

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
August 6, 2020

The Presbytery Connection is a bi-weekly joint newsletter for the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to contribute to the Presbytery Connection, please contact Jeannie Stolee in the Presbytery office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this communication, please email or call Jeannie.

Please consider making copies of this newsletter for your Session and running several copies to make available to your congregation.

www.presbynciowa.org

www.prospecthillpresby.org

To see North Central Iowa's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

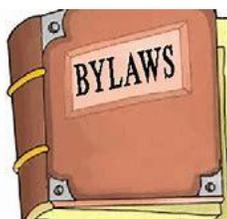
To see Prospect Hill's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

New Websites for Presbyteries



Both presbyteries are in the process of creating new, updated websites. The website for the [Presbytery of North Central Iowa](#) has been launched and some kinks are being worked out. The website for the Presbytery of Prospect Hill will be launched in the near future. Prospect Hill's old website is no longer available. Everyone is welcome to check out North Central Iowa's website. There are some changes and updates that need to be made yet to North Central Iowa's website. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to make those corrections and as we work to launch Prospect Hill's website.

Attention Clerks of Session



It is advised that each church amends its Bylaws to reflect an electronic means to call congregational and session meetings. As we have seen since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many churches' Bylaws do not include an electronic means to call such meetings, and it is important that we learn from this and amend the Bylaws so that congregational and session meetings may be called via an electronic means in the future.

Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of August 9 Northminster Presbyterian Church, Ames – Rev. Jim DuBois

Week of August 16 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waterloo – Rev. Dr. Patricia Jacobs
Rev. Daniel Voigt

Week of August 23 First Presbyterian Church, Albion – CE Charlie Flick

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of August 9 First Presbyterian Church, Cleghorn – Rev. Eric Wright, Moderator

Week of August 16 First Presbyterian Church, Sac City – Rev. Missy Brown

Week of August 23 Pastors Serving Colleges – Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser,
Northwestern College, Orange City

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please pray for Cathy Sydnor, who is scheduled for a procedure to have her back nerves burned on August 17. Cathy is the wife of Rev. Michael Sydnor, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Schaller.

Please pray for Rev. Bob Cook, pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Vail and United Church of Westside, as he will be having surgery in the near future to address a heart murmur. Please also pray for Rev. Cook's sister, Patricia Norris of Dexter, Iowa, who is hospitalized.

Please pray for the family of Rev. Dr. Richard Harken, Honorably Retired, who passed away on August 1, 2020.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Dr. Rich King, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Marshalltown, as he continues to recuperate from strokes. Plans are that he will be released to come home on Friday, August 7. Cards may be sent to: Rev. Richard King, 1831 Prairie Ave., Marshalltown, IA 50158.

Please also pray for Jon Rottink, Youth and Family Ministry Director, and Michelle Wilkinson, Children's Ministry Director at Marshalltown First as they take on additional responsibilities during Rich's absence.

Please pray for CLP Beth Ehlers, who has been diagnosed with Bell's Palsy. If you want to reach out to Beth, her email is behlers0903@gmail.com and her address is: 1823 Springview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Mike Campbell, who was diagnosed with COVID-19. He is out of ICU and is in rehab. Rev. Cheryl Campbell has recently tested negative for COVID-19. The Campbells are former members of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa and now reside in Sun City, Arizona.

Please continue to pray for Josh Ullom, son of Rev. Dr. Dave and Judy Ullom of First Presbyterian Church in Estherville. Josh continues with bi-weekly chemo. The doctors have also discovered Pulmonary Emboli (small blood clots in his lungs), for which he will be on blood thinners the rest of his life. Please pray for Josh's health and comfort, and for a positive outlook. Please also pray for Josh's family and for Dave and Judy as they all deal with this and support Josh.

Please pray for Rev. Mark Rabideau of the Greater Greene County Presbyterian Ministries as he deals with health concerns.

Please continue to remember Doug O'Bannon, son of CRE Shari O'Bannon, in your prayers as he continues to battle a liver disease and all the symptoms that come with it.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Dr. Richard 'Dick' Harken, who passed away on August 1, 2020. Rev. Harken served at First Presbyterian Church in Jesup for 11 years and then served at First Presbyterian Church in Boone for 25-30 years, retiring in 2009. A private graveside service was held in Burlington, Iowa with Pastor Alex Thornburg officiating. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to: Heartland Presbyterian Church
1430 Hickman Rd.
Clive, IA 50325

OR Cross Outreach of Des Moines
3226 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311

Condolences may be sent to: Janelle Harken
845 S. 60th St., #514
Wes Des Moines, IA 50266



Rev. Dr. Richard Harken
1946-2020

Churches in Transition

Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Ackley
First Presbyterian Church, Boone
First Presbyterian Church, Greene
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center
First Presbyterian Church, Jesup
First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck
Eden Presbyterian Church, Rudd

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove City
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
First Presbyterian Church, Odebolt
First Presbyterian Church, Sioux City
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

Poor Richard's Almanac

by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



Clerks of session typically gather yearly to review the minutes and record books of their congregations.

