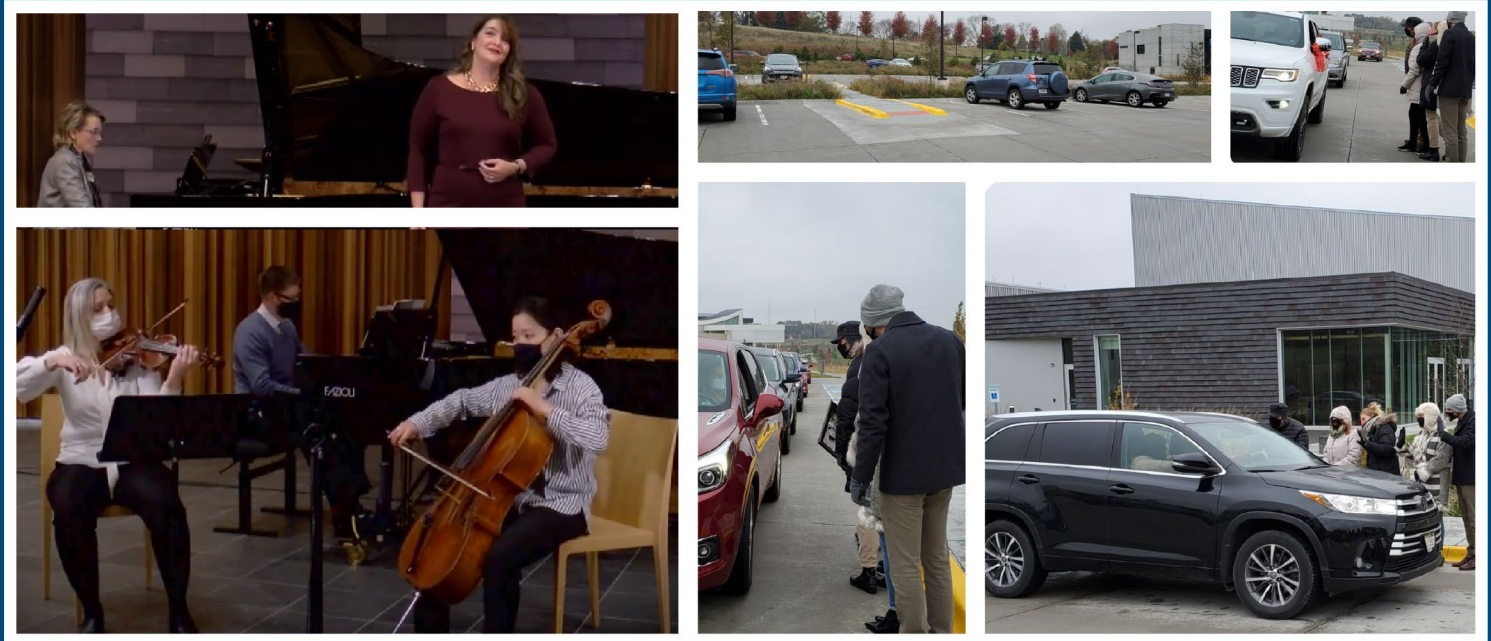


NOVEMBER 2020



Pictures from the Nasty Women Concert and the Going Away Parade for the Elnes Family in October.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE - RISE UP 2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

In the face of these extraordinary circumstances, Countrysiders have come together, stood up, and gone to work. From streaming worship services to creating text prayer groups and organizing calling networks to establishing a safe plan for re-opening, we put our faith into action to meet the physical, financial, and spiritual needs of our members, friends, and people throughout the Omaha community.

This global event has changed our circumstances, just as it has for so many of us, creating new opportunities and new challenges, including adding financial stress. As we look forward to 2021, the Board of Trustees and the budget committee is approaching the 2021 budget conservatively and with great fiscal constraint. Even with our best effort, the Board of Trustees anticipates a 10 to 15% increase in giving is needed to help balance our budget in uncertain times.

Even though we can't meet in person, our ministries are more relevant and necessary today than ever before. Your continued participation, service, and support ensures our programs rise up to meet the needs of our congregation and community now and into the future. We humbly ask you to make or renew your financial pledge to Countryside Community Church for the 2021 calendar year.

If this is your first time making a pledge to support Countryside's ministries, we offer this guidance. Spend time in prayer. Reflect on what Countryside means to you and your family. Contribute what is possible for you and your family.

Thank you to the 126 households who have made a commitment for 2021. If you have not made your commitment, please do so TODAY at countrysideucc.org/give or use the commitment form being mailed to you.

