



Motion Sheet

COM Motion#1

Subject: Committee on Ministry

Date: March 29, 2019

Recommendation: That the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Annika Lister-Stroop and Columbus Federated Church be dissolved effective March 15, 2019.

Background: The Rev. Lister-Stroop communicated her decision to resign to the Federated governing council on February 11. The congregation voted on a motion to dissolve the pastoral relationship at their annual meeting on February 24. They voted not to concur with her request to dissolve the relationship.

The governing council recommended a severance package consisting of 4 months of salary and benefits. The Rev. Lister-Stroop did not request severance. Since this is a voluntary termination, our policy does not require severance. At their annual meeting, the congregation voted to approve the severance package.

Because the congregation voted not to recommend dissolution, presbytery must provide the congregation's representative the opportunity to give reasons why the presbytery should not dissolve the pastoral relationship as required by G-2.0902 in the *Book of Order*.

Related Issues:



Motion Sheet

From: John Duling, Moderator

Date: Marc9 29, 2019

Recommendation: [wording of motion]

Presbytery approve the seed grant application to General Assembly for Contemplate, Lincoln.

Background: [information for explanation or need]

The Synod has signed off on the application and Homestead's Business and Finance Committee approved the application.

Related Issues: [if any]



**COMMITTEE ON
NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**

Date of Meeting: March 13, 2019

Reported by: John Duling, Moderator

SECTION A We meet to review the work of Coop 513 and Contemplate, Lincoln. Contemplate Lincoln is submitting a seed grant application to the General Assembly. It was shared that Westminster Presbyterian Church is working with Adam and Contemplate, Lincoln to help partner with that new worshipping community and guide them in the grant process.

It was expressed that there is still significant interest that the new worshipping community leaders be instructed and given authority to serve communion. This instruction would have to come through COM. Contact will be made with the chair of COM to act on that request.

Names are being submitted for those who would serve on the New Worshipping Community Committee: Pastor Val Putman, Interim at Westminster, Lincoln, Elders Kris Peterson and/or Brian Peterson, Pastor Zach Wolfe at Beatrice 1st Church

SECTION B: We approved the Contemplate, Lincoln seed grant application which will now be forwarded to Budget and Finance for their approval and then sent to Presbytery for their approval. A special called meeting of Presbytery is likely to act on this request and other business.

We voted to request that COM grant permission and provide instruction for Chris Hanson and Adam Luedke to serve the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action: ___#___

To approve the seed grant application from Contemplate Lincoln New Worshipping Community.

Office of Mission Program Grants, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/mission-program-grants/>
(888) 728-7228, Ext. 5230 / 5251 Fax: (502) 333-7251 Tim.Mccallister@pcusa.org,
Bill.Moore@pcusa.org

NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES SEED GRANT APPLICATION

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer.
(Acts 2:42, NIV)

Date Prepared 2/15/2019

New Worshiping Community (NWC) Name Contemplate Lincoln

Date Worshiping Community Began 08/07/2017

Worshiping Community Leader Adam Luedtke PhD

Address/City/State/Zip 135 North 31st Street Lincoln NE

E-mail Address Adam@contemplatelincoln.org Cell Phone Yes 402-219-1109

(May We Text You Concerning this Proposal?)

Web Site Address www.contemplatelincoln.org

Partner Congregation Westminster Presbyterian Lincoln Phone 402-475-6702
(If Applicable)

Address/City/State/Zip 2110Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502 PIN # _____

Contact Person Val Putnam E-mail Address val@westminsterlincoln.org

Contact Person's Cell Phone 605-521-0112 Position Sr. Pastor

Presbytery Responsible for & in which the NWC is Located Homestead Phone (402) 981-6073

Contact Person John Duling E-mail Address pastorjld@windstream.net

Synod Lakes and Prairie 651.357.1140

Contact Person _____ E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

All new congregations begin as new worshiping communities but not all new worshiping communities will become congregations. Therefore, new church developments and new worshiping communities should utilize this application.

New worshiping communities (NWC) may apply for a one-time Seed Grant of up to \$7,500. Matching funds are not required. Please see attached definition of a NWC. This application is available from the [Mission Program Grants Office website](#) and allows the writer to add typing space as needed.

Being the church in the 21st century requires faithful creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial leadership to reach new generations and populations. This grant is designed to encourage the birth of new worshiping communities through congregations and presbyteries rather than to fund the expansion or support of existing congregations or programs.

