

# The Homesteader



A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

August 28, 2012 Issue

Dear Kris

Welcome to the The Homesteader!

**[Homesteader Print Version](#)**

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.

## **It was wild. It was chaotic. It was wonderful!**

by the Rev. Steven "Neal" Allen United Presbyterian Church  
North Bend, Nebraska

Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), completed its biennial meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My wife, Cathy, was a commissioner, and I went as her chauffeur, and an observer of the meeting. I was asked what as an observer I had observed. First there were over two thousand commissioners, plus as many observers. Many others were there as volunteers to help us get from one place to another. There were exhibitors from groups such as free-trade coffee, handmade garments from Latin America, Vietnam and Africa, and many more. There were also reps from denominational affiliations. We got free tee-shirts, buttons, glasses cleaners, scarves, and reduced prices on bags, jewelry, books, and other vendors, of course, wanting our email address. People representing a variety of foreign countries were also there to partake in the festivities.

It was wild. It was chaotic. It was wonderful!

One of the things I observed took place when the issues were voted on. Minor changes such as substituting one motion for another only required a simple majority, 51%, in order to pass. But, for major motions a two-thirds vote was required to pass. Many times when the votes on recommendations were taken, I observed an interesting reality concerning our denomination. Often the votes were nearly split down the middle, thus sending the recommendation back to committee for further debate and compromise. The result was then returned to the floor and once again debated and voted upon. This sometimes took many such negotiations, until a majority could agree. Some argued on the floor of the assembly that this clearly demonstrated how divided our church is.

But, one speaker turned that concept around and pointed out that instead of being divided, such negotiations clearly shows how balanced we are on many, many issues. There is no one group who can claim to speak for the majority of the church members. In other words being so completely balanced requires that we must find a way to live together, putting aside our own particular agendas and seeking, in the case of the church, the will of our Father. Now isn't that interesting.

Another interesting observation was an article in one of the Pittsburgh papers. They reported that in a survey conducted by the Pugh organization it was discovered that of the total of adults surveyed 47% thought that our national government was too involved in the lives of the citizens, while 49% felt that the government should be doing more. Now that's interesting! Divided or balanced?



## **[Friendly](#)**

**[PresbyterianChurches.org](#)**

Awesome resources to assist congregations with the upcoming special campaign and to help with Hospitality and ministry outreach ideas.

Check it out today!

[30 Second TV Spot](#)

[30 Second Radio Spot](#)

## **[OWLS Celebration](#)**

Older, Wiser, Livlier Saints  
September 18 - 19

## **[FALL 2012 Homestead Presbytery Session](#)**

**[Records Review Schedule](#)**

**[Saturday, September 8](#)**

9:30 am

@ LNK Good Shepherd

2 pm @ Tecumseh

**[Saturday, October 6](#)**

9:30am @ North Bend

2 pm @ Wayne

**[Saturday, November 3](#)**

2:00 pm @ Beatrice

## **[Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#)**

**[July16-20, 2013](#)**

high school age youth  
(Fall 2013 freshman thru  
graduating spring of 2013)

Cost: \$469.00 per person

Homestead Presbytery  
covers transportation costs

Registration

January 31- May 31, 2013

I like the balanced approach. The founders of our nation gathered representatives from 13 colonies to form a more perfect union. It took weeks to put together the Declaration of Independence, but they worked, compromised, negotiated, debated, and finally came together in purpose and plan. They would need that for it cost each signer dearly. They really did need each other. We really do need each other today as well.

According to the New Testament Jesus chose to live a balanced life - a life of total dedication to the one he called Father, and the one he tells us to call "our Father." Our Father, not mine, not yours, but ours. That means we have to find a way to live together, whether in society or in the church, to address the issues we face, even if it means we have to set aside our own personal agendas and seek what is best for others, especially the vulnerable, the weak, the widows and orphans, and the poor in our society. Just like Jesus. He healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and set the prisoners free. To do less is to continue to live in a divided society and a divided church. What shall we choose?

#### **FYI From HomesteadPresbytery Stated Clerk, Ray Meester**

The Proposed Amendments to the Constitution, Parts 1 and 2, have been posted to the internet. Links to both parts can be found at

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/communication-development-and-technology/constitution/#amend>.



#### **UKIRK - UNIVERSITY CHURCH - IS NEW DIRECTION FOR COLLEGIATE**

**MINISTRIES: UKIRK** - which stands for University Church - was introduced at the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a new direction for collegiate ministries. The UKIRK video played to a standing-room only luncheon at General Assembly. There's more information at "[UKIRK](#)."

**WANTED:** If your congregation has college age youth attending school within Homestead Presbytery, please send their name and contact info, and home church to Kris Peterson. ([kris@homesteadpres.org](mailto:kris@homesteadpres.org)) She will forward their info to the Presbyterian churches in their area so they can be contacted about worshipping, Bible study and fellowship opportunities.

**RESEARCH SHOWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES SMALLER, OLDER:** Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations on average are smaller and have older, better-educated, and less theologically conservative participants than U.S. congregations as a whole, according to the recently released 2010 Faith Communities Today survey. PC(USA) congregations also have better-educated pastors and relatively more women pastors than U.S. congregations overall, the study of 12,000 congregations, including 700 PC(USA) churches, revealed. The complete Presbyterian News Service story is at "[Research](#)."

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry - Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!

Please submit articles to [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org)  
or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

#### **Contact Information**

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson

[Forward this email](#)

Currently looking for  
Group Leaders.  
Registrar: Rev. Cathy Allen  
[tworevs52@yahoo.com](mailto:tworevs52@yahoo.com)  
or 402-892-3362

[Homestead Presbyterian  
Women Reading List  
2012-2013](#)

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[Synod of Lakes & Prairies](#)

[Running Notes](#)

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Presbytery  
2012 Statistics/Info](#)

The scoop on [Per Capita](#)



[Calvin Crest Camp &  
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