

PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

FALL 2018



REVITALIZATION

re-vi-tal-i-za-tion

re,vidle,zaSH(e)n, *noun*

the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality.

REVITALIZE

to bring vitality, vigor back after a decline

Synonyms: restore, renew, refresh

Revitalization or Redevelopment

There is a lot of conversation in the church today about revitalization. Several of the major programs of our foundation focus on this theme. What we mean by revitalization is the enhancement, development, reorganization, and renewal of existing ministries and church leaders.

The methods that are used as part of revitalization efforts include lifelong learning, coaching, spiritual direction, discernment, mentoring, and retreats. There are others, of course, but these are some of the main tools that we are implementing.

The goal of revitalization is to strengthen ongoing ministries. This is a complex task which involves a variety of approaches and requires significant resources. One example of our efforts is the Pastoral Leadership Revitalization (PLR) project which we are initiating in 2019.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"The Way Ahead"

The Foundation is offering a series of new ministry training opportunities, scholarship support, and assistance to pastors and their families. Our goal is to provide you with the latest and best options to assist you in providing excellence in ministry to your congregation or other place of service. In this edition of the Foundation's newsletter and on our website, you will find more information about each of these items. Let me highlight a few and share with you what each represents.



First, we are developing a Pastoral Leadership Revitalization program. We have applied for a major grant from the Lilly Endowment called Thriving in Ministry 2018 to fund a large part of this initiative. It will allow us to provide a three-year cycle of coaching, retreats, and mentoring to the Presbytery of Central Nebraska, the Presbytery of Missouri Union and several surrounding presbyteries, as well as the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. We are very excited about this project and plan to begin January 2019. Even if we do not receive a Lilly grant, the Foundation will draw more heavily on its own resources to offer a smaller version of the program. Notices go out from Lilly around October 1.

Second, we will be partnering with several local churches, synods, presbyteries, and retreat centers to provide lifelong learning events in new locations within our thirteen-state primary service area. For example, beginning this Fall, we will be in Tulsa and Salt Lake City with Tom Long and Will Willimon. Next Spring, we are offering lifelong learning at Okoboji, Iowa and St. Louis. Our intention is to make the former Winter Pastors' School a May event at rotating locations and rename it the Pastors' School.

Third, we are continuing to award Apollos Scholarships to outstanding seminarians at any of our ten PCUSA theological schools. We now make some awards to Masters degree students, Commissioned Lay Pastors, and Doctor of Ministry candidates. Our Jackson Scholarships are being directed to pastors who have spent five years or more in their local church.

These are some of the projects and programs underway at the Foundation. This is my twelfth year of ministry at OPSF and I am delighted to share the news listed above with you. All of us at the Foundation are grateful for the encouragement that you demonstrate to us in so many ways.

May you find blessings and nurture in your ministry.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Gary S. Eller
President

Introducing The 2018 Apollos Scholars...

APOLLOS NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS



Annica N. Gage

Silas G. Kessler Scholarship

Ms. Gage is beginning her second year as a Middler at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. She is a member of Tualatin Presbyterian Church in Tualatin, Oregon and Cascades Presbytery oversees her preparation for ministry.



Teresa A. Larson

Howard B. Dooley Scholarship

Ms. Larson is entering her second year as a Middler at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. She is under the care of Lake Michigan Presbytery and is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Holt, Michigan.



Christopher G. Palmer

Robert K. Adams Scholarship

Mr. Palmer is a third year senior at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, Pennsylvania and his preparation for ministry is guided by Lehigh Presbytery.



Rebecca D. Reeder

Eugene C. Dinsmore Scholarship

Ms. Reeder will embark on her Senior year this fall at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery where she is a member of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Joshua B. Smith

William L. Mulford Scholarship

Mr. Smith is returning as a second year Middler at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He is a member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina and is under the guidance of Trinity Presbytery.

Honoring OPSF Leaders...

In 1992, the Foundation began to offer scholarships. The first scholarships honored Foundation leaders: **Robert K. Adams**, an attorney; **Eugene C. Dinsmore**, an investment banker; and **Silas G. Kessler**, a Presbyterian pastor who had served as Moderator of General Assembly. A fourth named scholarship was added in 1994, honoring **Dr. Howard B. Dooley**, who graduated in one of the last classes of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha, and who was both a lawyer and a minister.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha and Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, a fifth named scholarship was included, honoring **Rev. William L. Mulford**, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors for 22 years, serving as the Chair of the Continuing Education Program (now called Lifelong Learning Programs) Committee.

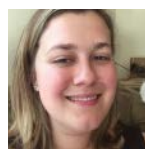
Each of the named scholarships provide the scholar with \$6,000.00 annually during the academic year.

