

...just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Presbytery Pastoral Care Network. Don't forget to add [ppcn@pastoralcarenetwork.org](mailto:ppcn@pastoralcarenetwork.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



PRESBYTERY  
PASTORAL CARE  
NETWORK

# Presbytery Pastoral Care Newsletter

July/August 2016

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PPCN Board

Donate

2017 PPCN Conference

Doubting God's Call

Celebrating One's Call

Affirming One's Call

Shop on Amazon and earn \$\$  
for PPCN

Resources for support of clergy

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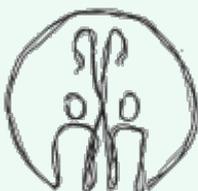
## 2016 Memberships

Individual membership \$45  
Institutional membership \$200

[2016 membership brochure](#)

[More info](#)

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Presbytery Pastoral Care Network

## Greetings!

How do you CARE?

"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests but also for the interests of others!" Philippians 2:4. Our care for ourselves is reflected in how we care for others. And, our care for others is patterned after the shepherding care of Christ for His flock. Take a few minutes to do a CARING INVENTORY OF LIFE EXPERIENCES that have shaped and inspired you. Who are the CARE GIVERS you admire most? What changed your life because someone CARED about you? When has the lack of caring called you into action to be a change agent? How would you put into words your Theology of Care? Share your Biblical grounding of Care. One of my "Care Mentors" impressed upon me, "if you're needy, you'll have trouble caring for others. Always take care of yourself, so you can take care of others." I've found this to valuable counsel reminding me to safeguard my own emotional, spiritual, physical and mental health. It is out of my strengths I can minister to another's weakness. Our pastoral care network is here to support, encourage, and partner with those giving care so we can be at our best. Our encouragement in Christ is essential to the way we care!

Stay in touch!

Pastor Jim Splitt, President PPCN

For more information contact

Rev. Jim Splitt, H.R., Homestead Presbytery  
President, Presbytery Pastoral Care Network  
[Email](#) | Ph. 402-277-0912

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~ ANNOUNCEMENT ~

(PPCN) is a 501(c)3 non-profit providing professional development, support, and resources for those caring for ministers throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Planning is underway for the 2017 conference: "Collaborative Calling to a Changing Church".

Tuesday - Friday, April 18 - 21, 2017  
Lawes Lodge, Louisville Seminary, Louisville, KY

More details to be announced in the next newsletter.

## PPCN Board

**Jim Splitt, President** [Email](#)  
*Homestead Presbytery*

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*Board of Pensions, PC(USA)*

## A note from the Board

Thank you for supporting Presbytery Pastoral Care Network in its work to provide resources for those caring for ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our work is made possible through the purchase of Memberships, attendance at Conferences, and through individual financial support.

Your tax deductible contribution may be mailed to:  
Presbytery Pastoral Care Network  
Rev. Gary Weaver, Treasurer  
396 W. Archer Dr.

## When I Doubt God's Call

by Steve McCutchan

### Maybe it was a wrong number.

Some days you wonder, don't you? Was I called to ministry or was it just a bad connection? God calls people to be clergy, educators, church musicians, administrators, missionaries, etc. We know from the biblical record that people who have been called by God don't always have it easy. Knowing that God has called you to a particular work in life can be a powerful support in times of stress. But there are times of discouragement that cause you to wonder if you have truly been called. If you have ever felt that way, congratulations, you are normal. But how can you be sure?

### How did I get here?

Step away from your personal situation for a moment, allow your cynical side to emerge, and describe a few reasons why people might have entered the ministry [read more](#)

### God's crooked lines

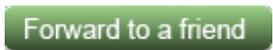
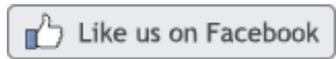
My guess is that as you read the combined list, some will make you a little uncomfortable because you can see some of them at least partly applying to yourself. I would be surprised if some of them didn't touch you in some way. I would remind you that God's way of operating often follows some crooked lines - Saul being a very [read more](#)



"I can't stand to listen to anyone else preach.  
You reckon that means the Lord is calling  
me to the ministry?"

