

**THURSDAY
MAILING**



National Capital
P R E S B Y T E R Y
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHEIC

February 21, 2019

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trinity Presbyterian Church annually offers two scholarships, up to \$2500 each, to high school seniors planning to attend an accredited 2 or 4 year institution and in need of financial assistance. The scholarship, funded by a bequest from Trinity member Georgie Wade, is open to area students based primarily on financial need, but also considering academic strength and participation in a Christian faith community. Full information about eligibility, instructions, and an online application form are found at www.trinityarlington.org under the tab "Learn." Applications for students in need of support for the 2019-20 academic year are due March 1.

You shall be called repairers of the breach. —Isaiah 58 - Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. For 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world.

Congregations and mid councils that have a standing order for OGHS should have received their resources by now. If resources have not been received, contact Presbyterian Customer Service at 800-533-4371 or customer_service@presbypub.org.

WEBINARS

Join us for informative webinars — if you are not available at these times, visit the Offering page to watch a recording.

Congregation Leaders – Wednesday, March 6, 12:00 pm EST

HELPFUL RESOURCES Use this **PowerPoint** in your worship service or at Lenten events. It includes slides that correspond with the OGHS minutes for mission and a customizable slide for a specific message to your congregation.

Review the **Engagement Placemat** to be used by families to connect with, engage, and support the ministries carried out by OGHS. And as always, there is a new Gracie the Fish story, **Gracie Makes a Coral Covenant**, that can be used with the fish coin boxes.

Thank you for your valuable partnership in supporting OGHS and the ministries that strive to provide hope and make this a better world. Should you have questions or suggestions, you may contact Special Offerings at special.offerings@pcusa.org.





February 21, 2019

Dear Ones,

Organizations have life cycles. The most commonly suggested pattern is one of birth, adolescence, maturity and then decline. The classic bell-shaped curve has been given different labels but generally there is a beginning and an end.

Folks who dabble in organizational leadership will sometimes debate where in the life cycle an organization needs to re-evaluate its mission in order to stave off death with most agreeing that intervention needs to occur much earlier than folks expect. What seems to occur naturally is that as soon as an organization (okay... let's just say "church" here, shall we?) reaches maturity it peaks out and begins to decline. Generally, the church is okay for a bit. Yes, the numbers suggest giving has tapered off, and there has also been a decline in attendance.... but the urgency of the situation doesn't hit until one day when the leadership have gathered to discuss the crumbling parking lot that there's acknowledgement that something is wrong. Later that evening, in that same parking lot, the unmentionable becomes named: "We're dying".

There are so many possible responses to this moment – but the one that seems the most common is a combination of denial and renewed focus. The latter often takes the form of a committee to address "the problem". Fingers are pointed, blame is named, and in the end what we often do make changes that do not actually speak to the root issue.... but make us feel like we are doing something. We're not just rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic, but as good Presbyterians we're picking out new fabric to reupholster them first. We change the leadership structure, the Pastor, perhaps add/subtract a worship service without ever digging deep enough to ask why we are doing any of this in the first place.

Presbyteries do this too.

What should we do instead? Ask the deeper questions. Ask why we are doing what we are doing. Go back to the beginning and test the values that we've based our organizations upon for validity in our current context and then trace how those values play out within the organization. ***Are we who we say we are?***

Do you remember that scene in the Princess Bride when Inigo and Fezzik have both been defeated by the Dread Pirate Roberts/Westley and have returned in despair to the Thieves Quarters? (If you have no idea what I'm talking about here, we need to talk. Rent the movie. Today. I'll wait.)

Inigo: I am waiting for you, Vizzini. You told me to go back to the beginning. So I have. This is where I am, and this is where I'll stay. I will not be moved.

Fezzik: But the Prince gave orders —

Inigo: — So did Vizzini — when a job went wrong, you went back to the beginning. And this is where we got the job. So, it's the beginning, and I'm staying till Vizzini comes.

In this scenario, Fezzik and Inigo are instructed to return to the beginning when things go wrong. What would happen if organizations didn't wait until the downward path began? What if churches (and Presbyteries) went "back to the beginning" on a regular basis to remember who they were (and Whose they were?) and what that might look like in today's context? Can we ask those questions together?

(Vizzini, by the way, is likely dead. Had Inigo not returned to the Thieves Quarters he would not have heard of Vizzini's demise... and have been freed to pursue a new path. Seriously, you need to watch the movie).