Extend your influence beyond your lifetime. Remember Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in your will.

Help OPSF to continue the support of seminary students and Christian leadership. The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation's Federal Tax Identification Number is 47-0378999. All gifts made to the Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please contact your financial advisor for specific information.

Fourteen students were chosen as this year’s second level Apollos Scholars. This level of Apollos Scholarships offers recipients a maximum \$3,000 annually toward their expenses while they are enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program.

Austin Theological Seminary, Austin TX



Alexandra E. Pappas
from Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas,
and Grace Presbytery.

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur GA

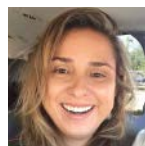


Laura M. Nile
from Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle,
Washington, and Seattle Presbytery.



Lauren C. Scott
from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, Florida,
and Florida Presbytery.

**Dubuque University of Dubuque Theological Seminary,
Dubuque, IA**



Cibele do Carmo Santos Almeida
from First Presbyterian Church in Hilton Head Island,
South Carolina, and Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.



Emily A. Frandsen
from Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham,
Alabama, and the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY



Megan E. Berry
from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Independence,
Missouri, and Heartland Presbytery.

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ



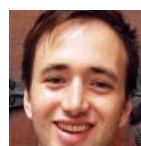
Brian K. Ballard
from Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wayne,
Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia Presbytery.



Kathleen I. Garner-Jewett
from First Presbyterian Church in Bellingham,
Washington, and Northwest Coast Presbytery.



Evan D. Hansen
from First Presbyterian in Pendleton, Oregon, and the
Presbytery of Eastern Oregon.



Andrew C. Lewis
from First Presbyterian Church in Snohomish,
Washington, and the Northwest Coast Presbytery.



Katheryn A. McGinnis
from First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, North
Carolina, and Western North Carolina Presbytery.



Molly J. Ramsey
from Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village,
Kansas, and Heartland Presbytery.

San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Francisco, CA



Andrew P. Quick
from Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley,
California, and San Francisco Presbytery.

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA



Linda M. Kurtz
from Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke, Virginia,
and National Capital Presbytery.

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation's ongoing mission to support excellence in Christian leadership continues with scholarships that were awarded to ten students at Dubuque Theological Seminary pursuing CLP/CRE studies. The overall goal of the Christian Leadership (CLP/CRE) Program of UDTS is to strengthen the church through quality theological education for lay persons. While the courses offered are particularly designed for lay pastor candidates, they will serve the needs of all lay persons who are contributing their gifts to the ministry of their local church.

Congratulations to Dorothea McConnell, Douglas Chimanga, Jerald Buchenau, John Veach, Kathryn Rosen, Laurie Zickgraf, Moses Bilew, Rose Commodore, Thomas Devolld, and Tim Oster



Moses Bilew...I want to thank the Seminary Foundation so much for this gift. It will certainly help in my education expenses. I left from South Sudan during the war in 1986 for Ethiopia. Followed the Presbyterian Church and her guidance and came to the United States in 1998. I was first located in Texas and then moved to Nebraska in 2001. I joined the Presbyterian Church and am a leader of the Sundanese

congregation at Westminster Presbyterian church in Lincoln, NE. At the encouragement of Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, and the assistance of others in the congregation, I am now working on my CLP/CRE at Dubuque Seminary. *Christ's Blessings, Moses Bilew*



Kathryn Rosen...Thank you very much for the foundation scholarship check. It certainly was a surprise and an affirmation of the hard work that is put forward by the students (including myself!) at UDTS. Thank you again for your support. *With God's blessings, Kathryn Rosen*

Kathy Rosen is an elder at Delafield Presbyterian Church in Delafield, WI. A Presbyterian since 1994, Kathy is active in vocal choir, plays guitar during Sunday services, has directed the bell choir and children's choirs and been on the Committee on Ministry at the Presbytery of Milwaukee. Kathy provides pulpit supply twice a month to churches in pastoral transition in her Presbytery and is active with the Family Promise program of Waukesha County.



Teddie McConnell... I am honored to accept the scholarship you have so graciously offered toward my tuition as I work toward becoming a CLP. Dorothea means "gift of God" and Teddie means "lover of God",

so my name means a lot to me. I have a B.F.A. in Photography and have spent many years making memories for people. I also did graduate work to become an art teacher, which I did for almost eight years.. When I turned 60, I felt that God was calling me to some kind of more direct ministry and started the CLP program. In 2013, my husband was diagnosed with kidney cancer, and passed away in April of this year. I'm looking forward to seeing how God will use my varied background and life experiences to minister to His people.