In all cases, applicants for a Seed Grant will have spent time in prayer, discernment and fact-finding regarding your call to address spiritual and/or physical needs in your communities and the resources necessary for your outreach. If the Holy Spirit is prompting your team to plant seeds, a NWC Seed Grant may help with initial steps toward that vision. If there is an expectation of applying for additional NWC grants, please use [Starting New Worshiping Communities](#) to assist with the discernment process.

Please answer the following questions.

1. Describe your discernment process.

The discernment process began during my dissertation process in 2016. My research consisted of learning about the needs and desires of Millennials and The Spiritual but not Religious. Why are they not participating in faith communities although research shows both populations desire spirituality and religious participation? I further explored how contemplative dimensions of the Christian faith would be attractive and life giving to the above populations. This led to several conclusions, mainly that a community focused on experiential and participatory elements of worship would be more attractive to the above populations. Following my graduation, I began a research project when I received a deep call. God was calling me to put into action the wisdom, knowledge, and gifts instilled in me. It was a Jonah moment where I was no longer able to sit on the sidelines as an observer. This began a yearlong journey of deep discernment and discovery through prayer and spiritual direction. I worked a 6-week daily program on vocation and began talking to my spiritual director and mentors. God's call became clearer and clearer. Culminating in a vision while on a long hike that engaged one of the vocation meditations. Then the movement of the Holy Spirit and synchronicity kicked in. We began to have weekly lectio meetings, a temporary space to hold activities opened up, and a small community formed. We then formed a board of directors in 2017 comprised of myself, 3 retired ministers, 1 attorney, and 1 expert in advertising, website design, and social networking. The board created a mission statement, initial programs, and oversees our budget and finance.

2. How does this ministry fit, or intend to fit, each part of the definition of a new worshipping community? Share some of your plans for how you intend to fit each bullet (disciple making, etc.) in the definition of a new worshipping community.

New

- *Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ:* Through outreach, service, and contemplative worship that is both experiential and participatory which research has shown to be important to millennials and SBNR individuals. Our community emphasizes giving voice to members of the community. We go by the motto to be "The Invitation". The invitation to worship, deep relationship, and awareness of God's grace and persistent love. We have several service programs to encourage members to respond to Christ's call to servitude. We build discipleship through community, workshops, worship, group meetings, and classes. While being spiritual in nature we are grounded in the ministry of Jesus Christ through Lectio Divina, Bible studies, small groups, book studies, and Christian contemplative prayer.
- *Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture:* Christian contemplation is both new and old. Historically grounded in the Christian tradition yet experiencing a rebirth in the Protestant tradition, Contemplation is reaching the weary, unchurched, as well as the churched in profound ways across the country. Millennials report in studies a deep desire to be listened to and to fully participate in both the work place and in their faith communities. Contemplation is literally deep listening. We invite our community to listen to the Holy Spirit and be heard through group participation. We begin with worship and learning to listen, which invites individuals into the ministry of Jesus Christ and theological study. This is different from other models that begin with theology to welcome individuals to the experience of God's love. More and more people are seeking the peace of Christ outside of the Christian tradition through yoga and meditation when in fact Christianity has its own forms of worship that invite us into deep relationship with God's grace and peace.

Worshipping

- *Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament:* We worship in order to open to the love and grace of God, becoming better listeners to the Holy Spirit and the Word. Through contemplative practice we become better servants, disciples, and neighbors by letting go and letting God transform our hearts, minds, and actions. We worship through prayer, service, gift giving, gratitude, and song.
- *Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world:* This community is Spirit formed and Spirit guided. The essence of our worship, which is contemplative prayer, is to be formed by Spirit. Leaning into the transforming power of God's grace and love leads to community engagement and the work of transforming the world.

Community

- *Practicing mutual care and accountability:* We have contemplative conversation groups where we practice deeply listening to each other and being heard. We have sharing time at the end of most of our groups. As opposed to large worship services small groups compose the majority of our ministry. We recently began a contemplative worship service on Wednesday evenings. We have a prayer request wall to share our blessings, concerns, and challenges. We pray those prayer request weekly. We have a ministry team that

checks on community members who have not attended Contemplate in a while. We also do hospital visits and have special prayer meetings for those about to have a surgery or other major life events.

- *Developing sustainability in leadership and finances:* We are in the process of developing leaders and working towards long term sustainability in finances. As a new community this is a work in progress. We have a ministry team that meets monthly to discuss programing, events, and the health of our ministry. Our board is working through a sustainability plan right now that should be completed early this year. It names our current obstacles, goals for the future, and objectives to meet those goals. As a board we organize and approve a budget for each year of operation. We also work closely with the NWC Committee of Homestead Presbytery. Leadership at Contemplate Lincoln participates in learning opportunities through 1001 NWC, St. Benedicts Retreat Center, and The Center for Action and Contemplation.