Countryside has a grant which matches all new pledges and any increases over existing pledges up to \$125,000. To date, we have received \$36,821 towards the \$125,000 match.

NOTE: If you are already enrolled in online recurring giving (GMS), your giving will continue with no actions needed. However, if you would like to help meet our \$125,000 match for all increases to existing pledges, please complete a pledge/commitment form to indicate your desired increase. The financial office will make any needed changes for you.

A response by November 15, 2020, is greatly appreciated.



COLLECTING FOOD COULD EARN \$500 FOR PANTRY

Thrivent Financial is offering its members an opportunity to raise up to \$500 for a local food shelf pantry. Countryside's Community Cupboard has been chosen to participate in this challenge.

In order to receive the money, Countryside members and friends need to donate 500 cans of non-perishable items with protein preferred (chicken, tuna fish) and drop them in the box in the church's entryway any day of the week from 8 AM - 6 PM from November 1 - 30. All items collected will be distributed through Countryside's Community Cupboard pantry. Once we receive the 500 items volunteers will stack them into a creative design for the chance to win the \$500 for the Community Cupboard. If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Link or Jim Gilbert. Thanks for helping!

SUNDAY WORSHIP



COVID-19 CASES IN OMAHA ON THE RISE, WORSHIP REMAINS ONLINE

COVID-19 cases have been rapidly increasing throughout the month of October, keeping Countryside squarely in the RED phase of the Countryside Worship Guidelines reopening set forth by the Countryside Re-Start Task Force and the Church Council. The church does not move to the next phase (ORANGE) until new cases are below 200 for two consecutive weeks. For a detailed explanation of our four-phase approach you can check the website at countrysideucc.org/covid19.

WORSHIP ONLINE AT KMTV CHANNEL 3 AT 10:30 AM

Through December there are two ways to catch Countryside Community Church on Sunday mornings. The first is online through Youtube live which you can connect with at countrysideucc.org or on KMTV channel 3. Both will begin at 10:30 AM.

POST-WORSHIP FAREWELL TO DR. ELNES, NOVEMBER 15

Dr. Elnes's last Sunday preaching will be November 15. In recognition of his departure, we hope you will join the congregation in a final Zoom farewell after worship **Sunday, November 15 at 11 AM**. Eric will have a few personal words to offer about his time at Countryside, and there will be a brief Farewell liturgy to send him off and bring a little more closure to us all. This won't take long, but it's important - and provides an opportunity for all of us to be together. You'll find the Zoom link on the church's web calendar, or you can use this meeting ID and password:

Meeting ID: 402-391-0350

Passcode: 13130

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 24

Advent carries the feeling of excitement and/or nervousness that comes from being in that in-between place of "waiting/preparing"; "the already/not yet"; "the seen/unseen"; "the steadfastness/uncertainty". Can you feel it? It seems as if everything is on hold right now: With COVID-19 directing our activities and Countryside itself in a discernment period regarding new leadership models and pastors, and our world standing by post-election, the possibilities are bursting at the seams, and we are collectively holding our breath.

Psalm 80 cries to the Lord Stir Up your Strength and Come... Help us. Like the Psalmist, we too are crying out for God's strength and compassion to help us re-order our practices and priorities that we might be "re-opened" to a new way of being in the world. We need to be actively clearing out things that are standing in the way of God's presence with us, so that we might better experience God's voice guiding and leading us to fullness and grace. Let us journey together through this in-between time, embracing our community and the Love of God that connects us all.



ZOOM OFFERINGS SUNDAY MORNINGS IN NOVEMBER

We will still be offering this Zoom three-part lineup running through November

- 10:00, coffee hour with Diane Scott and Bill Bolte
- 10:20 Prelude (musical offering)
- 10:30, worship only for 30 minutes. This is via KMTV or online (countrysideucc.org/live)
- 11:05 various staff members will have "office hours" to see people via Zoom. Check church calendar for links and who is available that day.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.
Senior Minister, ext. 231
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 230
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Staff

Jan Brown
Pastoral Care Coordinator, ext. 234
janb@countrysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Will Carnazzo
Building Coordinator, ext. 206
willc@countrysideucc.org

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 226
danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder
Financial Secretary, ext. 223
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 222
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 221
krish@countrysideucc.org

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 224
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Rebecca Morello
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, ext. 230
rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

Alex Ritter
Music and Artistic Director, ext. 215
willc@countrysideucc.org

Diane Scott
Common Grounds Coffee House Manager
dianes@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 225
debbiev@countrysideucc.org

COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS - NEW CLASS FORMING

A new Phoenix Affirmations class is forming. The Phoenix Affirmations say that, as Jesus teaches us, our Christian love should be expressed in three ways: by loving God, neighbor, and self. In order to fully appreciate the content of the Phoenix Affirmations, they should be thoughtfully studied with others. A group study provides insights, connections, and resources that might not be readily discerned through individual study. If you are interested please contact Diane Scott at twang56@aol.com and she will put together a new study group via Zoom.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP STARTING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:00 PM

With the great success of our last book discussion we are doing another Zoom discussion of *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Please contact Diane Scott at twang56@aol.com if you are interested in being part of this book discussion group. From a description of the book: "White fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, the author examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively."

MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS WITH CARLOS, WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits with Carlos Figueroa are continuing Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the zoom link on the church calendar. If you have any questions or would like more information about these opportunities, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org

THE BOX FOR DECEMBER - TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!

This is the time of year when the Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) collects toys for the Pine Ridge Reservation, an Oglala Lakota Indian reservation which is located in the southwest corner of South Dakota on the Nebraska border. It is the eighth largest reservation in the United States. Unfortunately, it is also in one of the poorest areas of the U.S.

BOCO happily shares this activity with the Board of Youth. BOCO gives the Countryside Youth Groups money to go out shop for items for their correlating ages. For example, the COYO high school members will shop for teens from 14 - 18 and our middle school members will shop for their age group. Who could do it better?

This all gets loaded up by the first part of December by our youth and a Christmas angel drives it up in a large truck to the reservation, often on snowy roads and if we are really lucky, in an actual snowstorm! This is a donation that we particularly look forward to every year because it brings about happy moments for the children of Pine Ridge.

Countryside members and friends, please take some time to shop for toys for the children to the reservation to help make their holidays happy. Taking a little happiness to the children and therefore, their parents, is a wonderful gift. Please enjoy shopping for and giving a Christmas gift to a Pine Ridge child of any age (infants - 18). These need to be new toys and unwrapped. Thank you for all you do. The gift of giving is the greatest gift!

- France Blanchard, Board of Christian Outreach



COYO Jr. High shopping and sorting gifts for the children of Pine Ridge in December of 2019.

CAROL ROGERS SINGS WITH COUNTRYSIDE JAZZ NOVEMBER 13

After a spooky concert and election season, we could all use a palate cleanser on Friday the 13th, and Carol Rogers is just the person to do that! She will be joined by Countryside Jazz and perhaps a few puppets along the way, to sing some of her favorite selections.

Stream it at countrysideucc.org/concerts at 7 PM that evening.



Carol Rogers

CONNECT CALLERS THANK YOU!

Thank you for all who've volunteered to call the members of Countryside during this time of separation. Your intentional efforts have allowed us to know that the "church has been deployed" and to feel more fellowship in this surreal year.

Callers: Please continue to call those you have committed to checking up on; let Jan Brown know of any concerns that you may have.

Congregation: At this time, The Board of Pastoral Care and our Connect Callers will be calling people on as "as-needed" basis, rather than every two weeks. However, if you find that you need more connection than that, let Jan or your caller know.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



TRI-FAITH ANNUAL IMPACT EVALUATION

The dream-turned-reality that is the Tri-Faith Commons would not have been possible without years of partnership and collaboration from supporters like you.

Tri-Faith Initiative wants to hear from you! Please help strengthen its work and impact by taking this quick, confidential Annual Evaluation: tinyurl.com/tfimpact

Your candid feedback is so valuable! It will help Tri-Faith Initiative better understand who makes up our community and how to best serve you in the fulfillment of our mission.

AND -- to thank you for your time and insight, you will receive a 10% discount at the Tri-Faith Initiative Store!



Abraham's Whiteboard: Love Your Enemies? - Science, Religion, and Our Drive for Compassion **Thursday, November 5, 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM, via Zoom**

Many religions call for humanity to "love their enemies." In some ways, we know this is a counterintuitive and challenging expectation for us to follow. Wrapping together psychology, religious studies, and theology, let's look together more deeply at this call and how it pushes us to the depths of our humanity and beyond.

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at trifaith.org/events or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative.)

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversations: Honoring Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes - Thursday, November 12, at 12 PM - 1 PM

Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes and Countryside Community Church have been integral to the Tri-Faith story. Please join the Tri-Faith staff and clergy as we welcome Rev. Dr. Elnes into a conversation that honors his work and story. We will celebrate both his contributions to Tri-Faith and his next steps as he moves onto another city, church, and chapter in his life

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at trifaith.org/events or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative.)

Our Place in Desperate Times: 8 Months Later, by Jeremy Fricke **Published on October 14, 2020, trifaith.org**

Is there hope in desperate times?

