elder
- Steve Piper – Palmyra, Clergy
- Terri Sherman – First Lincoln, Ruling Elder
- Wendy Wait – Gresham, Ruling Elder
- Charity Potter – Wakefield & Thurston John Huss, Clergy
- Suzie Harder – Lincoln Southern Heights, Ruling Elder



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS

"Reboot Your Worship"

The Gift of Revitalization: a 6-week interactive online worship learning experience with Dr. Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio- **Free to You!**

We care about resourcing the churches in this area, and we are pleased to offer you the chance to participate in Dr. Marcia McFee's "**Reboot Your Worship**" training at no cost to you starting on September 20th, 2020. Our participation gives you access to 6 weeks of downloadable resources (articles and videos) and 6 live webinars (also recorded for your archives) with Dr. McFee, a renowned worship designer, consultant, and educator (<https://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/>). She will be training churches in five basic ways to improve their worship immediately, no matter the size or style of worship and without a big budget or drastic change. Just as we have an occasional need to reboot our computers, "rebooting" your worship is simply a way to look through fresh eyes and get some fresh skills.

This course is also tailored to approach worship practices during the pandemic and will explore the basics of sensory-rich worship design while emphasizing safety protocols and getting creative for online expressions without burning out. AND Dr. McFee will be getting you ready for your best Advent season ever all along the way! All you need to do is register (at no charge) to receive the emails. You can invite unlimited members of your worship team (or potential worship team members) to receive these communications as well. We encourage you to take advantage of this free offer (usually \$99 per church) made possible through our area's registration.

Register ASAP!

(You will get access to all 6 webinar videos.)

<https://ny163.infusionsoft.com/app/form/homestead-presbytery>

Save the Date!

Service of Installation for Rev. Christopher (Chris) Peters at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln

Sunday, November 1st, 2020
3:00pm



Outside in the Westminster Parking Lot. If COVID restrictions in Lincoln are tightened to "Red" status, Zoom information will be shared the week of the service.

THE NEEDED LEADERSHIP FOR CONGREGATIONS TO BE VITAL

Ordained leaders of our churches (Teaching and Ruling Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Deacons) make the same vows upon their ordination into spiritual leadership. One such vow we take is to “Seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” While this vow may seem like a less significant add-on to vows such as fulfilling our office “in obedience to Jesus Christ and under the authority of Scripture,” our vow to serve with imagination may be the most important vow we can live into at this time for our churches.

In the pandemic, our churches are facing many difficulties with keeping members engaged, keeping financially stable, and keeping up with the changes in technology, communication, and culture in general. Our response in the beginning of the pandemic may have been to serve with more energy and with whatever intelligence we may have had with the love of our congregation as a basis. However, as time has gone by and the pandemic has continued, we have lost energy, experienced compassion fatigue which leaves it difficult to love as well as we would like, and we’ve exhausted our intelligence on things such as recording and streaming, Zoom, and how to connect with people without being near them. When energy, intelligence and love start to wane, it’s a sign that we have entered into survival mode; which leads us to focus on our survival, rather than being vital.

When we have retracted into a survival mentality, it is imagination that will propel us into vitality. Edwin H. Friedman said that “playfulness can get you out of a rut more successfully than seriousness.” The playfulness of imagination can pull us out of serious survival mentality and into vitality in the time of the pandemic because imagination pulls us away from what we feel like we are losing and towards what is possible. Can’t meet in person for worship or Sunday school? Imagine how you could empower families to worship and engage the bible in their own homes. Can’t have coffee hour? Imagine how your church could care for each other without being in-person. A leader who leans into their vow of serving with imagination can escape the weight of survival and live into the vitality that is possible. The “Seven Marks of a Vital Church” that we’ve been sharing with you can help spur your imagination.

Imagination is the one of the most important vows that leaders can live into, not just in this time but in our future. The pandemic didn’t cause us problems we weren’t already dealing with before, but accentuated and accelerated problems we were already experiencing and will continue to experience once the pandemic is “over.” Use the pandemic as an excuse to lean hard into imagination and try new things. If they aren’t successful, imagine another possibility and keep trying. The answer to our struggles is not to be more serious leaders, but to be more playfully imaginative leaders. And, our ordained leaders can’t do this alone. Every church needs to invite the most playful and imaginative to join in the leadership in this time as the present and future requires new and different ways of being church. The best leadership may not even come from an ordained leader because, “Leadership is not a rank or a position. Leadership is a service to be given.” (Simon Sinek) Let’s give the church playfully

imaginative leadership and see how we can be transformed from merely surviving to vitally thriving.

On behalf of your partners in this journey (the Church Vitality Team),

Zac Wolfe
Pastor of FPC Beatrice
Moderator NWC&CV Committee

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 (revadams@hotmail.com). Click [here](#) to download flyer.



WHEN: Friday, November 20, 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

Will scholarship a maximum of 12 participants for 1/2 of the registration costs (\$37.50). Please register and send your paid registration receipt to Joyce: opsf@opsf-omaha.org

REGISTER NOW!



CENTER FOR HOMELAND
DEFENSE AND SECURITY
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL



FEMA

Webinar for Shelters of Last Resort: Examining Systems of Congregate Emergency Shelter for Homeless and Vulnerable Populations During COVID-19

Every day, hundreds of thousands of homeless Americans are crowded into emergency shelters. Many of the homeless have severe and persistent co-occurring

behavioral and medical disabilities, including drug and alcohol addictions. Using a public health and safety lens, this webinar will examine the challenges, options, and emerging model practices to address the daunting task of providing shelters and longer-term housing options for vulnerable populations during COVID-19. Promising approaches to reduce the density of homeless emergency shelters will be a key focus of this webinar. Building on earlier discussions in this webinar series, panelists will also look at the frequent requirement to serve vulnerable populations during a disaster, including integration into disaster shelter systems.

