

One Hundred Eightieth Stated Meeting of Homestead Presbytery

November 21, 2019

Moderator —Jeff Warrick

United Presbyterian Church

Laurel, Nebraska

CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Warrick, moderator, called the regular meeting of Homestead Presbytery to order at 10:07 a.m., opening the meeting with prayer. The moderator and the stated clerk were present.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by online and written registration and showed the following members present or excused with cause: (Attendance Key: A, Absent; P, Present; E, Excused; R, Retired; M, Military Service; VM, Validated Ministry)

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (TEACHING ELDERS)

P — Jon Ashley	P — Douglas Hileman	E — Paleak, Jock Tut
R/P — Sue Babovec	P — Kristine Hileman	P — Steve Piper
P — Teresa Bartlett	P — Michael Hill	P — Charity Potter
E — Darin Bentzinger	A — Kara Hillhouse	A — Val Putnam
R/E — Steve Breazier	P — Jeff Hopson	R/E — Harold Rainey
E — Alan Brehm	P — Jane Holtzclaw	R/E — Rebecca Rising
R/E — Stephen J. Brownlee	M/E — Dennis E. Hysom	R/E — Keith Roupf
R/E — Ronald L. Bump	R/E — Robert W. Jeamy	R/E — Jimmy L. Shelbourn
R/E — Robert Burdett	P — Brian Johnson	R/E — Robert Snell
P — Sue Collier	P — Melodie Jones Pointon	R/P — Jim Splitt
R/E — Gail Cross	R/E — Burton A. Knudsen	P — Kathleen Splitt
R/E — Ellen Davis	P — Jounghnam Lee	R/E — Don R. Steiner
R/E — Lynn Davis	A — Sungjae Lee	R/E — Roxie Sullivan
R/E — Noel DeKalb	E — Leanne Masters	R/E — Gary A. Thomson
R/P — John Duling	R/E — Timothy McClain	R/E — Richard Tiggelaar
P — Thomas Dummermuth	R/E — Nancy McCurley	R/E — Nanette Tomlinson—
P — Stephen Earl	E — James K. McNeal	Knoell
E — Michael Eickhoff	R/P — Raymond Meester	R/E — Earl Underwood Jr.
A — Stephanie Ells	E — Karen Moritz	P — Jeff Warrick
R/E — Lonnie Eschliman	R/E — Juventino Naranjo	P — Duane Westing
VM/P — Carl Eskridge	R/E — Gail M. Neal	R/E — Arlys Wilbur
A — Joel Gajardo	P — Steven Niles	P — Zac Wolfe
E — Sarah Gengler	E — Jon Noble	R/E — Richard Wyatt
R/E — James Goble	R/E — Tom Osborne	E — Seung Edward Yang
R/E — Dennis Hett		

Temporary Members

E — Martha Atkins (ELCA)

P — Owen Derrick (Church of Scotland)

E — Greg Gahan (Evangelical Free)

E — Mary Avidano (UCC)

P — Heidi Wallace (ELCA)

OFFICERS, COUNCIL, AND STAFF

Moderator	P — Jeff Warrick (Continuing Member)
Vice Moderator/Moderator of Council	E — Wendy Wait
Stated Clerk	P — Raymond Meester (Continuing Member)
Interim Executive Presbyter	P — Stephen Earl (Continuing Member)
Treasurer	E — Cheryl Rennick
Moderator, Committee on Ministry	P — Steve Piper (Continuing Member)
Moderator, Nominating Committee	E — James McNeal (Continuing Member)
Co-Moderator, Committee on Preparation	P — Brian Johnson (Continuing Member)
Co-Moderator, Committee on Preparation	P — Kathleen Splitt (Continuing Member)
Moderator, Business and Finance	P — Scott Eveland
Moderator, Program and Grants	E — James McNeal (Continuing Member)
Moderator, Personnel	P — Carl Eskridge (Continuing Member)
Moderator, Presbyterian Women	A — Terri Sherman
Moderator, Committee on New Worshiping Communities and Church Redevelopment	P — John Duling (Continuing Member)
Member at Large of Council	E — Joan Berglund
Member at Large of Council	P — David Barnhouse
Member at Large of Council	E — Julie Hopp

QUORUM

A quorum was declared.