Blessings –

Karen



The Presbyterian Men and Women of Redeemer
Present



The Norfolk State University Concert Choir

Under the Direction of Dr. Harlan Zackery, Jr. and Mr. Terry Butler

Saturday, February 16, 2019 – 3:00 P.M.

Free Admission with a **Freewill Offering**

(Proceeds will benefit the Redeemer Scholarship Fund for graduating high school seniors)



Church of the Redeemer, Presbyterian (USA)

1423 Girard Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20017

202-832-0095

Further Info: Elder Carl V. Payne, II 301-949-8755 or 301-675-8447

Elder Kevin P. Moore 202-258-4857

Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament

This 3-Part Biblical Study Series, led by Rev. Dr. Gay Byron, will introduce the world of the ancient Ethiopians and the Axumite Empire as we discuss familiar New Testament passages.

6:30-8PM

FEB 22, 2019

MAR 22, 2019

MAY 3, 2019

Each Session will include a light dinner and fellowship



Sessions will be held at:

**Northminster Presbyterian Church, 720 Alaska Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20012 (202) 829-5311**



REFORMED
INSTITUTE of
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON

The *Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington* has been created by a group of Presbyterian churches in the Washington, D.C. area to promote understanding and deepen appreciation of the Reformed tradition among the staffs and members of Presbyterian churches.

HOW IS THE INSTITUTE SUPPORTED AND STAFFED? Funding for the Institute comes from gifts from individual donors, fees for services, and grants from the sponsoring Presbyterian churches: Darnestown, First Arlington, Heritage, Immanuel, Lewinsville, National, Old Meeting House, Potomac, Rock, and Westminster (Alexandria).

The Institute is governed by a board of directors composed of the sponsoring churches' representatives. The staff consists of Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Director, Ms. Mary J. Hill, Program Coordinator, and Ms. Mary K. Miano, Program Associate.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INSTITUTE?

Contact the Program Coordinator:

P.O. Box 1928

Alexandria, VA 22313-1928

Tel/Fax: 703-518-5125

info@reformedinstitute.org

www.reformedinstitute.org



/reformedinst



@reformedinst

RELATE & RESIST

A course offered by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

- Dates:** Saturdays: February 16, 23, March 2, and 9, 2019
Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Location: Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
1724 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101
www.lewinsville.org
Facilitator: Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick
Cost: \$75 for members of Reformed Institute sponsoring churches, \$90 for all others

In times of crisis, the church has occasionally sought to speak for justice and the right by once more loudly proclaiming what Christian faith teaches and, in doing so, call for resistance to powers that would subvert those teachings.

The Presbyterian Book of Confessions contains two such documents – the Barmen Declaration and the Belhar Confession. In addition to these, the most recent General Assembly has commended the “Reclaiming Jesus” document, “a confession of faith in time of crisis,” to congregations for their study.

These three documents have commonalities in structure and a common theme of critique of the state and church – a criticism of the state's co-opting some of the cultural power of religion, a strong restatement of what the church claims to believe, and an affirmation of the church's duty to act on those beliefs.



Belhar and Barmen, to various degrees, represented resistance. Reclaiming Jesus calls for it. Barmen reminded the churches to stand firm against accommodation to National Socialism. Belhar proclaimed the unity of the church in the face of the system of apartheid that divided it. The new document, Reclaiming Jesus, urges churches to reclaim the Christian witness, to resist the cultural and political idolatries that would draw us away from doing our part in repairing God's world.

The series of discussions will cover a brief history of each document, including the context in which each was written. Leaders will seek to engage participants in exploring how these documents continue to speak to us and challenge our thinking today.

Readings (available online):

-The Barmen Declaration, found in The Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or online at sites such as: <https://groups.csail.mit.edu/medg/people/doyle/personal/enters/hermann/declaration.html>

-The Belhar Confession, also found in the latest edition of The Book of Confessions or online here: https://kerkargief.co.za/doks/bely/CF_Belhar.pdf

-“Reclaiming Jesus” found here: http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/sites/default/files/downloads/reclaiming_jesus.pdf

Course Facilitators:

Sessions will be facilitated by **Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick** with instruction from:

-**The Rev. Dr. Larry Golemon**, the Transitional Executive Director of the Reformed Institute and the Executive Director of the Washington Theological Consortium

-**The Rev. Dr. Quinn Fox**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Christian Formation at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC

-**The Rev. Denise Anderson**, Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Coordinator for the Racial and Intercultural Justice Office at the Presbyterian Mission Agency in Louisville, KY

*The deadline for registration is **February 6~~13~~, 2019***

REGISTRATION

Mail the completed form below with registration payment to:

P.O. Box 1928
Alexandria, VA 22313-1928
Attn: Mary Hill

Please make checks payable to “Reformed Institute.”