Speakers:

Justin Brown, Chief, Office of Emergency Management Washington D.C.
Department of Human Services

Dr. Donell Harvin, Chief, Homeland Security and Intelligence, Washington D.C.
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)

Daniel Malone, Executive Director, Seattle Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) Co-Convener, Housing First Partners Conference

**Register for the
Webinar**



We are excited to announce a special event via Zoom with author, pastor, and retreat leader Dr. Peter Traben Haas. This workshop, that will feel like a retreat, explores the dance between contemplation, community, and scripture. Helping communities flourish and helping us discover deeper meaning and integration of scripture. This event is for anyone interested in Christian contemplative prayer, its practice & possibilities in the Church and community, and the formative dance between contemplation & scripture. An excellent opportunity for pastors, lay and group leaders wanting to introduce contemplative prayer within their church, worship, community, or small groups. Event is participatory and will include a Friday Night Eucharist Compline Service and time throughout the event for Q & A.

**Special Early Registration Price for Friends of Contemplate Lincoln Until
October 23rd: \$49**

Open Registration Until November 12th: \$59

REGISTER NOW!!

Hopeful Presence in Anxious Times

A retreat to refocus, to get centered and engage in some contemplative spiritual practices before Advent.

November 9-11

Highlands Presbyterian Camp &
Retreat Center-Allenspark, CO

\$170 (shared room)

\$270 (private room)

Meals Included



As pastors and church leaders, we are often inundated with requests and demands of our local churches let alone the larger cultural realities of leading amidst a pandemic, social, political and racial unrest and a polarizing presidential election. Phew!! Jesus was no stranger to these individual and societal pressures and realities AND in the midst of them dismissed the crowds, withdrew to deserted places and prayed (Matt. 14:22-23). This is our invitation to you. Amidst this pandemic, a week after our presidential election and a few weeks before the season of Advent we invite you to dismiss the crowds, come to the mountains, pray and BE with God (re)connecting with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

REGISTER NOW

GRANTS & EMERGENCY FUNDS FROM NEBRASKA PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION



Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation

SPRING GRANT CYCLE BEGINS IN DECEMBER

Everyone has been forced to be more creative in their ministries since COVID began, so what opportunities has this pandemic created for your congregation? Does your congregation want to increase their impact in your neighborhood or community but lack the funds to get your big idea started? Are you facing challenges with an online presence with your current technology? Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation could be the answer to help you fund your project or program. We are offering annual grants to PCUSA churches and related organizations in Nebraska for new or ongoing outreach activities which enhance or expand some aspect of your ministry. The online application process begins in December and grants will be awarded in April.

KESSLER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation offers financial assistance for PCUSA pastors, or a surviving spouse, who is experiencing an urgent financial crisis. Applicants must be an active or retired installed or commissioned pastor who has, or is currently serving, a Nebraska congregation and currently residing in Nebraska.

For more information on our grants or funds, please visit our website at www.nebpresby.org or contact Audrey Richert at arichert@nebpresby.org, or 402-420-9877.

Opportunities to Be Helped and to Help with Challenges Due to the Pandemic

Opportunity #1 --- Pastor Zac Wolfe of Beatrice First Presbyterian Church has announced that their Session will be donating \$500 for use by churches in Homestead Presbytery that have special ministry needs related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. An application for such funds follows and is due (postmarked or emailed) by October 31, 2020. At Beatrice Session's request, the Homestead Presbytery Disaster Response Team will review applications and make decisions regarding distribution of funds. If interested, please complete the application entitled "Application for Funds to Help Cover Pandemic-Related Ministry Expenses."

Opportunity #2 --- Beatrice First Presbyterian Church Session is also presenting a challenge to other churches and individuals in Homestead Presbytery inviting any that are interested and able to donate funds for the same purpose. They will match dollar for dollar up to another \$1000 to help churches with special ministry needs related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This opportunity to give and have gifts matched will extend through December 31, 2020 or until the \$1,000 is matched. If interested, please complete the form entitled "Donation of Matching Funds to Cover Pandemic-related Ministry Expenses in Homestead Presbytery."

Per Business and Finance Committee of Homestead Presbytery:

That the Business and Finance Committee endorses the matching gift program sponsored by the Beatrice church for churches facing financial struggles in the time of the pandemic (a \$500 gift with matching donation from the Beatrice church up to an additional \$1000) and that the assistance fund be managed and dispersed by the Disaster Response Committee in accordance to guidelines and procedures developed by the Disaster Response Committee.

The funds should be sent to the Presbytery for accounting purposes, with immediate notification upon receipt of a donation being sent to the Pastor and Clerk of Session in addition to the chair of the Disaster Response Committee. Should, at the end of the pandemic, there be funds remaining, then the balance shall be designated for use by the Disaster Response Committee to respond to financial needs in the Presbytery due to disaster.

What an incredible blessing this is for both churches with needs and for churches and individuals who can step up to meet those needs. Thank you, Beatrice First Presbyterian Church, for your wonderful spirit of generosity!

[Download Application Here!](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Hebron

The Hebron Church continues to prosper in spite of the pandemic. We are especially grateful for Rev. Gail Cross and his wife Sylvia who have helped us a lot. Also grateful for John Duling and Jim Fitzgibbon who always have insightful words and blessings to share with us. Our prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving for the Church leaders and Presbytery's pulpit supply people who have been so willing to share their time and wisdom with us.

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

