



*September 24, 2020*

## Presbytery News

**Don't forget to Nominate by October 1st!!**



The award, in memory of the Rev. Robert Giles, former Stated Clerk of Homestead Presbytery, honors clergy and laity in the Presbytery who have made outstanding contributions to church and community life.

One Award is made each year, consisting of an appropriately framed certificate, the addition of the recipient's name to an on-going plaque in the Presbytery office, and the opportunity for the recipient to designate a gift of \$100.00 to a special mission or ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery.

***Nomination Information***

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**New Worshipping Communities/Church Vitality Committee  
Reflection on  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark of a Vital Congregation  
And Mark 1**

**By Carla Patterson, First Presbyterian Church, Auburn**

Vital Congregations Mark #2: Intentional Authentic Evangelism

- Authentically sharing Christ because it is intrinsic to self-identity; overflow of Christ in our life.

It's been said that the biggest chasm in the life of a Christian is the one between Sunday and Monday. On Sundays we are the worshipping, praying body of Christ sent out into the world as his disciples. But on Monday morning the world can feel like it requires another mind and skill set! In the Gospels we observe Jesus as he teaches, heals, and feeds the crowds without much regard for the day of the week. It is worth noting that it's the religious establishment that condemns him for not putting a chasm between being and doing.

I grew up in the Central Valley of California surrounded by grape vineyards. Not the fancy, new varietals that are growing there now, but ancient, gnarly vines brought by European immigrants. Transported across the ocean into a new environment and new soil, the branches fanned out across the California landscape and began to bear their amazing fruit. It seems they grew wherever they were planted.

I never read John 15:5 without remembering those ancient, faithful branches – always, reliably bearing the likeness and fruit of their vine. “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

We are called to bear the same witness to Christ on Monday as we do on Sunday. Tish Harrison Warren in her book, “liturgy of the ordinary” points to inseparable and authentic witness of our daily living: “How I spend this ordinary day in Christ is how I will spend my Christian life.”

God bless you in your daily walk in Christ that God may be glorified.

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**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](http://www.nebpresby.org) or contact Audrey Richert at [arichert@nebpresby.org](mailto:arichert@nebpresby.org), or 402-420-9877.

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## 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!](#)

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**Racial Ethnic Student Scholarships  
Due September 30**

The Racial Ethnic Student Scholarship Fund is an educational assistance program designed to encourage racial-ethnic students in their preparation for academic success in higher education. Students must have a permanent residence within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and be active members in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation.



[Applications](#) are due on [September 30, 2020](#).

## The Art of Transitional Leadership: 2020 Virtual Training

Learning Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church Pastors, Staff, COMs and Congregational Leaders

October 12-15, 2020  
Online



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.

[Register Now](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

## *Weekly Prayer Requests*

### *Columbus Federated*

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Columbus congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

# Craig

Our biggest prayer is that one of the churches in our parish will likely be closed by the end of September (not a Presbyterian Church). We could use prayers for moving forward as a 2-church parish. Praise that we've been able to worship in church again for the past couple months.

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## Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

**Friday** 9:00am-12:30pm

Office: 402.474.0612  
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