Or go to our website: www.reformedinstitute.org to register and pay online.

- ❖ Cost to members of sponsoring churches is \$75.00.
- ❖ Cost to other participants is \$90.00.

Individual churches may wish to subsidize the cost for members. The course is limited to 20 participants, and must have a minimum enrollment of 10. Registration Deadline is **February 6~~13~~, 2019**.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

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YOUR CHURCH

Church of the Pilgrims to Host Public Affairs Series: “What’s Going On?” Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne First Guest Speaker, February 2019.

In February [Church of the Pilgrims](#) (PC/USA) begins a public affairs series called “What’s Going On?” (WGO). WGO’s inaugural program will be “The First Amendment Crisis Series,” a three-part program focusing on Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Religion, and the Freedom to Assemble in the age of Trump and during creeping authoritarianism worldwide.

Author (“One Nation After Trump”) and Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne is the series’ first speaker. He will make a timely presentation on the status of journalism under the Trump administration on **Thursday , February 28, 2019, 7:00 pm.**

Since President Donald Trump has called the media “the enemy of the people,” and the public has witnessed the administration’s pulling of a CNN reporter’s White House press credential, as well as the assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Americans are beginning to wonder about some of their basic freedoms, especially the right to participate in governance by being informed by a free and independent press.

In March the series will host a second presentation, which will address Freedom of Religion. In April the series will follow with the third event, focusing upon Freedom to Assemble.

“Church of the Pilgrims has always been on the forefront of advocating for rights,” observes Rev. Jan Nolting Carter, Transitional Pastor at Pilgrims. “In these days, there are few things more important than talking about and acting on protecting freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly.”

“We thought that Pilgrims, known for its activist history, could play a unique role in regard to keeping the community and those beyond it informed,” added Norman Kelley, the project’s coordinator. “The church wants to encourage democratic conversations about what’s going on. Democracy works best when neighbors and strangers can ask questions and seek answers.”

All three events will be held at the **Church of the Pilgrims, 2201 P Street NW in the District**, three blocks away from the Dupont Circle Metro Station. Following the presentation by each featured speaker, there will be a ‘question and answer’ period allowing participants to raise questions or points for discussion,

[Church of the Pilgrims is a Presbyterian Church.](#) The congregation was founded in 1903 as the Second Southern Presbyterian Church and took its current name in 1919.



SPEAKING OF FAITH

An Evening with Kate Bowler

FRIDAY MARCH 1 AT 7:30 P.M.

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TICKETS: \$15

WWW.BURKEPRESCHURCH.ORG/SPEAKERTICKETS

SPONSORED BY THE ELIZABETH BRAXTON SPEAKERS ENDOWMENT FUND

Upcoming Board University Events

First Call, First Steps (Seminary students and candidates)

March 7, 2019*

Union Presbyterian Seminary
Richmond, VA

April 1, 2019

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh, PA

March 13, 2019

Austin Theological Seminary
Austin, TX

April 23, 2019

Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, CA

*Registration information for Richmond is below. For other locations, please contact Devin Johns, program administrator, at 215-587-7459, or email education@pensions.org with **FCFS** in the subject line.

Growing into Tomorrow...Today (pre-retirement seminar)

March 7-8, 2019

Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ

Registration open week of December 17, 2018–February 18, 2019

June 3-4, 2019

St. Francis Retreat Center
DeWitt, MI

Registration open week of March 18–May 20, 2019

August 22-23, 2019

Montreat Conference Center
Montreat, NC

Registration open week of May 20–August 2, 2019

Render Unto Caesar (terms of call and clergy taxes)

March 6, 2019

Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ

Registration open week of December 17, 2018–February 18, 2019

For more information on any seminar, and to register for *Growing into Tomorrow...Today* and *Render Unto Caesar*, please visit our website at pensions.org.