Unfortunately, this isn't a typical year. Even though the *Book of Order* requires an annual review (see G-3.0108), many mid-council leaders have determined on postponing the records review until next year. This was the decision that our Synod Stated Clerks came to, so I offered that option to the clerks of our congregations.

Nineteen clerks responded to an online poll, and sixteen voted to review the records of both 2019 and 2020 in 2021. Because a few voted to go ahead this year, and several didn't vote at all, I will schedule a couple of Zoom sessions where we can review records together. I will leave it up to each clerk whether or not they want to participate or wait. Please contact me at clerk@prospecthillpresby.org or 712-265-1167 if you have questions or concerns.

Just remember to keep your records up to date!

Blessings,



Update from the Tri-Presbyteries Search Committee

The Search Committee is working well together and, with the ongoing guidance and support of the Synod, we are progressing through the steps in the search process.

We met twice in June and three times in July, all on ZOOM.

Blessed with a gifted group of applicants, we are now focusing on a smaller group of candidates and gathering additional information.

As of now, we are on track to present to the presbyteries at their fall meetings our recommended candidate for each of the three executive positions: Administrative Executive/Stated Clerk, Mission Executive, and Pastor to the Presbyteries. The search for the two administrative staff positions would follow.

By way of background, Prospect Hill Presbytery, North Central Iowa Presbytery, and Des Moines Presbytery have entered into an agreement to share a leadership team. Instead of each presbytery calling its own executive/general presbyter, we are joining forces to call a team that will work with all three presbyteries. Our committee has been given the assignment of seeking that team.

Search Committee members: Rebecca Brown (RE-Prospect Hill), Randy Russom (TE-Prospect Hill), Kendall Von Glan (RE-Prospect Hill), Nancy Beenken (RE-North Central Iowa), Kerry Carson (TE-North Central Iowa), Judy Klepfer (RE-North Central Iowa), Lynne Hanna (TE-Des Moines), Darca Boom (RE-Des Moines), Ken Rummer (TE-Des Moines). Resource and support staff: Deb DeMeester (Director of Leadership Development, Synod of Lakes and Prairies), and Gretchen Milloy (Office Coordinator, Synod of Lakes and Prairies).

We ask for your prayers for our committee, for the candidates, and for God's continuing guidance on this way.

Ken Rummer, Moderator
Tri-Presbyteries Search Committee

Coaching Program

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is developing a network of coaches and is looking for people who may be interested in being trained (and potentially certified) as a coach for pastoral leaders and congregations. The training will begin in September and conclude the summer of 2021. For more information please [see the flyer](#). The deadline for applications is August 10.

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center Events for Pastors and Faith Communities

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, a ministry affiliate of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (Minneapolis) is thinking creatively about how to continue to foster and encourage individuals and groups to retreat. In addition to once again welcoming pastors and small church and nonprofit groups for in-person retreats, they are also offering online workshops, classes and retreats. For more information, please see their [upcoming virtual offerings](#) and [complimentary retreat offerings](#) for those who are doing racial equity and justice work.

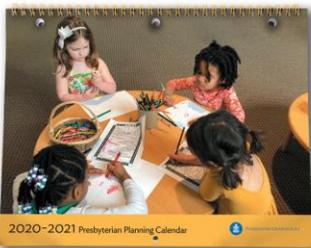
The Latest News for Employers from the Board of Pensions



Did you know there are more choices and new benefits for 2021? Did you know your Employer Agreement is available as of Monday, July 20? Did you know the Board of Pensions is offering a new benefits package for ministers? Did you know the Board of Pensions

is hosting a webcast on Thursday, August 13, on Your Church and the 2021 Benefits Plan? Please click [here](#) to read about these topics and more!

2020-2021 Presbyterian Planning Calendar



This 16-month, official PC(USA) calendar (September 2020 – December 2021) is an outstanding and well-loved resource for pastors, church leaders and members interested in the life and mission of the church. It features monthly planning and worship suggestions, lectionary readings, a liturgical color guide, fold-out synod, presbytery and world maps, plus directories of PC(USA) staff, offices, synods and presbyteries.

Order yours today! Single calendars are \$16.95; 10-49, \$14.50 each; 50+, \$9.75 each. Shipping is additional. When ordering, please ask for ISBN 978-1-7328467-0-8. Order [online](#) or call the PC(JSA) Church Store at 1-800-533-4371.

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 worship, 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.

When: Saturday, September 12, 2020; 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Central Time, with break for lunch)
Where: Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent in Welcome email)
Cost: \$75.00/participant

Click [here](#) to download a flyer for more information.

