

JCP Notices

February 10, 2022

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We have a tremendous ministry happening at the Ash Grove UMPC. Our monthly diaper bank is helping 40 families a month with diapers, feminine hygiene products, and adult incontinence products. In addition, we are helping to supply several area school districts with

feminine hygiene products.

Joe Crews, pastor of United Methodist–Presbyterian Church of Ash Grove

SAVE THE DATE....

Stated Meeting of John Calvin Presbytery

Saturday, February 26

9 – Noon

by Zoom

More information will follow!

Boundaries Training is required by the Committee on Ministry for all pastors and anyone doing pulpit supply on a regular basis.

We will continue to work with churches to host future trainings in different parts of the presbytery through mid–October. (Please let us know if you would like to serve as host.)

March 29 at Willow Springs Presbyterian Church, noon–2:30

Lunch will be provided.

Please contact Malinda Spencer if your church will be willing to host a boundaries training. m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com // 417–437–6748 (c)

REGISTER BOUNDARIES WILLOW SPRINGS

The Anti-Racism Committee has decided for February, Black History Month, to feature an African American in the Presbyterian Church each week in the Notices. Here is the Reverend Erika Rembert Smith....

Paying forward the opportunities she received.

By Betty Winston Bayé | Presbyterians Today | Condensed by Toni Spieth



Whenever she steps into her pulpit to preach, the Rev. Erika Rembert Smith, pastor of Washington Shores Presbyterian Church in Orlando is challenging calcified notions about women in ministry.

“Some still believe that pastoral ministry is reserved for men,” said Smith, noting that she has experienced “time and again being overlooked, discounted and underestimated” throughout her ministry by men and women — clergy and laity.

Patriarchy aside, this woman is also blazing a path forward to a more diverse

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), taking on the mantle of leadership as a senior and solo pastor in a denomination that is still predominantly white. According to the 2018 statistical report of the PC(USA), 89% of its congregations were white and 4% black/African American/African.

As the nation observes Black History Month in February, *Presbyterians Today* talked to this pastor about the challenges she faces and the women in their lives who have encouraged her to be true to whom God has called.

She, like many of her sisters in ministry, is called to minister to descendants of the original sufferers and is called to speak truth some 400 years later amid racial injustices.

Smith was asked by one of her parishioners to participate in her mother's funeral. The pastor of the church said that was fine, but only if she read Scripture from the floor and not the pulpit, and was called "sister," not "Reverend."

Smith is a third-generation Presbyterian. After her college graduation, while attending a non-Presbyterian church, she mentioned the idea of her entering ministry to the pastor who had previously "discerned that I had gifts for ministry. The pastor said that 'there was no place in ordained ministry for me at that church,' "

Undaunted, Smith matriculated at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. Even in academia, though, she found her voice being stifled as she encountered a male professor who "neither acknowledged nor affirmed" her response to a question, but instead affirmed a male classmate who had reiterated her answer.

"I was stunned. I was still trying to find my voice ... working to develop confidence in my call as a woman in ministry," Smith said.

It's been 46 years since the first African American female, the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, a forerunner to the PC(USA), and 64 years since the denomination ordained its first female minister, Margaret Towner, in 1956. Still, some pastors get resistance from others to their call.

Smith cited the late Cannon as an inspiration. "She always made me feel that I mattered," Smith said.

Black women who pastor, as is true for their sisters in other careers, have to contend with not only gender bias, but the racism that plays into their ministry and their daily lives.

That intersection between race and gender discrimination has given birth to the womanist theology movement that centers on the life experiences of black Christian women. Cannon helped found The Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Cannon died, at 68, a few months after the center, now renamed in her honor, was inaugurated in April 2018.

The Rev. Emilie Townes, professor of Womanist Ethics and Society and dean of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, said, "Black women in America are morally bound to be justice-seeking whole human beings even in the face of being told, sometimes relentlessly so, that they are less than whole, less than human. The moral imperative for black women is to live life beyond those old wounds."

Smith is just one of several women of color who are part of a new generation of Presbyterian leaders who are "living beyond old wounds" of sexism and racism. That takes courage. For in the words of Cannon, "Whenever we cross boundaries, we encounter storms and turbulence."

Article by Betty Winston Bayé is a motivational speaker, journalist and freelance writer based in Louisville. Picture courtesy of Erika Rembert Smith

Announcing IISMO (International Institute of Southwest Missouri) has hired a Youth Mentor Coordinator, Ashley Foley, who is in charge of creating a program for youth ages 15-23 to assist them in planning for the future. By clicking the

button below, you will find a flyer with information about this program. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Ashley for more information, at: foleya@iistl.org

INFORMATION ~ YOUTH MENTOR

Microsoft Office Standard for Mac or Windows for \$36-- for churches and church workers

This offer is only available through TechSoup until April 4, 2022, and our small administrative fee allows TechSoup to continue providing similar offers to nonprofits, as well as educational tools to help you adopt these solutions.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE WHAT YOU GET](#)

Malinda Spencer
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

Presbytery-Wide Vital Congregations Lenten Study!
Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., March 1 through April 12
There is no cost to be involved with this study. All are welcome!
More information to follow

DAY OF LEARNING

Explore **Planned Giving** in the Church
Tuesday, March 29 beginning at noon
Hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Prayers Requested

- The congregations of John Calvin Presbytery...
- **All churches seeking a new pastor**, to understand God's call moving forward.
 - First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Carthage, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas
 - Crane Presbyterian Church, Crane, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Fort Scott, Kansas
 - St. Andrew Presbyterian Church @Hideaway, Galena, Missouri
 - St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Kimberling City, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Rolla, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Sarcoxie, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Scammon, Kansas
 - The Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg - seeking temporary supply
- JCPDA
- JC Living Waters Mission Team
- All Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery

**Prayer submissions will remain on the prayer list for two weeks,
unless an update is received.**

Contact Us..... How can we help?

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**Please mail all remittances
Per Capita, Shared Mission and special offerings to:**

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[Download remittances here](#)