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

FIRST CALL, FIRST STEPS

A Terms of Call Seminar for Presbyterian Students

Sponsored by Board University

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Holderness Dining Room, Richmond Hall

Led by Martha Reisner, Church Consultant

Theological perspectives

on benefits, compensation, and call

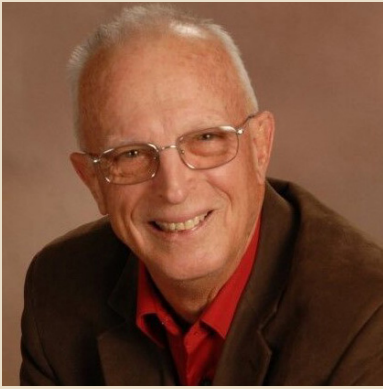
Financial realities of pastors, including

- Financial health
- Fair cash compensation
- Effective Salary
- Housing allowance
- Healthcare

Considerations for **structuring terms of call**

- Terms of call as covenant
- Components of terms of call
- Navigating the conversation

Please [RSVP](#) by February 28, 2019, to smvpo@upsem.edu, or call 804-278-4237. A complimentary meal will be provided.



Former NCP Moderator Bill Plitt Reports at March 26 NCP Open Space on Palestinian Daoud Nassar's Tent of Nations Ministry and U.S. Support Group He Leads, Friends of Tent of Nations North America (FOTONNA)

Bill Plitt, a member of our Presbytery's Leadership Council who until recently served as NCP Moderator as well, **will share his ongoing experience as Executive Director of the ecumenical ministry Friends of Tent of Nations North America (fotonna.org) at our upcoming March 26 Open Space hour (4-5pm.)**. Bill's presentation is sponsored by the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of the National Capital Presbytery. The Choir

Room at National Presbyterian Church has been requested for this event, which is sure to be inspiring and thought-provoking.

During his work with FOTONNA since 2007, former educator Bill Plitt has traveled extensively throughout the United States on multiple speaking tours with the gentle, warm-hearted, always inspiring Palestinian farmer Daoud Nassar, founder of the ecumenical Palestinian Christian peace project Tent of Nations, whose inspiring motto is "We Refuse to be Enemies."

The veteran classroom teacher and school administrator has traveled regularly during past 13 years with peace delegations and on solo trips to Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Territories. As Executive Director of Friends of Tent of Nations North America, he works to create a living bridge to Tent of Nations (TON), Daoud Nassar's peace project in the West Bank. He is a lifelong Presbyterian and has participated in every PCUSA General Assembly since 2008. Bill was an overture advocate for the Scioto Valley (Ohio) Presbytery in 2012 for the boycott of goods produced within the Israeli Occupied Territories. The GA, which adopted that resolution by a wide margin, was the first denomination to officially do so.

Bill Plitt has consulted for many years with Metro DC regional school systems and universities on the topic of working with at-risk students more effectively. He is a faithful ruling elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington and supported in ministry there.

The tall, slender, always-smiling Bill Plitt has served as the Chair of the National Capital Presbytery's Mission Coordination Committee and is the former Vice Moderator of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network (PCUSA) Steering Committee. He was a contributing writer to one of the Network's resources for churches called Steadfast Hope: a Palestinian Quest for a Just Peace. He has led a series of workshops using these materials in several churches within the National Capital Presbytery. Bill served on the Board of Health Ministries for NCP for several years.

Bill was the co-chair of the National Capital Presbytery's Israel-Palestine Mission Network under the support of the Presbytery's Mission Coordinating Committee and served as Vice Moderator and Moderator of the NCP, consisting 108 churches in metropolitan Washington, D.C. As former Moderator, he serves on the Leadership Council and continues with his ministry by worshipping each Sunday in a different church across the Presbytery witnessing the work of the servants of Christ in the congregations' pews, in their diversity of culture, gender and age.

During his work with FOTONNA, Bill has traveled throughout more than 24 states with Daoud Nassar, whose Tent of Nations Project, on a 100-acre farm located just south of Bethlehem, is surrounded by five Israeli West Bank settlements. The U.S tours have taken them together to over 350 venues, including 163 faith-based sites such as seminaries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, as well as to 47 universities and colleges sharing the good news of "loving your neighbor and refusing to be enemies." Bill has written extensively about his experiences in the Middle East. To have fun, the husband and father plays a blues harp in a rock-and-roll band.



Kenya Mission Network Conference

Churches and Presbyteries with mission relationships and projects in Kenya are encouraged to join those who participate in the Kenya Mission Network of the PC(USA) at its upcoming annual conference March 28-30, 2019 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

The theme for this year's conference is ***Education in Kenya: Lighting the Fire*** "The unfolding of your words gives light." Psalms 119:130. We are pleased to have as our guests from Kenya Rev. Lucy Wambui Waweru, Director of Christian Education, and Rev. Robert Waihenya Ngugi, Director of Missions and Social Responsibilities, with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). The event begins with registration at 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 28, and concludes following a closing worship service at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 30. Registration fee is \$100 per person, with a discounted rate of \$10 for students and a special rate of \$50 for those who can attend only for the day on Friday.

