



September 30, 2021

Presbytery News

Special Presbytery Notices

Vaccination and faithfulness in a time of pandemic

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges vaccination against COVID-19

The theological commitments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) compel us to support vaccination against COVID-19 for all people except those who are unable to receive the vaccines due either to age or medical condition.

Because we believe in the God who urged the people of God to “seek the good of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7) where they were located, a city that was not even their native home, we urge all people to be vaccinated. Because we are followers of the Jesus Christ who requires us “to love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27), we urge all people to get vaccinated. Because we confess, as a matter of our religious belief, that “the members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics” (Confession of 1967), we urge all to seek the good of all, to love their neighbor and get vaccinated.

The need for vaccination has been clear for months. It is utterly compelling now. The variants of the coronavirus are harming thousands, infecting us at rates our medical system is straining to handle. Those who are infected by the variants of COVID-19 are overwhelmingly people who have not been fully vaccinated — more

than 90% of those now becoming infected. Getting vaccinated is loving oneself.

Getting vaccinated is also fulfilling the command to love our neighbors. Those who refuse to be vaccinated are prolonging the pandemic and spreading the coronavirus and its variants to people who cannot receive the vaccine, including children and people with compromised immune systems, and carrying it to people who have been fully vaccinated, causing “breakthrough infections.” As hospitals fill with those fighting COVID-19, there is less room and less time for those facing other serious health conditions.

Let us be clear. Scripture and our confession of faith lead us to call on all people to be vaccinated against COVID-19, except those who are unable to receive the vaccines due either to age or medical condition. Our faith, our religious convictions, leave us no other course. We do not stand alone in this understanding of Christian faith; we stand with other Christians as we urge getting vaccinated.

About requests to PC(USA) pastoral leaders to support claims of religious exemptions

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has been a struggle in the U.S. from its beginning. We are receiving reports of specific ways pastoral leaders in all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are encountering the struggle over vaccination, masks and other measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In some cases, pastoral leaders are being asked to support claims of religious exemption with statements that the theology of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports religious exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination. The theological commitments of the PC(USA) do not support such exemptions. To the contrary, as already stated, our theological commitments compel us to urge that all people be vaccinated against COVID-19.

In some cases, congregations that host facilities such as day cares are facing questions about requiring vaccination for employees and volunteers.

Information on how to respond to requests for religious exemption can be found [here](#). Additional resources about these topics and others are available for congregations and related ministries facing questions about requiring vaccinations [here](#).



Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Click the video below to watch the Ordination of Erica Nelson at Heritage Presbyterian Church



The Administration and Finance Committee Seeks Your Input!

The Administration and Finance Committee is hard at work on the final recommendation for the 2022 Budget, and we would like to know what you're thinking!



If you have any thoughts, ideas or concerns about the proposed budget (available in the August Presbytery Docket on the Presbytery's [website](#)) please contact Joyce Douglas at jvdouglas@windstream.net no later than September 24th for consideration for the final proposed budget.

We will be presenting the final budget to Council in October and to the Presbytery for approval at the November meeting.

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON OCTOBER 10th!

Pastors Mental Health Retreat

Oct 27-28, 2021

St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler NE



Homestead Presbytery is offering, as a gift to our pastors, a fully funded 2 day spiritual retreat at the St. Benedict Retreat Center (Schuyler NE) on **Wed Oct 27 through Thurs Oct 28.**

The focus will be on spiritual awareness, self care, and resilience with ample opportunity for personal meditative time.

Details:

Location: Benedictine Retreat Center Schuyler Ne
1128 Road 1 Anx
Schuyler, Ne 58661

Date: Wed. Oct. 27 – Thurs. Oct. 28, 2021

Time: Wed. 1:00pm through Thurs. 4:00pm

Lunch is at NOON, so arrive early and select all meals you will be present for on your registration form. Also, please note that the St. Benedict Center does not make special dietary accommodations. There is a salad bar during the buffet style meals. There are also guest refrigerators as well as microwaves available for your use.

Facilitator: Rev. Cindy Halvorson, MDiv, DMin

You may also contact Jane Holtzclaw at:
pastorjane728@gmail.com or the Presbytery office for further information.

GET REGISTERED NOW!



Great Plains Small Church Connection Annual Conference Best Laid Plans Based on Proverbs 19:21

Grow • Enjoy • Renew • Fresh Ideas • Be Encouraged • Soul Fed •
Community

Well, our Best Laid Plans have once again been changed.

Great Plains Small Church Connection (formerly Wee Kirk) has moved the conference planned for Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center in September 2021 to an online conference series of 4 sessions using Zoom.