## Celebrating One's Call at

[DONATE ONLINE!](#)



# Presbytery

by Steve McCutchan

Consider playing a game at a presbytery meeting that could both be fun and lift up the sense of call, connect it to our roots in Scripture, and remind ourselves that it was never meant to be an easy life, but it is worth the devotion.

Divide the gathered meeting into four sections and tell them you want them to share in an affirmation of God's call and our shared biblical roots.

For the first round, you will ask anyone in the first section to stand and share in a no more than a couple [read more](#)

## Congregations Affirming the Call

by Steve McCutchan

A couple of years ago, I was asked to preach at my college's 50th reunion. It was a great experience to return and share with the people who had nurtured me in childhood and shaped me as I moved towards ordination. It caused me to think about how a congregation could offer that [read more](#)

## PastoralCareNetwork.org



Shop on [AmazonSmile](#) and Amazon will make a donation to **Presbytery Pastoral Care Network** for every eligible purchase.

[Use this link to shop.](#)

## Resources for support of clergy

Steve McCutchan, Author. Now available on [Amazon.com](#).

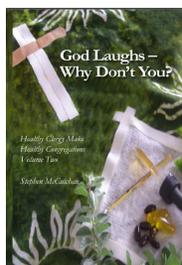
*(Reminder: [Shop through AmazonSmile](#) and generate donations to PPCN! To purchase these books [use this link](#), then sign in and search for "Stephen McCutchan."*

### A COMPANY OF PASTORS: OVERCOMING ISOLATION

This book offers a fresh resource for clergy support groups. Building on judicatory efforts to counter the problem of isolation and loneliness in ministry, the author describes how the use of stories about clergy can provide a basis for clergy to explore in support groups some of the signal issues experienced in ministry. The design offers a 20 meeting framework for building what John Calvin called "A Company of Pastors."



### GOD LAUGHS-WHY DON'T YOU?: MAKING USE OF HUMOR IN THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY

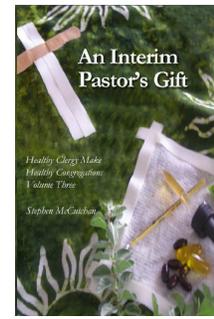


This book provides strategies and techniques of humor to be applied to the practice of ministry. The author demonstrates how comedy can lessen tension, bridge differences, and strengthen relationships in the church. With a variety of examples, the book shows how humor can be utilized in sermons, liturgies, counseling, funerals, and other dimensions of ministry. It also provides a "Pastor's Survival Notebook " that

offers several techniques of comedy that a pastor can use to personally address the stresses of ministry.

### AN INTERIM PASTOR'S GIFT

This book introduces the idea that an interim is in an ideal position to advocate for good health strategies for the next pastor. The author offers exercises and directions on how to raise the congregation's awareness and specific steps the congregation can take to shape a healthy relationship with their new pastor.



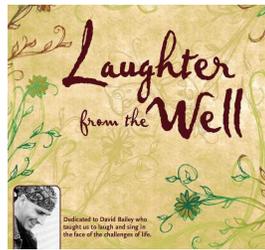
[www.PastoralCareNetwork.org](http://www.PastoralCareNetwork.org)

## Resources available through PPCN

**Webinar:** *Teaming With Your Clergy*, a resource webinar offering a plan to strengthen the healthy nurture of the teamwork between session and pastor. Co-sponsored by the Presbytery Pastoral Care Network and the *Presbyterian Outlook*. (fee /inquire about bulk discounts) [Email](#) | Ph. 800/446-6008 Ext. 758



**Deep Well for the Pastor**  
CD with spiritual meditations and music to support the pastoral vocation. Price \$10 (limited supply)  
Contact [Steve McCutchan](#)



**Laughter from the Well**  
CD with 70 minutes of humorous & musical reflections on the challenges of ministry. Price \$9.99  
[Order](#)



**The Toolbox**  
Paper with strategies bringing a healthier perspective to the work of ministry. Free.  
[PastoralCareNetwork.org](http://PastoralCareNetwork.org)  
(Toolbox is at bottom of page)