Visit the Network's website at <https://www.kenyamissionnetwork.org> for more information and details about the upcoming conference, including a link to the [registration form](#).

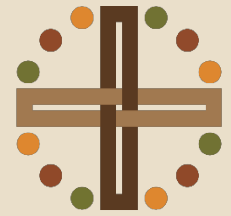


**The
Sargent
Gospel-Aires
38th
Anniversary
Concert**

**Saturday,
March 30, 2019
at 4:00 p.m.**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church
5109 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 20019
Rev. Juan P. Guthrie
(202) 396-1710



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

Next Deadline for NCP Global Grants Program Matching Grant Proposals

As we have for the past several years, the National Capitol Presbytery (NCP) Global Grants program is again soliciting matching grant applications from congregations for new cooperative initiatives between congregations and their global mission partners. **The next deadline for grant applications is March 31.**

The intent of the program is to support interactive, hands-on global mission with impact on the community. Preference will be given to new initiatives; applications may be submitted for continued funding in years two and three of a given project. Some preliminary work should be done to assess feasibility before applying, so that the project has a reasonable chance of success and some way to measure when success has been attained. Priority will be given to projects where there is an established relationship and a high level of confidence in the in-country team and where there is a plan for project sustainability. Projects with Presbyterian ecumenical partners are encouraged.

This is a matching grant program; the contribution of your congregation toward the project in both money and labor will be considered. A congregation may submit only one application each year. Travel costs will not be considered, nor will reimbursement grants. Grant proposals requesting up to \$5,000 will be considered, for \$5,000 in matching funds.

A written report and presentation will be required in the year following the award outlining how the funds were spent, the progress of the project to date including impact on the community and plans for the future.

Proposals are due to NCP by email by March 31 to Judith Dahmann (jdahmann@mitre.org) using the NCP standard application (download from www.thepresbytery.org) and addressing specific questions for global grants (part 2). Awards recommendations will go to Presbytery for approval by June.

For more information contact Dahmann (jdahmann@mitre.org) or James Munthali (jakmunthali@gmail.com).

Personal Coaching

Take your next step.

In 2019—Invest in your Professional Growth

Helpful assessment in ministry skills is notoriously difficult for pastors. Most evaluation tools rarely provide much useful feedback beyond whether or not people like us! Recently, I discovered the evaluation tool I've been looking for throughout my 40 years of pastoral ministry.

Ministry 360 identifies 13 core competencies in pastoral leadership. [Pilgrimage Professional Development Group](#) has leveraged its business-world expertise to create a research-based 360-degree process specifically for Christian leaders. A detailed 30-page personalized report offers both metric analysis and personal comments from diverse perspectives surrounding a pastoral leader.



When is the right time for a comprehensive *Ministry 360* evaluation? It's especially helpful at transitional or discernment points, e.g. 1-2 years after arriving in a new position, while envisioning the "next chapter" in ministry, when feeling bored, under-appreciated or "stuck" without a clear path forward.

I invite you to try this process in 2019. My partners at Pilgrimage have graciously offered me one *free Ministry 360* report to share with my clients—a \$120 value. Here's how it will work;

- 1 participant: Ministry 360 report (FREE—100% discount) + 90-minute coaching session (\$95) = \$95
- 2 participants: Ministry 360 report (\$60—50% discount) + 90-minute coaching session (\$95) = \$155
- 3 participants: Ministry 360 report (\$85—33% discount) + 90-minute coaching session (\$95) = \$175

The added value of this investment is the coaching component—helping you reflect on your key learnings and create achievable action plans to grow in key competencies in 2019. Contact me to receive an actual 30-page "Ministry 360" sample report to examine what you will receive before you commit to the process.



After a 40-year career as a pastor, missionary and theology professor, I coach Christian leaders who are ready to *take the next step* to maximize their potential and full God's calling in their lives. I also work with leaders and teams to create a coaching culture within their congregations or organizations. I hold a professional coaching credential with ICF, the International Coach Federation.

Rev. Dr. Rich Hansen rich@rich-hansen.com www.rich-hansen.com