Moving Forward: Tools to Feed Souls

Our keynote presenter will still be Rev Stephanie Ahlschwede, a United Methodist pastor with a deep commitment to the ministry of the laity and small membership churches. As Executive Director of United Methodist Ministries, she served a fifteen county area helping congregations of all sizes develop local ministries related to the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

The first session of the 4-part virtual conference:

- **Monday, October 18, 2021**, Stephanie Ahlschwede presenting a talk with breakout discussion groups. 3-5 PM Central Time
- **Monday, November 15, 2021** – Purpose and Transitions – a workshop led by Kris Peterson followed by Great Ideas to Solid Sermons, a workshop led by Steve Nofel. 3-5 PM Central Time
- **Monday, January 17, 2022** - It's Better Thank It Sounds: Embracing Evaluations & Counting for Success in the Local Church - a workshop lead by Stephanie Ahlschwede, followed by: Attitudes in Prayer, a workshop led by Kim Nofel, and A Quick Dive into Philippians, a workshop led by Newell and Claudia Krogmann 3-5 PM Central Time
- **Monday, February 21, 2022** – another presentation by Stephanie Ahlschwede with time for questions and answers, and a surprise 'hands on' experience. 3-5 PM Central Time

Register at: www.calvincrest.org

Cost: \$50 for the complete conference of 4 sessions plus 'the surprise' or \$20 per session

For more information contact:
Claudia Krogmann, Registrar
507-665-3198
claudia@krogmanns.com

Partial Scholarships are available. Contact registrar claudia@krogmanns.com for information or to apply



Confidence in Conflict: Navigating the Struggle

When you hear the word conflict, what reaction happens in your body? Is it possible to have a healthy relationship with conflict? How do you develop the capacity to enter into conflict well? These are some burning questions that we'll explore with you in this online conflict workshop on October 21 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm (Central time).

Conflict is everywhere in our world today. Join us and feel more confident when you find yourself in conflict. [Learn more and register here.](#)



Celebrate the Special Offerings

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, TOGETHER

Special Offerings and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog:

SAVE THE DATE – Giving Tuesday is Nov. 30, 2021!

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Giving Tuesday campaign is a virtual celebration of the collective power of Presbyterian generosity, as we profess by our actions — and with our gifts — that we can accomplish far more together than any one of us can do alone.

This year, we will host an eight-hour livestream, broadcast from multiple locations across the United States, where we will share how your gifts support the mission of the Church as we live out Jesus' call for us in Matthew 25. We invite you to join with Presbyterians from near and far for worship, fun with some familiar faces, and an unparalleled opportunity for your generosity to make a lasting impact around the country and around the world.

Support the Peace & Global Witness Offering

As congregations receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we recognize they do so with many concerns on their hearts for our siblings around the world. The devastating earthquake in Haiti and the refugee crisis following the end of the war in Afghanistan are humanitarian disasters of particular concern. Congregations understandably feel called to support relief efforts for these impacted communities.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers flexibility for congregations to support these relief efforts while supporting the peacemaking work of their mid councils and the PC(USA). Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays with the congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in your own community. This year, if your congregation is so moved, we encourage you to contribute your portion of the Offering to assist in either or both Haiti or Afghanistan. [Learn more.](#)

As the situation in Afghanistan continues to unfold, please [click here](#) for resources and updates on the various ways the PC(USA) is responding and how you can get involved and take action for the Afghan people.

(Links of) Love is all you need (for an Alternative Giving Market!)

- Alternative Giving Markets provide an awesome opportunity for churches and communities to make a real difference in the lives of people around the world — but it can feel overwhelming to plan one! For an easy and effective way to host an Alternative Giving Market, look no further than the Presbyterian Giving Catalog's Links of Love activity! [Watch](#) our video to see just how easy it is to use Links of Love for a festive holiday activity at your church and [order](#) the free kit today!

The NEW 2021–22 Presbyterian Giving Catalog lands in mailboxes this month!

- Help us spread the word about how, with the Giving Catalog in hand, you've got the means to make a BIG impact at your fingertips. And, the Giving

Catalog gives you, as a leader, a simple tool to use in organizing fundraisers and generating enthusiasm around making a collective difference as a congregation for Presbyterian Mission. Find helpful downloadable resources, along with a free giving catalog starter kit, on our [website](#). Your support makes a huge difference.

Igniting a Movement: Engaged in God's Mission should recently have arrived in your mailbox and in your congregation's mail. It is the annual impact report of their giving to the national Church. The booklet includes a joint invitation from the PC(USA) Stated Clerk the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II and Presbyterian Mission Agency President and Executive Director the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett to include Shared Mission, Per Capita and the Special Offerings in your and their annual budget for 2022. The report, translated into [Korean](#) and [Spanish](#), also serves to remind Presbyterians that, as the Body of Christ, we are interconnected, with every person's — and every congregation's — gift serving to build up the whole body. The mailing includes a customized report of each congregation's giving in 2020. Presbytery leaders will have received all three versions of [Igniting a Movement](#). Thank you for your ministry and your faithful gifts, which demonstrate your commitment to discipleship and make a difference as Christ's presence becomes real through your acts of generosity.