DOCKET

The docket for the meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

There were no corresponding members.

INTRODUCTIONS

Joungman Lee, temporary supply pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, and Owen Derrick, temporary supply pastor of Tekamah, were introduced as new pastors. Elder commissioners attending a presbytery meeting for the first time, were introduced.

WELCOME

Kathleen Splitt, pastor of the Laurel United Presbyterian Church, welcomed the presbytery.

WORSHIP

The presbytery entered into worship. Jeff Warrick and Kathleen Splitt officiated at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The offering received, \$407, was for the Presbytery's disaster relief ministry.

Presbytery recessed for a short break.

The moderator called the meeting back to order.

STAFF AND OFFICERS

Jeff Warrick thanked the presbytery for the honor of being the presbytery moderator in 2019.

Stephen Earl, Interim Executive Presbyter reported.

Raymond Meester, stated clerk reported that the council changed the meeting date for the August, 2020 joint presbytery meeting with the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. The new date will be August 14 and 15, 2020, at Calvin Crest Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center, Fremont, Nebraska.

The minutes of the August 16 and 17, 2019 presbytery minutes were approved by the Council at its October 24, 2019 meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Scott Eveland reported. The financial reports were included in the packet and are on the presbytery website. The audit for 2019 is in process.

PERSONNEL

Carl Eskridge reported.

The motion was adopted to establish a “centralized” Presbytery office at First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE, that includes: negotiating a common agreement with First, Lincoln for the use of space and facilities; posted and adhered to office hours; exploring the better use of technology (phones, internet, virtual committee and group meetings) to serve the needs of the Presbytery; and building capacity for more effective communication and systems to connect congregations, new worshiping communities, pastors, leaders, and members of the Presbytery with each other and the wider church.

The motion was adopted to approve the terms of call for Stephen Earl, Interim Executive Presbyter, for 2020:

Salary	\$45,000.00
Housing	\$25,000.00
Board of Pensions	\$27,881.35
Professional and Travel Expense	\$9,000.00
Continuing Education	\$3,000.00
Employer Share 403(b)	\$2,400.00
SECA	\$5,355.00
Total Interim Exe. Presbyter	\$117,636.35

INFORMATION SHARING

Audrey Richert reported on the work the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation and Craig Huffman shared information about Calvin Crest Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center.

COUNCIL

On behalf of the Council, David Barnhouse nominated to the Nominating Committee:

Bill Janike, Elder, Lincoln, First; Class of 2022, first term

Teresa Bartlett, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Wayne; Class of 2022, first term

Michael Hill, Moderator

After an opportunity was given for nominations from the floor, the nominees were elected.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Steve Piper reported the following actions taken by the COM on behalf of the Presbytery:

