



PEAKS POSTINGS

June 23, 2020

New Class Beginning Soon

The Presbytery of the Peaks is happy to offer an online Theology class for pastors interested in reading classical Reformed texts taught by Professor Doug Ottati. The course will be for **six weeks** beginning **June 25th and be hosted on Zoom each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. for 50 minutes**. Doug will teach from historical Reformed theology texts and, in the spirit of Reformed and always Reforming, examine how the tradition may shed light upon our current challenges such as pandemic, racial and economic justice.

Dr. Doug Ottati is the Craig Family Distinguished Professor in Reformed Theology and Justice Ministry at Davidson College. His books include: *Reforming Protestantism: Christian Commitment in Today's World*, and *Hopeful Realism: Recovering the Poetry of Theology*. His latest book, *A Theology for the Twenty-First Century*, is scheduled to be published by Eerdmans' this October. Many in Peaks Presbytery will remember Doug from the years that he taught at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Doug earned his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and is a tireless Chicago Cubs fan.

Please contact Rachel Shepherd at rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org to register.



Pastors, Session Clerks, Treasurers, Finance and Personnel Committees

Board of Pensions Benefits Update for 2021

The Board of Pensions is putting in place several exciting new benefits for 2021. It may seem early, but the time for churches to consider staff benefit offerings for next year is approaching.

So what's new? Who's eligible? How can my church and I take advantage of these new offerings and packages?

The Presbytery of the Peaks is sponsoring a Zoom conference session with our BOP Church Consultant, Martha Reisner, for a brief presentation and Q&A opportunity. This time is designed for pastors and members of sessions, personnel and finance committees, but anyone is welcome. Please invite the appropriate people in your congregation who might be involved in benefits decisions.

WHEN? Tuesday, July 14, either 10 am or 7 pm. The same information will be presented at both sessions. A registration form will be available next week (in Peaks Postings and on the Presbytery website).



7 Simple Tips To Use Virtual Worship For Outreach

During this time of social distancing, many of our churches are using Facebook as a platform for virtual worship. The Church Development Committee has been brainstorming ways to use this platform to reach visitors and encourage their participation. They can be adapted for other online platforms, as well. Here is what we have come up with so far:

1. Use online greeters to welcome visitors through chat.
2. Invite chat during live events. For example, say “Tell us you are here!”
3. Respond to comments in real time.
4. Invite visitors to like your Facebook page.
5. Ask church members to share the video to their own page.
6. Ask church members to invite friends join them on your Facebook Live broadcasts.
7. Use Facebook ads (\$50-\$60 weekly) to develop a list of those who have expressed interest. Send out messages to them inviting them to your Facebook Live broadcast.

Note: Pastor Dave Baker, on behalf of the Church Development Committee, is hosting a webinar for local churches interested in learning what’s working or sharing what’s working for them in using Facebook ads to invite people to their online services. Dave has been doing internet marketing for more than 13 years and has been using Facebook to get new guests to Williamson Memorial’s online service each week. **Join the Church Development Committee for this Zoom webinar Wednesday July 8th at 10am!**



PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
6/23/20	1:30 p.m.	Stated Clerk Search Committee	Zoom
6/25/20	9:30 a.m.	Cabinet Meeting	Zoom
6/25/20	1:00 p.m.	Reading in Reformed Theology Class	Zoom
6/26-6/27/20		General Assembly Online	
6/29/20	10:00 a.m.	Church Development Meeting	Zoom
6/29/20	1:00 p.m.	Reading Greek in NT Class	Zoom

Next Presbytery Meeting:
August 15, 2020, location TBD

[On-Line Calendar](#)

Peaks Postings is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests **by noon on Mondays** to Julie Dyke at julie.dyke@peaks-presbytery.org for inclusion in the following issue.

Guidelines for announcements or news items to be featured in Peaks Postings:

- Keep the information to one page or less.
- Use links to web sites rather than including lots of details.
- Please obtain permission from the people pictured in your photos before submitting them to *Peaks Postings*.

Peaks Postings Editors reserve the right to

- feature or not feature an article. Our first priority is to feature activities within POP churches and the Presbytery.
- edit submitted articles/announcements.
- limit the number of weeks an article/announcement is featured.

Past issues of Peaks Postings are archived for about six months on our website, [Presbytery of the Peaks](#).

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“Building partnerships in Christ, to empower communities of faith to be the Body of Christ for the world.”