

# PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

YOUR PARTNER IN MINISTRY SINCE 1891 SPRING 2013



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PRESBYTERIAN  
SEMINARY  
FOUNDATION

THE FOUNDATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP

## “The Platinum Rule”

By the Rev. Peter Hazelrigg  
Pilgrimage Professional Development Group

The *Golden Rule* is taught to most of us from an early age. In one form or another it is: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

This has some basis in scripture as we read the second part of the Great Commandment in Mark 12:31: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



Rev. Peter Hazelrigg, MS, MDiv

As leaders of congregations and staff, pastors often supervise and lead people with this general approach. We lead the way we would like to be lead.

The challenge to this approach to leadership is that it has its focus on the leader, rather than on those we are leading. Effective leadership and supervision requires an understanding of what is motivating and helpful to others.

*Continued on page 2*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

### “What Is the Future of Lifelong Learning for Ministry?”

Two recent findings of an October 2012 poll conducted by the Pew Forum on Faith and Life are attracting lots of comments in print, social media, and conversations:

- 1) for the first time in American history, the majority of the population is not Protestant; and
- 2) the number of people declaring themselves religiously unaffiliated (the “nones”) has risen dramatically to 20 percent of the population.

These are only two features of the dramatically and rapidly changing landscape of American religion that are impacting congregations and specialized ministries as well as those who seek to serve them.

How might we best prepare Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders to minister in such times as these?

Three years ago in this column I said that the form and content of lifelong learning for ministry is shifting from traditional face-to-face events to webinars and distance education learning. The cover story of *The Christian Century* this month is “The Virtual Seminary.” Much of the issue is dedicated to how the digital revolution is changing theological education. Clearly, the delivery method for clergy and lay leaders engaged in lifelong learning has not only changed, but the rate and extent of that transition is increasing. Now, for example, it is possible to complete an entire M.Div. online – and from reputable, fully accredited theological schools.

At the Foundation we are very much aware of these trends. We currently have one program – our Church Administration Institute that we offer jointly each summer with the University of Nebraska – Omaha – which is conducted online. We continue to consider offering webinars on key topics in ministry.

Our website incorporates some features of the digital revolution and we are adding others gradually and, we hope, wisely. There is no template for what lifelong education for ministry will look like in five years, much less ten years or more. So, we remain in conversation with our sister Presbyterian seminaries and other institutions that are also developing new models for lifelong education. There are expenses attached to every model, of course; so we are also concerned with the most appropriate use of the Foundation’s resources.

We are very interested in what you think. Those of you who participate in our programs and events are familiar with the variety of styles that we have used and the effectiveness of those approaches to lifelong education. You know the strengths and the weaknesses of what we have tried and the value of other models that are readily available in the marketplace of theological education.

Please know that we would like to hear from you and engage in dialogue about the options. You are invited to call us toll free, send an e-mail, stop by the Foundation, or send a snail mail.

We will be glad to hear from you. After all, our primary purpose as a ministry of the church is to serve Presbyterian pastors and lay leaders who seek to serve Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Gary S. Eller  
President

*“The Platinum Rule” Continued from page 1*

In the recent Winter Pastors’ School at Hastings College in February, we explored the role of our interpersonal needs and preferences and how these affect our leadership choices using a personality instrument called the “Firo-B.”

The *Golden Rule* would say, lead the way you want to be led. The *Platinum Rule*, however, says to lead people in a way that is most effective and motivating for them. This means that pastoral leaders need to be flexible in their approach to leading staff and volunteers. It also requires us to discover more about the needs of others in order to more effectively lead them.

Leadership in congregations is complicated. Professional coaching is a way to gain insight and skills to address the complex challenges of today’s church.

It is time to go beyond the Golden Rule. The church needs highly effective leadership for the challenges ahead.

**Rev. Hazelrigg served as the guest speaker during the Winter Pastors’ School in February at Hastings College. His contact information follows should you be interested in discussing topics with him.**

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## *“Building / Sustaining / Tweaking / Growing / Fertilizing in the Growth of a Pastor”*



*Daniel A. Voigt*

After spending my first year and half in my first call, I have realized that I have no idea what I am doing. Okay, that is not entirely true, but I would be lying if I said that I learned everything in seminary that I need to know about being a pastor. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t begrudge my seminary experience. The people at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary gave me the foundation in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care that I rely upon each week. Without that education, I really would be lost.

But there are many things, as I am sure there are in every career, that the required formal education didn’t – and maybe more likely couldn’t – teach you.