Peace and Joy, Ms. Dorothea "Teddie" McConnell



My name is **Tim Oster**...I joined Bethany Presbyterian Church, Joplin, MO in about 1970, and have served as an ordained elder, and a former Clerk of Session. In August 2015 our part-time pastor retired and the Session asked me to take on the role of preaching and leading our weekly worship. Although I was, and still am a full time high school teacher, I really felt the authentic need of a small church for worship leadership, a church with limited financial resources. After a good deal of prayer, and with a certain amount of internal trembling, I accepted this responsibility and began preaching. By January of 2016 I had begun taking courses at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary to allow me to become as CLP/CRE. I am astounded to be blessed with this scholarship award, and I believe that the best response is to shout "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

May the peace of Christ be with you always, Tim Oster

Rose Commodore...With deep gratitude I am writing to thank the OPSF for my scholarship for my class at the University of Dubuque Iowa Theological Seminary. I was very excited to receive your letter as finances are very tight. I will be taking my 5th of 8 classes in the CRE/Lay pastor program this Fall and hope to graduate next year. For health reasons I moved to Deming, New Mexico, working security and serving as a volunteer chaplain at the local prison for 6 years. I also became an elder at the small, rural, First Presbyterian Church here in Deming, last year. Our pastor, a CRE, encouraged me to enter into the CRE program. I assisted him as needed, until he died in April of this year. Now I am preaching, leading worship every other week and conducting funerals. *Sincerely in Christ, M. Rose Commodore Donovan*

LifeLong Learning Events

The Omaha Presbyterian Foundation co-sponsors and supports many events throughout the year to help revitalize church leaders who can then work towards revitalization of church and congregations. Here are a few upcoming events. Check the Foundation website regularly for an event near you.

“Pastoral Leaders Retreat ~ Renewal in Worship”

Guest speaker **David Gambrell** ~ Associate for worship in Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Theology & Worship. He has served as advisor to the 2013 Glory to God hymnal committee, coordinated work on the 2017 revision to the Directory for Worship and co-edited (with Kimberly Bracken Long) the latest edition of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (WJK 2018)

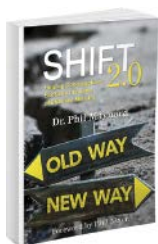


Sponsored by Indian Nations Presbytery & Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. Details and registration contact Tracy Evans at 405-626-7530 or tracylevans4@sbcglobal.net

SAVE THE DATES!

2019 SHIFT 2.0 Conference ~ Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry

May 20-22, 2019 St. Louis, Mo area at St. Charles, MO Embassy Suites Conference Center



Guest Speaker, **Phil Maynard**, has served as Director, Path 1 Coaching Network (Discipleship Ministries) Director, Excellence in Ministry Coaching (www.emc3coaching.com) and Director, Coach Training for Leaders (www.empowercoaches.com). Phil is a certified coach, an Endorsed coach (UMEA), a certified Conflict/Mediation Coach, and licensed trainer/facilitator. Phil is a graduate of Duke Divinity School (M.Div & Th.M); University of Kansas (M.S. Ed); and Drew (D.Min). He is a contributing author for the Transform One resource (ChurchSmart) and author of: “Discovering the Possibilities” and “SHIFT”, as well as several other books. Sponsored by Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. Details coming soon at www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org

Synod School 2019

July 21-26, 2019 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA



Convocation Speaker **Dr. Deirdre “Dede” Johnston**, professor of communication at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She conducts research in the area of global communication and cross-cultural happiness. She has also led the development of a peace and justice studies minor at the college, and was involved in curriculum development for women’s studies and American ethnic studies.

Worship Leader **The Rev. Shawna Bowman**, associate director of field education and experiential education at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Bowman is also an artist, pastor at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Chicago and a co-founder of Creation Lab, an art collective.

Sponsored by Synod of Lakes & Prairies and Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. Details at <https://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>

How Can You Help Open Doors to Brighter Futures?



Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation’s mission statement is to seek, develop and support excellence in Christian leadership through Presbyterian Church (USA). In an effort to fulfill that mission, the Foundation extends many financial assistance opportunities for both seminary students beginning their path to church leadership and clergy presently serving congregations and their communities. Every year the need becomes much greater than the Foundation budget is able to support.

Have you ever considered giving to the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation but felt you could not afford an amount that would make a difference? A monthly giving schedule may be right for you. By setting up a recurring gift to OPSF your donation will accumulate to help many future and current church leaders. See the examples below on how a small monthly gift can quickly grow to help those following God’s call.

