

Welcome to Blackhawk Presbytery

Let's get to know each other

The Basics

We are glad you are here! We are here to answer your questions, connect with you as soon as possible and assist you in the days, months and years ahead as you pursue your calling in Blackhawk Presbytery.

Our Blackhawk newsletter "Connections" is sent at least monthly—the sooner we have your contact info, the sooner we can add you to the primary way we keep in touch.

Twice each week, we also sponsor "Pastors Cares & Shares", an informal zoom gathering for our active pastors (those serving one of our 68 congregations) to meet, chat, share ideas and laugh. You will find an invitation in your inbox soon. Join us!

Blackhawk Snapshot

- Sixty-eight churches, from suburban to rural
- Just under 8,000 members
- 120(±) Ministers of Word and Sacrament (including retired & at large) and Commissioned Pastors

Who's Who in Blackhawk Presbytery

Our current Presbytery Moderators are:

- Rev. Dr. Skip Shaffer, Moderator
- Pastor Laurie Walker, Vice Moderator

Presbytery staff:

- Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Transformational General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, 779-771-1896, eric@blackhawkpresbytery.org
- Loreen Stravers, Office Administrator, 779-771-2088, Loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org
- Frank Finch, Treasurer

Please visit our website for the names and contact information of committee and commission moderators.

Tell Us About You

With this welcome, please find a "Minister Information Form". Please complete and return to the presbytery office by mail or email. Or if you would like to fill out online, you can find the form here: blackhawkpresbytery.org/2022/07/22/minister-information-form

The only things shared with the presbytery in our password-protected directory are your cell number, email and spouse's name. All other information is retained in your personnel file.

The Secret Code

When you visit our newly designed website, blackhawkpresbytery.org, you will find just about anything you need. Certain sections are password protected, including the presbytery directory, pulpit supply list, assembly meeting documents and archived minutes from past meetings.

User Name: members **Password:** ?narthex2022

You may share this with anyone in your church. Just don't publish online or change the password.

Assembly Meetings

Presbytery Assembly meets 5 times a year, on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, September and November. These may be on zoom, in person only or hybrid. All information is found on the website.

Our roll call records pastors who were "present, absent and excused". A quick email to staff is all that is needed to be 'excused'.

Our Commission on Ministry

The Blackhawk Commission on Ministry is currently reorganizing into five specialized committees, each with their own area of responsibility. We have the following: Pastor-2-Pastor, Church Liaison, Policies & Procedures, Transitions, and Reconciliation/Conflict Management. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the purview of each of these teams (blackhawkpresbytery.org/commission-on-ministry).

Members of each committee will possess a certain set of skills and resources to assist you in your successful ministry. Some of these, such as the Pastor-2-Pastor and Church Liaison committees will employ non-elected members to help with specific needs in a less formal fashion. We invite you to consider how you may join this effort to so we may live into our mission to "be thriving faith communities".

Share Your Gifts

Presbyterians are connectional! Every presbytery works better when members are actively and enthusiastically involved. We invite you to jump right in to serve on a committee, to attend special learning events and be present for each assembly meeting. Zoom has made the wide-expanse of Blackhawk boundaries more accessible and given everyone an opportunity to be involved without a car trip. Please visit: blackhawkpresbytery.org/serving-as-an-elected-leader

Mission Grants

The Blackhawk Mission Committee has funds available for new congregational mission projects and initiatives. You are encouraged to apply using a simple one page application found on our website.

Some ideas for mission activities (not limited to these):

- ⇒ New Matthew 25 activities or book studies
 - ◆ Fighting poverty
 - ◆ Promoting anti-racism
 - ◆ Nurturing church vitality
- ⇒ New food pantry program, meal programs, or garden produce cooperatives
- ⇒ New ways to celebrate diversity or foster understanding and appreciation of different cultures
- ⇒ New speakers, conferences, or Stronghold retreats

Nuts & Bolts

While you familiarize yourself with us via our website, be sure to find all the Resources you will need including our Boundary Training policy, minimum terms of call policies and the current per capita (with monthly payment updates). We expect you to be our partner by adhering to policies and promoting a supportive relationship between the Presbytery and your congregation. Have questions? Don't hesitate to ask!

Matthew 25 in Blackhawk

Blackhawk is a Matthew 25 Presbytery and you will also find an active group of Matthew 25 churches in the Presbytery. A task force operates under the arm of the Mission Committee and promotes ideas, projects and discussions designed to help our faith communities and their leaders be actively engaged in the world. You are invited to participate however and whenever you feel led, but hope you will consider how you can further one or more of the goals of this churchwide initiative.

Partners in Mission

From assembling Church World Service kits, involvement in our joint partnership with the Imenti Presbyteries of Kenya, or joint youth activities, many Blackhawk churches take pride in group mission efforts at the Presbytery level. Check out and join our active partnerships or build momentum for something new.