Things like: building/sustaining/tweaking/growing/fertilizing (pick your verb) community. Learning how to get through dry spells in your teaching and preaching. Knowing how to institute changes that you know will lead to greater health, but are met with criticism from a vocal few. Knowing what changes not to make even though they feel critical to you. Being involved in the greater community, whose super majority is indifferent to religion. Building supportive relationships with pastors to avoid feeling isolated. Or navigating the waters of spoken, or more often, unspoken expectations...

But just when I think my head might actually take off because it’s spinning that fast, I am reminded of God at work in the midst of it all. Fellow presbytery clergy and elders who share in my struggles and offer support, congregants devotedly living in the Kingdom of God, door-ways opening to be a part of the larger community, and even the gift of attending Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation’s Pastors’ Schools or other OPSF events for growth and development.

May God bless all these who have helped keep my head on my shoulders.

Grace and Peace,

Daniel A. Voigt  
United Trinity Church  
Hamburg, Iowa

**Dan received an Apollos scholarship during his senior year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is a new member of the Foundation’s Council of Advisors.**

## “Exploring Together as Disciples of Jesus Christ”

If you had asked me one year ago where I would be in a year, I could not have told you. I had started applying for jobs in campus ministry, but as my final semester of seminary drew to an end, I was unsure where God would be sending me next.

I have just entered my seventh month as the Campus Minister of the Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania. I love my first call. Getting to work with bright and engaged undergraduate and graduate students is a joy; students truly make coming to work everyday fun. We are an ecumenical campus ministry that has been through some transition and is beginning to rebuild, which is an exciting place to be. We had Community Dinners every other week during the fall, but this spring we have dinner every week. We have added a worship service immediately after dinner, and the numbers have grown higher than many of the fall gatherings. The students are also asking important questions, trying to find balance in their busy and stressful lives, and

exploring their vocational identities. It is fantastic to be able to journey alongside them, to help them grow into the people God is calling them to be, and to continually remind them that they are beloved children of God.

I was also ordained as a Teaching Elder in the PC (USA) in October in the church where I grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was wonderful to be ordained in the community where I was raised, where I first experienced and began to test my call, and where my faith developed from that of a toddler to that of a young adult.

Now, my students continue to help my own faith grow as we explore together what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse  
Campus Minister of the Christian Association  
The University of Pennsylvania

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Rev. LeCluyse is an Apollos Award recipient and received the Howard B. Dooley Scholarship while she attended Princeton Theological Seminary.



*Taken following ordination in Scottsdale, Arizona, are Megan's family (from left) "Buzzy," Annie, Megan and proud dad, Joe LeCluyse. Services were October 21, 2012. Her parents joined Mt. View Presbyterian Church when Megan was two years old. Now her mother is following Megan's enrollment at Princeton in the M.Div. program. Megan and her mother are both recipients of Apollos awards during their seminary studies.*

## POAM/OWLS Celebration (OWLS = Older Wiser Livelier Saints)

September 17-18, 2013

Calvin Crest Conference Center  
2870 County Road 13  
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

Theme	<b>Prayer and Meditation</b>
Scripture	<b>Pray at all times. 1 Thessalonians 5:17</b>
Praise Song	<b>“Praying, Let Us Work for Peace”</b>
Key Speaker	<b>The Reverend Dr. Gary Neal Hansen</b> <b>Associate Professor of Church History</b> <b>University of Dubuque Theological Seminary</b>



*Reverend Dr. Gary Neal Hansen*

Come join friends and neighbors from across Iowa and Nebraska for a two-day celebration for older adults (50 and above). Enjoy a variety of speakers and presentations, worship, music, food, fellowship and entertainment in the natural beauty of Calvin Crest’s peaceful setting along the Platte River.

The conference is subsidized by the Homestead and Missouri River Valley presbyteries, the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, the Nebraska Humanities Council and additional donations. Scholarships are available.

For more information, including directions, visit the Calvin Crest website: [www.calvincrest.org](http://www.calvincrest.org). Applications and brochures are available in the OWLS section.

Registration fees range from \$95 for both days to \$30 for a single day. Registration is suggested by August 16th to receive a \$5 discount. Calvin Crest staff can assist with questions: (402) 628.6455.

## Church Growth Leadership Summit

*Now is the time for your church to grow!*

April 8-9, 2013

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, Nebraska, is hosting a two-day conference to discover practical strategies to grow your church! How do churches grow? There is no “one size fits all” answer. A diverse group of successful leaders will share a variety of approaches. Come, share, and listen for the Spirit to move! Your church can grow!

Featured speakers include:

**Mark DeVries**, Founder, Youth Ministry Architects

**Joel Sartore**, Photographer, National Geographic

**Wayne Alloway**, Senior Pastor, St. Mark’s Methodist

**Charles Arn**, President, American Society of Church Growth

**Candace Hill**, Coordinator of Education Ministries, PCUSA

Join us for five additional speakers and worship led by Dr. Andrew McDonald, Westminster’s senior pastor.

