


[Mission Yearbook of Prayer](#)
[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](#)
[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)
[Synod of Lakes and Prairies](#)
[Homestead Presbytery](#)
[I Love my Presbyterian Church](#)
[Calvin Crest Camp & Conference Center](#)
[Find us on Facebook](#)
[Scotland Pilgrimage 2016](#)

Homesteader - March 24, 2015

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: Ordination

In the presbytery in which I serve, several new faith groups are emerging. One is led by a teaching elder who was ordained to serve her group while it was still being formed. Another is becoming a commissioned ruling elder (CRE) in order to be his community's pastor. As a former member of the presbytery's committee on ministry, this has gotten me thinking about the purpose and origin of ordination.

Presbyterians have understood ordination to be like a three-legged stool. First, the call comes from God; second, the individual hears that call; and third, a definable church group sees in the individual ministerial potential. In the case of deacons and ruling elders, that community is represented by church nominating committees, sessions, and the congregations who elect them. In the case of teaching elders, the call-discerning body begins with the session of the congregation of membership and, in most cases, eventually carries over to the preparation for ministry process and a pastor nominating committee (PNC), along with a presbytery entity, usually a commission on ministry, who examines both the individual and the PNC before confirming their decisions. "Ordination to the ordered ministry of teaching elder is an act of the whole church carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to ordered ministry" (Book of Order, G-2.0701).

Within our denomination's governance, the ministries and ordination of teaching elder, deacon, and ruling elder share the same level of value. According to the Book of Order (G-2.0101), the "basic form of ministry is the ministry of the whole people of God, from whose midst some are called

NATIONAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The National Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will take place this summer, June 18-21, in Minneapolis. The theme of the Gathering is "One Body, One Spirit," based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. As always, workshops, plenary sessions, worship, mission opportunities and all Gathering programming will explore the theme in the context of a diverse, faithful sisterhood. Details and registration material can be found at ["National Gathering."](#)



SYNOD SCHOOL

It's that time of year when Synod School dominates as the lead story in Keeping in Touch.



Registration is underway - and it can be completed electronically - everything that is except paying. The complete Synod School catalog, including information about the midsummer ministry's 70 classes, and everything necessary for registration can be [found right here.](#)

Theresa Cho, co-pastor St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, and prolific writer and speaker, is this year's convocation speaker. Classes include everything from "Religion in the 'Game of Thrones'" to "God and Young Adult Fiction" to "Knitting Socks Using the Magic Loop Method." Synod School runs Sunday through Friday, July 26-31, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Everything - yes, everything - is at ["Synod School."](#)

to ordered ministries, to fulfill particular functions. Members and those in ordered ministries serve together under the mandate of Christ."

Within the real world, however, ranking tends to occur. Too many people think that clout comes from being "ordained to be a minister." "Anybody can be an elder," they think (and misspeak). "I want to be recognized as a minister of Word and Sacrament, as a teaching elder. Then people will respect me." In the first place, one interested in clout has no business seeking any ordered ministry. Secondly, in a perfect world, the ministry of ruling elder should command as much respect-in some cases more-as that of a teaching elder.

The church doesn't exist in order to ordain people. The church ordains people (to the three ordered ministries) that it needs in order to carry out its mission. There are no magical powers granted through ordination. "In ordination the church sets apart with prayer and the laying on of hands those who have been called through election by the church to serve as deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders (Book of Order, W-4.4001a).

Office of the General Assembly PC(USA)

SYNOD SUPPORTS ECUMENICAL MEDIA CENTERS

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies provides financial support to ecumenical media resource centers in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota. In Nebraska the synod provides support to the [Great Plains Resource Center in Lincoln](#); in Iowa support goes to [Iowa Religious Media Services in Urbandale](#); and in Minnesota it's the [Resource Center for Churches in Minneapolis](#). Following the recent IRMS annual meeting, Sharon Strohmaier, the center's executive director, spoke about what the center offers to its supporting faith communities. That podcast can be found at ["Providing Resources."](#)



Blessing Opportunity 2 Corinthians 9:7-8



GIVE..Water Catchment. \$75 helps third-world communities collect usable water for irrigation and washing. Presbyterian Mission Agency [OG10009](#)

Keep Thinking...

Don't blame others for your situation. Look to your past to find what led you to where you are. - Anonymous

Forward this email



This email was sent to krisp@homesteadpres.org by hpooffice@homesteadpres.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Homestead Presbytery | 8300 East Pointe Road | Lincoln | NE | 68506