3. How are you supported by and accountable to your partner congregation, your presbytery, and/or synod? We have been working with the New Worshipping Community Committee of Homestead Presbytery since December of 2017. Our liaison from the committee, Rev John Duling, helps lead our worship service where he administers the sacrament of communion for our community. I have received advice from members of the GA about gift giving and fund raising. We also worked in communion with them to move through the process of officially becoming a new worshipping community. Other pastors from Homestead Presbytery attend services here at contemplate and assists us where and when able. Shawn Kang from 1001 NWC has also been a great resource for us. Whether meeting via zoom or coming to Lincoln to see Contemplate Lincoln and educating us on 1001 communities around the country. I also meet regularly with the leadership of the other new worshipping community in my area. The Director of Contemplate Lincoln is also a member of session at Westminster Presbyterian Church where Contemplate Lincoln reports back to the congregation and reviews financial statements.

We are accountable through reporting, presenting at Presbytery meetings, presenting at committee meetings, meetings with our liaison, and attending events from members of Presbytery.

4. How will you know if you are succeeding and how you will adapt if you are not? Vitality for us is determined by our ability to draw people into the life giving, lifesaving, and healing ministry of Jesus Christ through contemplative worship, community, and service. Participation is a key performance index. For us, this is better measured by weekly and monthly participation in groups as opposed to the attendance of a major weekly service. Community feedback is woven into the fabric of our groups and activities. Another index is gift giving. Are community members inspired to contribute to the community as God provides? As a new community we are always listening to the Holy Spirit and flexible in our activities and times of services. We are very much in the experimental birthing phase of this community. We have a few groups that are working very well but others are testing the waters. Our focus is to be a place where Jesus Christ's life-giving ministry touches hearts and minds. We adjust and evolve to meet this end.
5. How do you intend to use the Seed Grant money? Primarily advertising and program development materials. There is also a need for a ramp on the front of the building. After those needs are met compensation for leadership and staff.

Note: Please include links to your online social media presence, if available.

- www.contemplatelincoln.org,
- <https://www.facebook.com/contemplatelincoln/>
- <https://twitter.com/Contemplatelinc>
- www.instagram.com/contemplatelinc

Please list below any funding that the New Worshipping Community is providing and funding that is expected from presbytery and/or synod, if any. Please list under "Seed Grant," the amount that you are requesting the Presbyterian Mission Agency to disburse in support of the NWC. Finally, if another entity is providing resources, please list the amount under "Other" and describe in the "Comments" space below.

<u>New Worshipping Community</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>Seed Grant</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$ 49,916 raised in 2018	_____	_____	\$7,500	\$60,000.	\$117,416.00

Comments:

J-Tech Construction helped with down payment on our building and remodeled part of our building (60,000).

presbytery. Those giving oversight or providing assistance should date and sign below. Synod review and approval of this proposal is required if the synod is providing funding.

The Office of Mission Program Grants makes grants in support of ministries that are related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If a supported ministry separates from the denomination, the full amount of the grant may become due and payable.

After obtaining appropriate partner congregations and presbytery's approval and signature, e-mail as a single attachment the completed proposal to Tim.McCallister@pcusa.org and Bill.Moore@pcusa.org at the Mission Program Grants office. Disbursements for approved proposals will be made once leadership has started.

NOTE: If any signing below is a current member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, please inform the Office of Mission Program Grants Staff.

Date

Partner Congregation Designee (If Applicable)

Date

Presbytery Executive, Stated Clerk or Designee

Date

Synod Executive or Designee (If Applicable)

Guidelines & Application Instructions for New Worshiping Communities Grants

These grants are intended to support operating/program purposes such as salary and benefits, insurance, rent, educational materials, etc... These grants are limited to new worshiping communities that are related to the Presbyterian Church (USA), located within the United States and Puerto Rico and were ordinarily established no earlier than five years prior to the date the new worshiping community began.

A new worshiping community may receive a cumulative grant amount of no more than \$57,500 from any combination of NWC grants.

Additionally, we offer a **Health Insurance Grant** that provides supplemental funding to the partner congregation and/or presbytery in support of an NWC leader who would not otherwise be able to afford health insurance. This annual grant is for up to \$1,500 and is twice renewable. The application is available at the [Mission Program Grants Office website](#).

Applicants may apply for a one-time Seed Grant of up to \$7,500 and may do so at any time. Matching funds are not required.