1. The minimum total annual effective salary for ministers according to HP policy is 80% of the Board of Pensions denominational median salary. In 2020, the Board of Pensions denominational median salary will be \$60,800. Therefore, the HP minimum effective salary in 2020 will be \$48,640.
2. The minimum total annual effective salary for certified Christian Educators and certified associate Christian Educators according to HP policy is 50% of the Board of Pensions denominational median salary. In 2020, the Board of Pensions denominational median salary will be \$60,800. Therefore, the HP minimum effective salary in 2020 will be \$30,400.
3. The Rev. Owen Derrick, a member of the Church of Scotland, was examined on July 31, 2019, for temporary membership in the presbytery. The examination was sustained.
4. The Rev. Joungnam Lee, a member of the Presbytery of Lake Huron, and stated supply for Lincoln Korean, was examined on September 19, 2019, for membership in the presbytery. The examination was sustained.
5. The Rev. Duncan Nicol's request to be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Hudson River was approved effective September 19, 2019.
6. The Rev. Annika Lister Stroope's request to be dismissed to Des Moines Presbytery was approved effective September 19, 2019.
7. The Lincoln Westminster ministry information form (MIF) seeking a head of staff was approved.
8. The updated version of the stated supply contract between the Rev. Owen Derrick and the session of Tekamah First was approved. We also discussed that he may eventually be eligible to transfer into the PCUSA. According to the Office of General Assembly, as a minister in another Reformed denomination, Rev. Derrick would be eligible to transfer from the Church of Scotland into PCUSA without taking ordination exams if he had served 5 years in the Church of Scotland and if presbytery chooses to exempt him from some or all of the exams. At present he has about 3 1/2 years in the Church of Scotland. He has checked to make sure he would remain in good standing in the Church of Scotland while serving Tekamah First. So conceptually he could complete his 5 years in the Church of Scotland while serving Tekamah First and thereby become eligible to transfer into PCUSA provided he, Tekamah First, and presbytery all agree. If Rev. Derrick is eventually approved to transfer into the PCUSA and if he continues to serve Tekamah First and if Tekamah First wants to change his status from stated supply to installed pastor, presbytery would have to approve an exception to the policy that prohibits stated supply ministers from being considered as candidates for installed pastor in the same church.
9. The stated supply contract between the Rev. Joungnam Lee and the session of Lincoln Korean was approved.
10. The first meeting with the Rev. Richard Wyatt regarding the alternate form of resolution (AFR) dated December 11, 2018, was to have been during the regular meeting of COM on September 19, 2019. He developed a conflict and could not attend. He submitted a written report which was reviewed and forwarded to the state clerk for record keeping purposes.
11. The committee approved the recommendation for the formation of an Administrative Commission for the purpose of dissolving Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, NE.

12. The following were approved by COM via e-mail:
 - a. Approved on August 4, 2019, the first version of the stated supply contract between the Rev. Owen Derrick and the session of Tekamah First.
 - b. Approved on September 12, 2019, the Lincoln Westminster mission study.
 - c. Approved on September 27, 2019, the updated commissioned pastor contract between CP/CRE Steve Pointon and Lincoln Fourth.
 - d. Approved on October 1, 2019, the Lincoln Heritage mission study.
 - e. Approved on October 29, 2019, the request of the Rev. Steve Earl to use COM funds to defray pulpit supply costs for the congregations with pastor participants in the Pastoral Revitalization Program for the retreat they attended in October 2019. The participants were Karen Moritz, Zac Wolfe, Michael Hill, Sarah Gengler, Edward Yang, and Teresa Bartlett.

Presbytery adopted the following motion:

1. Whereas Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, has served faithfully in ministry and mission since _____*;
2. Whereas the members, elders, pastors, commissioned ruling elders, and other leaders of Faith United PC, Walthill, over the last ____* years have used their gifts to proclaim the love and justice of Jesus Christ in their community, in Homestead Presbytery and its predecessors, and in the world;
3. Whereas the congregation has experienced over a number of years a decreasing and aging membership; we're informed by previous Presbytery leaders that the congregation had been closed but no official action had been taken; the congregation has not been worshipping regularly since October 11, 2015;
4. Whereas after much prayer the Session and congregation of Faith United PC, Walthill NE, have discerned that the most loving and faithful response to the call of Jesus Christ is to dissolve the congregation and transfer the remaining members to minister in other faith communities;
5. Whereas the Session at a stated meeting on October 6, 2019, and the congregation at a called meeting on November 3, 2019, voted to request that Faith United, 301 Farrington Ave Walthill, NE, be dissolved and that the property revert to Homestead Presbytery as of May 3, 2020; and
6. Whereas the Session and congregation of Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, further requests the Committee on Ministry of Homestead Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to support and aid in such dissolution:
7. Therefore, the Committee on Ministry recommends the appointment of an Administrative Commission consisting of the following persons:
 - a) Teresa Bartlett (MWS)
 - b) Scott Eveland (RE) - Business and Finance Representative, United, North Bend
 - c) Kristi Hill (RE) – COM Liaison, United, North Bend
 - d) Stephen Niles (MWS)
 - e) Tammy Peterson (RE) – Faith United, Walthill
 - f) Charity Potter (MWS) – Chair
 - g) Stephen Earl (MWS) – Staff Resource Personto guide and oversee the process of dissolving the congregation of Faith United

