



Blackhawk Presbytery

Supporting thriving faith communities in northern Illinois

RESOURCES FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

The Essentials

The Holy Bible

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Book of Confessions—The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part I. Louisville, KY: Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA), 1996. Downloadable PDF at https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boc2014.pdf

Book of Order—The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part II, 2011-2013. Louisville, KY: Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA), 2011. Downloadable PDF at <http://store.pcusa.org/OGA15010>

Your Church Bylaws

Your Church Administrative/Operations Manual

Your Teaching Elder

Your fellow Elders, Deacons, and Trustees

Making Connections within the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Blackhawk Presbytery

People:

General Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. John Rickard

815.732.6111 x 603

johnrickard@blackhawkpresbytery.org

Treasurer: Lou Ann Breckenridge

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Staff Assistant: Loreen Stravers

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Blackhawk Presbytery Moderator: Rev. Julie Raffety

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julie.raffety@westminsterchurch.cc

Your Committee on Ministry Representative: _____

Gatherings:

Five meetings of the presbytery each year on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, September, and November. Meetings take place at churches throughout the presbytery; the November meeting is traditionally held at Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center. Each meeting includes a learning opportunity. Teaching elders (ministers) and ruling elders commissioned by each congregation have voice and vote at presbytery meetings. All others are welcome as observer participants.

From time to time, the presbytery offers additional learning opportunities.

Connecting online:

Website: www.blackhawkpresbytery.org

Connections e-update: an electronic newsletter available to anyone who subscribes. Click on the button on the NEWS/E-Updates page of the website to subscribe.

Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center, 1922 N. IL Rte 2, PO Box 199, Oregon IL 61061
815.732.6111 www.strongholdcenter.org
Offers summer camps for youth and families, meeting space and retreat facilities, team building programs

Synod of Lincoln Trails

Interim Synod Executive: Rev. Sara Dingman (sara@lincolntrails.org)

Website: www.lincolntrails.org

Presbyterian Church (USA)

100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202-1396 800-728-7228

Websites:

www.pcusa.org

www.thethoughtfulchristian.com

www.pcusastore.com

www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/ (previously printed yearbook now available online only)

Shared Resources for Every Congregation in Blackhawk Presbytery

Blackhawk Presbytery Resource Center is closing, but many resources remain free to take (no listing available)

[POINT](#) (Presbyterians Organized in Nurture & Training)

[The Parish Paper](#)

[MissionInsite](#)

[Missional Analysis Program](#) (MAP)

[Mission Grant Program](#)

A Sampling of Print/Video Resources (most available from: www.pcusastore.com)

Presbyterian Leader Training

Eason, Steve. *Making Disciples, Making Leaders: A Manual for Developing Church Officers*. Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Griffith, Guy D. and Ruth Faith Santana-Grace. *Devotion and Discipline: Training for Presbyterian Leaders*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 1999.

Johnson Jr., Earl S. *The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2014.

Johnson Jr., Earl S. *The Presbyterian Trustee: An Essential Guide*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Johnson Jr., Earl S. *Selected to Serve: A Guide for Church Officers*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2000.

Wright, Paul S. *The Presbyterian Ruling Elder, An Essential Guide*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2014

Lytch, Stephens G. and Elaine W. Barnett. *Serving as Ruling Elder: With Revisions from the New Form of Government*. The Presbyterian Leader, 2012. A three session study.

Lytch, Stephens G. and Elaine W. Barnett. *Serving as Deacon*. The Presbyterian Leader, 2012. One session

Officer- training resource from *Being Reformed Series / "Ruling Elders: Formation"*

Ellison, Brian. *Selecting and Preparing Ruling Elders and Deacons*. Downloadable study for groups or individuals 2011

Theocademy. Videos and study guides that explore and answer questions about ordained leadership in the Presbyterian tradition. <http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons/>

Being Presbyterian

Angell, James W. *How to Spell Presbyterian*, newly revised edition. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2002.

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding. A series of biblically based studies from Congregational Ministries Publishing. For a complete list visit: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/curriculum/being-reformed>

Byers, Ronald P. *The Bread of Life: A Guide to the Lord's Supper for Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2005

Chapman, Dean W. *How to Worship as a Presbyterian*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2001.

Chapman, William E. *Finding Christ in the Book of Order*. Louisville, KY: Witherspoon Press, 2003.

Davison, James E. *The Living Water: A Guide to Baptism for Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2000.

Dawson, Kathy L. *Confessing Faith: A Guide to Confirmation for Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Elwood, Christopher. *Calvin for Armchair Theologians*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Johnson, Earl S. Jr., *Witness Without Parallel: Eight Biblical Texts That Make Us Presbyterian*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003.

Kirkpatrick, Clifton and William H. Hopper, Jr. *What Unites Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 1997.

Lloyd-Sidle, Patricia, editor. *Celebrating Our Call: Ordination Stories of Presbyterian Women*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press.

McGeachy, Pat. *Meet the Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2006.

McKim, Donald. *More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers*, Louisville, KY: Geneva Press.

McKim, Donald. *Presbyterian Beliefs: A Brief Introduction*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003.

McKim, Donald. *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003.

McKim, Donald. *The Westminster Handbook of Reformed Theology*. Louisville, KY, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Mulder, John M. *Sealed in Christ: The Symbolism of the Seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA)*. Louisville, KY: Presbyterian Publishing House, 1991.

Plunkett, Stephen W. *This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2002.

The Presbyterian Handbook, Revised Edition. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2016.

Presbyterians Today, the magazine of the Presbyterian Church (USA), published 10 times a year. Visit www.pcusa.org/today.

Ramsay, William M. *Church History 101: An Introduction for Presbyterians*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press.

Weeks, Louis B. *To Be a Presbyterian* (rev. ed.). Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2010.

What Presbyterians Believe. www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/what-do-presbyterians-believe/

Who Are We Presbyterians? (video & study guide). Louisville, KY: Congregational Ministries Publishing, 2001.

or see the webpage: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/101/who-are-we/

This resource is available on our website (with clickable links) under Resources / Resources for Clerks and Sessions