One year after receipt of a Seed Grant, a NWC may apply for an Investment Grant of up to \$25,000. Approval of Investment Grants is conditioned upon real progress toward completing the discernment process set forth in "[Starting New Worshiping Communities](#)." Investment Grants ordinarily require a dollar-for-dollar match provided by the combined contributions of the partner congregation and presbytery and/or synod. In-kind contributions for the match are acceptable. Waivers of the match will be considered on a case-by-case basis, upon request. NWC leaders applying for Investment Grants should successfully complete or have scheduled the "Discerning Missional Leadership: A Potential Church Planters Assessment" and have an established relationship with a NWC coach reviewed and approved by the presbytery.

For the Investment and Growth Grants, it is a requirement for the Stated Clerk to have completed the Office of the General Assembly Church Change Form (CCF) on behalf of the project to be supported and prior to making application.

Eighteen months after receipt of an Investment Grant, a NWC may apply for a Growth Grant of up to \$25,000. Growth Grants ordinarily require a dollar-for-dollar match provided by the combined contributions of the partner congregation and presbytery and/or synod. In-kind contributions for the match are acceptable. Waivers of the match will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon request.

For Investment and Growth Grants, NWC applicants should clearly demonstrate mission giving beyond the local community, with at least 5% of the annual budget being donated to shared mission giving to the presbytery, synod and/or General Assembly.

As an expression of connectional stewardship it is encouraged that grant recipients commit to "paying it forward" to the Extra Commitment Opportunity account found at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e051547/>. Your support will help provide future funding for the establishment of new congregations, new worshiping communities like yours, and presbyteries that wish to encourage continual congregational transformation. Please help to continue this important work for the Kingdom of God.

Requirements for Funding

1. For the purpose of the New Worshiping Community Seed Grant, it is not a requirement for the Stated Clerk to have completed the Office of the General Assembly Church Change Form (CCF) on behalf of the project to be supported. However, it is a requirement for your Stated Clerk to complete the CCF prior to applying for the New Worshiping Community Investment grant.
2. It is a condition of funding for Investment and Growth Grants that the leader be connected with a coach. If the project does not already have a coach, the 1001 New Worshiping Communities Ministry has a network of coaches available. For information about starting the process to be connected with a coach, fill out the Coaching Application form at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/coaching/> or contact The Rev. Shannon Kiser by email at shannon.kiser@pcusa.org.
3. It is a condition of funding for Growth Grants that the leader(s) attend a "Discerning Missional Leadership: A Potential Church Planters Assessment". For more information about Church Planters assessments, please contact Eva Slayton in the 1001 NWC Initiative Office, by calling (888) 728-7228, X5244 or by email at eva.slayton@pcusa.org. Eva will be able to help you schedule your assessment.

A New Worshiping Community is...

Brief Definition

- **New**
 - Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ
 - Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture
- **Worshipping**
 - Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
 - Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world
- **Community**
 - Practicing mutual care and accountability
 - Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

Long Definition

- **New**
 - **Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ**

NWCs witness in word and deed (1 John 3:18), continuing Jesus' own mission of discipling, feeding, teaching, healing, welcoming, crossing boundaries, and proclaiming God's coming realm. Those with new and renewed faith join the Spirit's transforming work in the world.

- **Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture**

Living out the Gospel demands ministry which engages today's cultures (John 1:14). New ways of joining Christians together for contextual ministry will use current and historic ways of "being church" as springboards for creative innovation (Matthew 9:17).

- **Worshipping**
 - **Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament**

We seek to hear, come to believe, and are equipped to live the promises of God revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. NWCs welcome new members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27) through Baptism and are nourished by Christ's spiritual presence in the Lord's Supper.

Responding to Christ's gift and call, we do all these things only by God's grace, seeking—above all else—to glorify God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world**

The Spirit impels us outward, so that worshipers participate in the redemption of the world in Christ (Col. 1:20). Therefore, the primary beneficiaries of the NWC are not its own members, but rather its community and world.

- **Community**
 - **Practicing mutual care and accountability**

We commit ourselves to love one another (John 13:34) in relationships of mutual care and accountability, as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Entrusting ourselves and the church to the Holy Spirit, we seek to grow to maturity in faith and life.

- **Developing sustainability in leadership and finances**

As distinct yet connected expressions of the body of Christ, NWCs have local leadership arising from their own community of faith (Exodus 18:21). Pastoral leadership, facilities, and programs are all appropriately structured in order to demonstrate good and faithful stewardship.

To add a community to the 1001 New Worshiping Community map, go to this link, <http://www.onethousandone.org/#!map-registration/c10xe>, and fill out the form. Once you have completed the form, your community will appear on the map within 6 hours. If you need assistance, please contact Eva Slayton at eva.slayton@pcusa.org.