Click [here](#) to register.

The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is offering 10 scholarships of \$50 each to pastors and lay pastors. To qualify for the scholarship, please email your paid registration receipt to Joyce at opsf@opsf-omaha.org. The first 10 qualified registrations will be sent a reimbursement check of \$50.

Grants Available from Synod of Lakes and Prairies

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies has three new distinct grant programs to alleviate the threat of the coronavirus pandemic on church and camp ministries across the Synod. The Synod has created procedures and funds for pandemic support grants in three areas:

1. Church staffing and ministry support for churches whose vitality would be threatened by disruption to staffing and ministry programs,
2. Church staffing and ministry support in historically marginalized communities to churches which serve the poor and oppressed, and
3. Camp staffing and programs, particularly as they seek to maintain programs staffed by college students.

It is important to be aware that the program is designed with two application deadlines in each category and that the allocated grants would not exceed \$10,000 or one month of average operating costs. Presbyteries would apply for the funds on behalf of the ministry. The program materials in [this packet](#) provide a more complete description.

For additional information, please contact Jim Koon, jkoon@lakesandprairies.org.

Recorded Worship Services Available



Rev. Richard Francis, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, has prepared three worship service videos to be used as needed. You may access the three video services: [video 1](#), [video 2](#) and [video 3](#).



MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 grants will support vulnerable congregations facing COVID-19.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency president sets aside funds to be administered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Read about it [here](#).

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

Stewardship Kaleidoscope will be a three-day virtual event on September 22 & 29 and October 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Please click here for more information: www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org.

Keeping Informed on the COVID-19 Situation

The Presbyteries continue to hold weekly meetings with the pastors to keep abreast of the ever changing COVID-19 situation and to discuss how pastors and churches can continue to minister to and serve their congregations. The meetings will be recorded and the recordings uploaded to the Events section of each website (www.presbynciowa.org and www.prospecthillpresby.org). The two most recent Zoom recordings will be uploaded to the North Central Iowa website in the near future, barring any technical difficulties.

Churchwide Gathering of the Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women's 2021 Churchwide Gathering will be held August 5–8, 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri!

The theme for the Gathering is "Rejoice in Hope" based on Romans 12:12–13, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Please click on this link for more information:

[https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/)

Presbyterian Foundation – Church Financial Leadership Grant Program



Grants are available to assist pastors to attend continuing education opportunities which will help them in leading their congregations toward financial and missional vitality. For more information please

click [here](#) or contact Rev. David Lolen, Director, Church Financial Literacy and Leadership, 800-858-6127 ext. 5901.

Take an Online Matthew 25 Course

First course coming August 10: “Awakening to Structural Racism”

This course is for people interested in learning more about structural racism and how to resist and deconstruct its destructive power in our own lives, our churches, our communities and the broader culture. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Transition-to-College Assistance



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Board of Pensions offers a grant program intended to help eligible families of freshmen entering college with transitional expenses, such as a computer purchase or dorm furnishings. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Helpful Links

Academy



Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way

Please click [here](#) for information on The Academy.



Rev. Shawn Harmon was ordained to service as a mission worker with The Antioch Partners, a mission sending agency that works in partnership with Presbyterian churches in the US. You can read more about them here: <https://www.theantiochpartners.org/>. You may contact Shawn directly at: harmonhusky@gmail.com. To support Shawn financially: www.theantiochpartners.org/giving. For online giving select “partner support for partners not listed for security reasons” and type “Harmon, Shawn.”



The Iowa Heart Foundation recommends that Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) be placed wherever people gather. AEDs have become so advanced that almost anyone can use them safely. Click [here](#) for more information.



If you feel as if you're at the end of your rope or the recent floods or low crop prices have left you feeling hopeless, please click [here](#) to find a group or network who may be able to help.



Your Iowa Life – if you or a loved one are facing a problem with alcohol, drugs, gambling, mental health or suicide thoughts, you're not alone. That is why the Iowa Department of Public Health has created YourLifeIowa.org so Iowans can chat live, text or call and get reliable treatment options and find nearby help. <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>



Farm Crisis Ministry Network - supporting farmers and those who love and care for them, sharing resources for farm families, congregations, and rural communities. <https://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/>



Spectrum Spirituality Project – support resources for families with one or more children who have a sensory, emotional, and/or behavioral disorder; also equip congregations to welcome and serve these families. https://www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumspirit/about/?ref=page_internal



Iowa Faith Leadership Network – to provide a space for faith leaders to develop interfaith and ecumenical relationships, collegiality, and cooperation; to share resources, ask questions, and learn together; to improve our collective ability to minister to the faith communities we serve as well as to better the lives of people in the communities around us. <https://www.facebook.com/iowafaithleaders/>