Monthly Gift	Annual Gift	Program
\$35	\$420	Pastoral Spiritual Direction Grant
\$50	\$600	Pastoral Coaching Grant
\$100	\$1,200	Provides a Seminarian Textbooks
\$250	\$3000	Apollos Scholarship
\$300	\$3,600	Coach Training Scholarship
\$500	\$6,000	Apollos Named Scholarship



Extend your influence beyond your lifetime. Remember Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in your will.
 Help OPSF to continue the support of seminary students and christian leadership. The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation’s Federal Tax Identification Number is 47-0378999. All gifts made to the Foundation are tax deductible as followed by law. Please contact your financial advisor for specific information.



OPSF’s Lifelong Learning grant has been a great gift and has given us the opportunity to have speakers from around the country bring their knowledge to us in a beautiful setting. We are grateful, to be sure. -
Tracy L. Evans, Pastor, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma

Visit www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org to learn more about gifting options

Revitalization or Redevelopment...

(continued from page 1)

Redevelopment is an entirely different matter. Redevelopment can involve the sale of property and the repurposing of assets, both human and material. For example, a historic church might decide to sell its property and relocate to another site or close its doors entirely as part of a church merger.

Our foundation has developed some expertise in church revitalization which we are building upon for the future benefit of those who serve in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are very encouraged about the potential for revitalization in our churches and for the leaders of congregations.

We are not, however, focusing on church redevelopment. That work involves a specialized set of resources that other institutions, such as the Presbyterian Foundation, and church consultants, are prepared to offer.

When you think of church revitalization, we hope that OPSF will come readily to mind. We look forward to continuing to serve with you in this way for years to come.



Revitalize with Social Media

Condensed from

<https://prochurchtools.com/ultimate-social-media-strategy/>

Your community is longing for hope, purpose, and belonging – your church can offer that. Social media plays a central role in how we communicate, and it's only becoming more widely used and more pervasive.

What's The Point?

- It engages your congregation
- It reaches out to new people

Following are five pillars that are the foundation for all social media choices. These are the philosophies that should guide your social media decisions. And if you use them appropriately, they'll set you up for success.

1. Don't Do It All

You're a smaller church with limited resources. The worst thing you can do is go out and sign up for five new social media accounts. Be very conscious of this and intentionally target your efforts. Start with only one or two social media accounts, maybe Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Of those three, Facebook is still the biggest player in social media and more of your church will be on Facebook than anywhere else, so a great starting place.

2. Be Yourself

Your social media personality needs to be an accurate reflection of your church. By having a presence on social media, people will begin to get a feel for who you are based on your posts and interactions. Over time they may even make a decision to check out your church. If your church doesn't have awesome music, don't say it does. Just be yourself. Social media offers real interaction, but it only works if your church is honest and real. Don't downplay your weaknesses and don't overplay your strengths. Just be yourself.

3. Listen

The biggest benefit social media will bring to your church is the opportunity to listen. Be sure to follow other churches, presbyteries, foundations, etc to see what else is happening. Just like in real life, people are prone to speak more than they listen. It's important to focus most of your efforts on listening to what others are saying. Once you know what people are saying, you'll be able to respond in a way that is helpful to them. But it all starts with intentional listening.

4. Give Value

It's important that you don't flood people's timelines with your events and how awesome your church is. Listen to what people are saying, learn about people and understand them, then post things that will be useful to them. Post articles that touch on an issue you've been sharing at church, post helpful reminders, and post funny stuff once in a while that will give people a good clean laugh. Choose to be the church that isn't always talking about themselves. Be the church that cares for others.

5. Repeat

Don't expect a really fast turnaround. Just work at it, be persistent and most of all be consistent. It won't happen overnight, but the worst thing you can do is to start, and then quit because everything didn't happen at once.

Remember that social media isn't a fad – it's here to stay. It will play a central role in your church's communication for years to come.



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THE FOUNDATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP

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www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS...SAVE THE DATE

PASTORS' SCHOOL NEW SEASON...NEW LOCATION



Plan now to renew, refresh and revitalize at scenic Lake Okoboji

Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. McFayden serves as Academic Dean of the Richmond Campus and Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary. In addition to his teaching and administrative roles, Dr. McFayden has authored several books including "Strategic Leadership for a Change: Facing Our Losses, Finding Our Future" as well as sharing his expertise on leadership and change with clergy and lay professionals in the theory and practice of leadership, and in team development, strategic planning, and conflict management. He is an ordained minister in the PC(USA).

Learn more at www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org and take a minute to read the testimonials of 2018 school participants and check out the photos.

Pastors' School ~ May 13-16, 2019 ~

NEW Location... Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, IA For more information go to www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org
This event is co-sponsored by Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation and Quad Presbyteries.