Presbyterian Church,

8. The Committee on Ministry also recommends the Administrative Commission be given the following authorities:
 - a) That Presbytery approve the dissolution of Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, and any Corporations, present and previous, associated with the congregation effective May 3, 2020;
 - b) That the Administrative Commission assist the Session to bring to conclusion the affairs of the church including the transfer of remaining members and a plan to honor the gifts, faithfulness, and memories of its members, giving thanks to God for the ministry of Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill;
 - c) Authorize the Administrative Commission to receive and retain all congregational and Session minutes and records to deposit with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery who will forward them on to the Department of History, Office of the General Assembly, of the Presbyterian Church (USA);
 - d) Authorize the Administrative Commission in coordination with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to grant letters of dismissal to members whose names remain on the rolls for up to one year from the effective date of dismissal;
 - e) That the Administrative Commission of Homestead Presbytery, appointed November 21, 2019, per the PCUSA Book of Order, Chapter IV, Section 02 (G-4.0203 and G-4.0205) be authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and all other assets, and arrange for the transfer of title to the Presbytery all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of Faith United Presbyterian Church;
 - f) Authorize the Administrative Commission to consult with the Session regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill. The Administrative Commission shall recommend to Presbytery at its stated meeting on May 21, 2020, the approval of the disposition of all property and assets including arrangements for their retention and storage for future use at the direction of the Presbytery;
 - g) Authorize the Administrative Commission in coordination with Homestead Presbytery's Disaster Response Committee to determine the repairs and replacements needed for the church's basement damaged by the floods of March 2019;
 - h) Authorize the Administrative Commission to assert the claim of the Presbytery to any property of Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, not known at this time or property which may come to Faith United Presbyterian Church, Walthill, as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time; and
 - i) That the final report of the Administrative Commission be presented to the May 21, 2020, stated meeting of Presbytery and that all minutes of its meeting be entered into the minutes of the Presbytery by the Stated Clerk.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

On November 5, 2019, the committee met with Steve Pointon. Mr. Pointon informed the committee that he will discontinue as an inquirer. The committee met with Moses Bilew and agreed to his beginning the process of becoming a commissioned pastor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Michael Hill resented the following slate of nominees for the various committees and offices of the Presbytery:

Calvin Crest Board:

Bob Leavitt (ruling elder, Lincoln Westminster) class of 2022, 1st term.

Permanent Judicial Commission (6 year term):

Jim Harder (ruling elder, Lincoln Southern Heights) class of 2025.

Carolyn Harp (ruling elder, Lincoln Westminster) class of 2025.

Steve Pointon (ruling elder, Lincoln Fourth) class of 2025.

General Assembly Commissioner:

Kristi Hill (ruling elder, North Bend) class of 2020.

Sue Coller (MWS, Lincoln First) class of 2020.

Marshall Severson (Panama) class of 2020 (YAAD).

Synod Commissioner:

Mike Hill (MWS, North Bend) class of 2022, 1st term.

Devon Nelson (ruling elder, Lincoln Westminster), class of 2020 (Youth Delegate, 1 year term).

Business & Finance Committee:

Dick James (ruling elder, Falls City) class of 2022, 2nd term.

Moderator, Scott Eveland

Committee on Ministry:

Suzanne Byler (ruling elder, Beatrice) class of 2022, 2nd term.

Alex Currie (ruling elder, Lincoln First) class of 2022, 2nd term.

John McPhail (ruling elder, Columbus) class of 2022, 1st term.

Linda Steele (ruling elder, Norfolk) class of 2022, 2nd term.

Sue Babovec (MWS, At Large) class of 2020, 1st term (partial).