For registration information, visit the Church Growth Summit link at [friendlypresbyterianchurches.org](http://friendlypresbyterianchurches.org). Registration requested by **March 8th**.

The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is a sponsor and participant in the event.



# The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation 2013 Lifelong Education Events

## *The 6th Annual Heartland Lecture Series*

For Clergy, Commissioned Ruling Elders and Lay Leaders  
**Monday, April 15 to Tuesday, April 16, 2013**

**Lecturer: Dr. Michael Jinkins**  
*President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary*

**Topic:** "Church Ministry in the 21st Century"

The Heartland Retreat Center  
 16965 NW Hwy. 45, Kansas City, MO 64152

REGISTRATION SUGGESTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 22TH.

## *The 18th Annual Daniel W. Nelson Lecture Series*

For Clergy, Commissioned Ruling Elders and Lay Leaders  
**Tuesday, May 14, 2013**

**Lecturer: The Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Ramsay**  
*Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Counseling  
 Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas*

**Topic:** "Making It Up as We Go: Faith and Resources and Perspective on Aging"

The Thompson Alumni Center – UNO  
 6705 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68162

REGISTRATION SUGGESTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH.

## *The 57th Annual Omaha Presbyterian School for Pastors*

For Clergy and Commissioned Ruling Elders  
**July 10-17, 2013 Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska**

**Dr. John C. McClure**  
*"Preaching" – Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee*

**Dr. Philip D. Jamieson and Janet T. Jamieson, CPA**  
*"Ministry and Money" – University of Dubuque Theological Seminary*

**Dr. Jerry L. Cannon, Sr.**  
*"Transformational Ministry" – C.N. Jenkins Presbyterian Church, NC*

**Dr. James C. Goodloe, IV**  
*"Reformed Theology and The Christian Life"  
 Foundation for Reformed Theology, Richmond, Virginia*

REGISTRATION SUGGESTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST.

## *The 3rd Annual Church Administration Institute*

For Clergy and Commissioned Ruling Elders  
**July 24-August 30, 2013**

This six-week course begins with the orientation July 24th and concludes on August 30th. The online distance education course addresses church leaders' needs in six areas including finances and management. One valuable tool is the dialogue between UNO faculty and students sharing their personal experiences.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 15TH

2013

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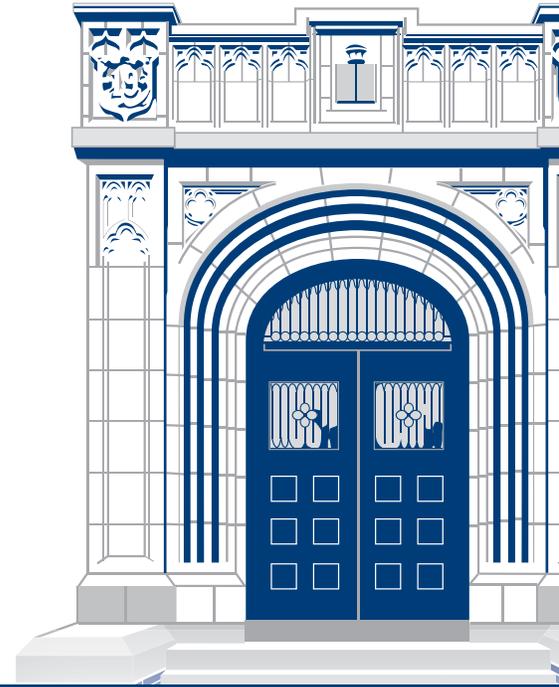


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## E-Foundation

Would you prefer receiving our newsletter and/or event publicity via email? Snowbirds or those with extended travels might wish to provide us with your email address.

If so, please take a minute and request to be placed on the “email only” list by sending a note to: [opsf@opsf-omaha.org](mailto:opsf@opsf-omaha.org). Sending reminders via email provides updates quickly and efficiently. While we will continue mailing printed materials, current information is also posted on the Foundation website. We promise not to share your email address with anyone.

Applications for lifelong learning events such as the annual summer School for Pastors, both of the spring Lecture Series events as well as information regarding the Apollos Program awards for seminarians working toward their Master of Divinity degrees are posted on our website at: [www.OmahaPresbyterianSeminaryFoundation.org](http://www.OmahaPresbyterianSeminaryFoundation.org).

Also, if you have a new member in your congregation or a friend who might like to receive the Foundation’s publicity about future events, please share your brochures and/or email information with them.

*The Foundation’s mission is to seek, develop, and support excellence  
in Christian leadership through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*