Matthew 25:

On Sept. 1, the Matthew 25 invitation reached a milestone when the [First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo](#) made the commitment to become a [Matthew 25](#) church, marking the [1,000th registration](#) received for the Matthew 25 vision, launched in April 2019. Sign on to the Matthew 25 invitation, if you have not already. Join the [Matthew 25 Facebook Group](#).

What does Matthew 25 say about feeding the hungry? The most recent online Matthew 25 event looked at the economic exploitation of people through systems that perpetuate their impoverished status. To hear examples from churches and mid councils on how to address this crisis in your community, watch the recording of the [June 23, 2021](#), program; find hunger and [food insecurities resources](#); and [download the PowerPoint slides](#).

The next online Matthew 25 event is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. (EDT).

Connect with leaders, like you, who are engaged in ministry supporting access to high-quality education for every child. Presbyterians have a long history in support of education. In light of our Matthew 25 commitment, where are those who have least — those most precious of God — going unseen in the educational system and how are Presbyterians finding ways to be with them? Register today and mark your calendars to attend. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qd-2hrj4vEtHjTqF2W8wg-nwSQax9mWRZ>

New resources from the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP):

- Presbyterian Hunger Program focuses on dismantling structural racism. In this issue of the PHP Post, you will see how the sin of racism has pervaded everything from our historical church roots in global ministry to the way we extract natural resources to the ways we go about climate change solutions and funding hunger work. Let us be mindful, humble and open to receive and name hard truths and to embark on more healing and just paths forward. Click [here](#) to access the Fall 2021 issue.
- Celebrate differently this holiday season! Whether at church or home, consider putting faith in action regarding holiday meals and gatherings. Download [Rethinking Holiday Meals](#) and [Reclaiming the Holidays](#).

Resources from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA):

- PDA has numerous resources for churches wanting to support refugee resettlement. Click here for more information. For information on how PDA is supporting Afghan refugees, click [here](#).

Resources from the Office of Christian Formation:

- Intergenerational Mission Toolkit – New from the Office of Christian Formation is a group of resources related to Intergenerational mission. Looking to plan an intergenerational mission experience or mission trip? Or are you wanting to make suggestions for at home mission opportunities? This toolkit includes the why, the what and the how. To find the toolkit, click [here](#).
- Youth Ministry Quicksheets – The Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association has recently partnered with the Office of Christian Formation to create some new Quicksheets with ministry tips and ideas. One example is [Mindfulness as a Faith Practice](#). All Quicksheets can be found [here](#).
- Children and Anti-Racism Toolkit – Coming soon from the Office of Christian Formation and APCE is a set of resources to help engage children in conversations and work around anti-racism. Look for this resource early this fall on either the [Office of Christian Formation](#) site or on the APCE [website](#).
- Post-Pandemic Pondering and Planning: A Resource for Faith Re-Formation is now available in Korean and Spanish by clicking [here](#).

New Worshiping Communities (NWC):

- To learn more about cohorts for NWC leaders and to apply to be a part of one beginning in January, click [here](#).
- Take part in a seminar series with 1001 NWC community, "The Way of Spiritual Fortitude," featuring Brian McLaren, Leeann Younger, Therese Taylor-Stinson and Jonathan Tran. Learn more [here](#).
- Money Matters is an ecumenical panel exploring financial sustainability in New Worshiping Communities. To learn with colleagues from 1001 NWC, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Disciples of Christ, click [here](#).
- "New Way" is the podcast of the 1001 NWC movement. Click [here](#) to learn more or find it wherever you get your podcasts.

Communicators Network:

- The mission of the Communicators Network is to connect Presbyterians who are officially responsible for the communications in their synod, presbytery or church currently through online workshops, e-newsletters, social media and other communications vehicles. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Ever Dreamed of Being a Church Finance Administrator? Here's your chance!

First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln is seeking a new Finance Administrator. The Finance Administrator is responsible for the overall financial life of the church and First Presbyterian Church (FPC) Foundation in terms of record-keeping, accounting, payables, payroll, reporting, and working with directly with other staff responsible for receiving and recording deposits. This is a part time job, 20 hours per week, with a flexible schedule.

Homestead Presbytery has a NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

402-413-2143

Make sure to write down the new number for
Homestead Presbytery!



Weekly Prayer Requests

Hebron

Being a very small and elderly congregation we constantly pray for the health and well-being of all members. Our greatest joy is that we are a happy and contented group of Christians who all enjoy each other and are devoted to our small Church. We are very thankful to Rev. Gail and Sylvia Cross, Rev. John Duling, Jim Fitzgibbon and Peggy Meerse who all fill the pulpit one Sunday a month.

Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

Office: 402.413.2143

Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684