Alan Brehm (MWS, Hickman) class of 2020, 3rd term (partial).

Karen Moritz (MWS, At Large) class of 2022, 2nd term.

Moderator, Kristi Hill

New Worshiping Communities:

Doris Martin (ruling elder, Beatrice) class of 2022, 1st term.

Carla Patterson (ruling elder, Auburn) class of 2022, 1st term.

Zac Wolfe (MWS, Beatrice) class of 2022, 1st term.

Moderator, Zac Wolfe

Personnel Committee:

Melodie Jones Pointon (MWS, Lincoln Eastridge) class of 2022, 2nd term..

Moderator, Carl Eskridge

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Kris Alder-Brammer (ruling elder, Lincoln First) class of 2022, 1st term.

Kristine Hileman (MWS, Fairbury) class of 2022, 2nd term.

Jane Holtzclaw (MWS, Lincoln First) class of 2020, 1st term.

Steve Piper (MWS, Palmyra) class of 2022, 1st term.

Co-Moderator, Kathleen Splitt
Co-Moderator, Brian Johnson

Program-Grant Committee:

Kris Bubba Brammer (ruling elder, Lincoln First) class of 2022, 2nd term
Connie Rucker (ruling elder, Lincoln Southern 322) class of 2022, 1st term.
Moderator, Jim McNeal

Disaster Response Committee:

Suzanne Byler (ruling elder, Beatrice) class of 2021, 1st term.
Marcia Fouraker (ruling elder, Fremont) class of 2020, 1st term.
Diane Frydendall-Smith (ruling elder, Lincoln First) class of 2020, 1st term.
Gary Haller (ruling elder, Lincoln, Westminster) class of 2022, 1st term.
Suzie Harder (ruling elder, Lincoln Southern Heights, class of 2021, 1st term.
Beth Languis (ruling elder, Lincoln Good Shepherd) class of 2022, 1st term.
Tammy Rikli (ruling elder, Lincoln Good Shepherd) class of 2022, 1st term.
Art Sorensen (member, Fremont) class of 2022, 1st term.
Vicki Sorensen (ruling elder, Fremont) class of 2021, 1st term.
Judd Stewart (ruling elder, Fairbury) class of 2020, 1st term.
Mary Wallen (ruling elder, Palmyra) class of 2020, 1st term.
Sue Babovec (MWS, At Large) class of 2021, 1st term.
Moderator, Gary Haller

Council at Large:

Steve Pointon (ruling elder, Lincoln Fourth) class of 2022, 1st term.

Council Moderator for 2020:

Sue Coller (MWS, Lincoln First)

Presbytery Moderator for 2020:

Wendy Wait (ruling elder, Gresham).

Following an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the nominees were duly elected.

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:16 pm.

Presbytery convened at 1:17 pm.

CELEBRATIONS

It was announced that James McNeal was selected for the Robert Giles Homesteader Award for 2019. He was not present at the meeting, but received the award earlier at the Wymore Church. Pastors were recognized for their ordination anniversaries. First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice, First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, First Presbyterian Church, Schuyler, and First Presbyterian Church Tekamah, were recognized for 150 year anniversaries.

PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

The following grants were validated and funded for the year 2020:

1. National Youth Mission M&M, moderated by Chris Hansen in the amount of \$4,000;
2. Social Justice Advocacy M&M, moderated by Nancy Field, in the amount of \$2,000;

3. Congregational & Leadership Development, (CLD) M&M, moderated by Jim McNeal, in the amount of \$5,000.

Nancy field reported on the work of the Social Justice Advocacy M&M.

The motion was adopted that presbytery encourage all churches to become Matthew 25 churches.

NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES

John Duling reported that Contemplate decided not to be a New Worshiping Community and the \$7,500 seed grant they received from General Assembly will be returned. Coop 513 decided to end as a New Worshiping Community at the end of October, 2019. The Committee received a \$10,000 grant from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation for church vitality training.

PRESBYTERY DIASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Gary Haller reported. Attached (See Attachment A) is a description of the team's work.

There being no new business, and following announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m., with prayer by Jeff Warrick.

<p>Nest Stated Meeting One Hundred Eighty First February 15, 2020, 10:00 am First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska</p>
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Attachment A

Homestead Presbytery Disaster Response Team

This Team will serve Homestead Presbytery in continually encouraging the Presbytery, congregations and individuals to be prepared for any disaster **PRIOR** to the disaster occurring AND to have an organized response plan in place to act **AFTER** a disaster.

Embracing Galatians 6:2 (“Carry one another’s burdens and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ”) and Hebrews 13:16 (“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased) as our guide, this Team seeks to serve – by action and by word – others and ourselves, especially in times of sudden, unexpected need.

This Team will be composed of at least twelve (12) individuals from across the Presbytery – gathered and recruited based on their interests and/or expertise for the many talents needed for this Team to fulfill the above described purpose. The Team will be divided into three-year classes on a rotating basis to ensure continuity and experience on the Team. The members will serve based on interest and expertise, not necessarily divided into male/female – clergy/laity. Current Team members will share names with the Nominating Committee of individuals expressing interest in serving on this Team. Team members can serve up to six years consecutively on this Team prior to having at least one year off. Additional members can be co-opted to the Team as needed.

Many meetings will be conducted by ZOOM or other electronic means to conserve time, dollars

and energy - serving as an example of being prepared without undue energy expenditure. In similar manner, the Team may gather as subgroups without all members of the Team being present for every meeting as needs and work dictate and direct.

This Team will:

- create a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Plan for Homestead Presbytery and create plans to be reviewed (and, if needed, revised) annually. Eventually this Disaster Preparedness Plan for the Presbytery will be available for review and use on the presbytery website. (This Disaster Preparedness Plan will be presented to the Presbytery when completed for approval and annual reports will be presented after the initial approval)
- offer resources and/or training AND encouragement to every congregation in the Presbytery to create (and then review annually) a Disaster Preparedness Plan unique to their congregation, membership and location. Each congregation will be encouraged to share such a Disaster Preparedness Plan with the Presbytery Office (electronically and easily retrieved as needed by Presbytery leadership in case of a disaster)
- maintain good communication with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA); notify the presbytery of ongoing disaster response offering options; and maintain an accurate response plan for communicating with PDA should a disaster occur within the boundaries of Homestead Presbytery – including a clear understanding (in writing) of the grant options (and procedures for applying for such grants)
- serve as “a Presbyterian presence” on any Long Term Recovery Teams (LTRG) established within Homestead Presbytery that might eventually receive PDA dollars for establishing such LTRG or for rebuilding purposes after a disaster
- make use of social media (including but not limited to the Presbytery email list) to inform members of the Presbytery of disaster updates within Homestead Presbytery; keep such disasters in the news for prayer, offerings and work; clean-up or construction work (day or longer) options in the presbytery; emergency needs; celebrations of work completed and lives restored to “new normal”; and other news as it develops
- seek and explore options to work with neighboring Presbyteries for the mutual good of all involved
- educate and orient new clergy coming into Homestead Presbytery that they might be aware of the Disaster Response Team AND of resources available
- help (as needed and available) host, oversee and/or assist with groups coming from outside the Presbytery to work and help after a disaster within the Presbytery
- organize, co-ordinate and publicize work day options within the Presbytery
- connect with and maintain pastoral care to clergy and/or clergy spouse who are retired and on the roll of Homestead Presbytery – creating and offering options for them to connect with one another and the active members of the Presbytery
- establish and maintain an electronic prayer chain – creating guidelines of how information is transmitted to and from the prayer chain to the Presbytery
- provide an Emergency Mental Health resource response person – making use of trained personnel within the Presbytery who are willing to serve in this capacity if called upon
- annually offer (at various locations) resources and idea sharing for individuals and their families to create their own personal disaster preparedness plan
- periodically share appropriate worship resources and liturgy to the churches of Homestead Presbytery for use in their weekly worship