At the beginning of this pandemic, I wanted to highlight the particular importance of Tri-Faith Initiative's work in times that feel desperate. When I wrote the series on Desperate Times, Nebraska had fewer than 100 cases of COVID-19. Since then, we have experienced firsthand how plagues spread. There have now been nearly 50,000 cases in Nebraska, spreading among those who take all the necessary precautions, and those who take none. And as COVID has spread, longstanding cultural plagues have also re-emerged with a vengeance. Bigotry grows as ultra-nationalist, neofascist, and white supremacist organizations have become more visible, more active, and more popular.

So much of the world seems so disappointing right now, from lack of socialization to the frustration of videoconferencing/ We can easily become paralyzed by our sense of failure ineffectively combating the parallel plagues of a public health crisis and a social justice crisis.

I promise you, there is hope.

There is a global push for a COVID-19 vaccine, better testing, and a continuous improvement in using best practices. Additionally, in just a few months, we have witnessed Black Lives Matter become one of the most powerful civil rights movements in American history. The work is not complete, but changes are already visible.

This moment is an opportunity for connection. From the founding of Tri-Faith Initiative, we've always sought to be a Beacon of Hope — hope that intentional relationship-building and mutual understanding can create a better future for all people. Now is a time when we see the widest-ranging implications of this work.

At Tri-Faith, we recognize that our identities are interwoven, within ourselves and with each other. The Tri-Faith Center, which completes the Tri-Faith Commons, symbolizes the importance of both being our truest selves and accepting others as their truest selves.

Tri-Faith's co-located synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center intentionally facilitate relationship-building and understanding. This place is so special because it's an unprecedented model for goodwill among all people, and a challenge to rethink how religious diversity makes all our lives better.

Last week, I taught a program called Abraham's Whiteboard: Evolutionary Psychology of Religion. One particular message stuck with me: Humans have a particularly powerful and beautiful capacity to create communities.

We can envision the concept of a global humanity.

We can empathize with people we haven't even met.

We can understand those who seem easy to misunderstand.

Science shows that humans have a natural capacity to empathize, to understand that community matters, to give our love, lives, and treasure for those we perceive as part of our community. This remains a central component in all religious traditions.

The commitment to community-making and goodwill is the cornerstone of positive interfaith relationships. We must be willing to see our communities as part of greater, wider circles of connection that ultimately encompass all humanity. Without this consciousness, we seek perceived safety and become easy prey for fundamentalism, xenophobia, and racism.

The Tri-Faith Center embodies a wider connection outside our familiar comfort zones, welcoming all. This space says: we can be ourselves and accept others in their similarities and their differences.

Together, we're shining a beacon of hope. And we're weaving a grand tapestry, re-defining community. We invite and welcome you.

CARING TOGETHER



IN MEMORIAM

Harold Slaight passed away September 9, 2020; his life was honored at a graveside service in Omaha on October 23, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes presiding.

Jim Torrens died September 23, 2020. Joanne and the family were able to celebrate Jim's 90 years via an extended Zoom meeting of shared memories and prayers.

Helen Kelly passed away on October 12, 2020. Her husband Dick and their three adult children will be celebrating Helen's life via a private memorial service.

MARRIAGES

Hannah Knutson and Aaron were married October 10, 2020; Hannah's parents are **Paul and Rev. Donna Knutson**. **Scott Mannel married Abby Henher** on October 10, 2020; Scott's parents are **Rich and Gloria Mannel**.

Nicholas Cardona and Kelsey Stoneking were married on October 24, 2020; Nicholas's parents are **Al and Mitzi Cardona**.

Madeleine Frederickson married David Frolio on October 24, 2020; Madeleine's parents are **Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander and Rev. Dr. Scott Frederickson**.

BIRTHS

Zack and Abby Bjornsen's third daughter Byrdie Ann Bjornsen was born Tuesday, August 11 at 3:06 pm, weighing in at 9 lbs. 7 oz. Big sisters Willow and Hattie are over the moon!

Bennett Ray Holt was born on October 10, 2020, and his parents are **Megan and Conner Holt**. **Pat Holt and Jim (Sharon) Gilbert** are Bennett's great aunts and great uncle.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

November 3 - 5:30 PM, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team via Zoom. See church calendar for link.

November 3 - 6:00 PM, Peer Support via Zoom. See church calendar for link.

Commissioning Ceremony: We hope to schedule this in November! Please stay tuned for upcoming email messages regarding this important, sacred moment.

STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE (PLAN B)

The Board of Pastoral Care recently voted to delay the second annual Tri-Faith "Stories from the Bridge" event. Instead of spring 2021, we'll be planning this very special event for the fall of 2021. Please hold that thought! Contact Jan Brown, Pastoral Care Coordinator, or Jane Frey, Event Co-Chair, if you'd like to discuss being one of our storytellers. Jan: Janb@countrysideucc.org; Jane: fla1232@aol.com

BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE'S SUMMER WISDOM OF THE AGES - GRATITUDE

"Enter God's gate with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise! Give thanks to God; bless God's name! For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations." ~ Psalm 100:4-5.

This has been a strange year. Amidst the uncertainty and threat, however, Countrysiders are finding things to celebrate and be thankful for.

"I am so fortunate to have all of my family here in Omaha," says Marj Sambasile. Her brother and sister are local, and "I can still see my grandchildren and great grandchildren, even if only on Zoom." Marj has stayed connected to her Countryside family, too, during the pandemic. "I'm so glad I can follow Countryside by Zoom or services on television and YouTube. I'm thankful for Eric and his family. He's done a beautiful job at Countryside." Marj lives at Sunridge Village Retirement Community, where she's made several friends. "It's ideal for me. The owners are here every day, and they do so much for us. They have a treat for us every day - snacks, treats, virtual Bingo." Looking forward to Thanksgiving, Marj says, "I'm not dreading the holidays, even though I know we won't get together. I'm afraid it'll be Easter before we can get together. I'll be patiently waiting."

Chase, 12, says, "I love Thanksgiving because of family." He also likes the food - green bean casserole and mashed sweet potatoes are his favorites. This year he's grateful that he gets to try home schooling. "If it weren't for Covid, I wouldn't have gotten to do that."

Emmy, 9, says of Thanksgiving, "Even though we can't have a ton of people over, we're going find a way to have fun." Although she misses her friends, she says, "I like that it made a change. We learned how to do things differently, like on Zoom and Google Meets."

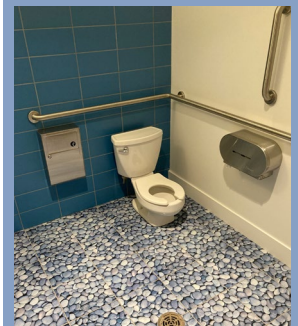
Oliver, 6, likes Thanksgiving because "Turkey and being with my family total." And what is Oliver grateful for this season? "I'm grateful that there's going to be Halloween!" he laughed. He's going to be a ninja. Look out, Omaha!



Chase, Emmy and Oliver

NEW CHILDREN'S TOILETS DONATED TO COUNTRYSIDE

Pat (Ashley) Rainbolt's father-in-law, Gary Ter Wee, recently donated children's toilets to Countryside for the Kindernook Preschool and Nursery bathrooms. The toilets were installed on October 9, just in time for the return of the Kindernook Preschool classes. Now our smallest members do not have to struggle with stepping stools in their restrooms. Thank you so much for the generous donation!



Nursery restroom



Kindernook restroom

TLC *update*

Transition Leadership Committee

Transition Leadership Committee (TLC) members Aubrey Fitzke, Diane Poots, Stacey Warner, Dan Loven-Crum and Tracey Halvorson have been meeting frequently with Countryside leaders, staff, and groups, as well as outside Countryside advisors, experts, and references. We developed a hybrid model of leadership that encompasses the priorities identified in the feedback we have received. At the October meeting of all Boards, we shared the Interim Model of Collaborative Leadership. Collaboration was the key priority that we heard from both staff and Countryside members. This model and the job description were approved unanimously by Church Council at their October meeting, and will be submitted, with our updated church profile, to our conference minister for approval to post on the UCC website.

Our new Interim Associate Minister of Worship and Congregational Care will be responsible for leadership of worship and our interim discernment process leading to assembling a search team and calling our new settled pastor. This person will also lead our worship planning, music and arts, A/V and pastoral care areas. In this interim leadership model, we also prioritized our existing staff resources, especially Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander and Dan Loven-Crum, and although a new voice will lead worship and discernment, we expect the voices and talents of both Chris and Dan to be strong influences in the planning and implementation of both worship and the discernment process. Chris, as the Interim Associate Minister of Engagement and Formation, will lead our Tri-Faith Initiative partnership and faith formation, through work with youth and family ministries, Center for Faith Studies, member engagement, and representing

Countryside on the Tri-Faith Initiative Board. Dan will act as the Interim Director of Vision and Stewardship, lead our financial stewardship and growth, and oversee operations, visioning, Countryside Foundation, and staff development. Chris and the new minister will share equally in administering the sacraments of communion and baptism, and officiating at weddings and funerals.

It is important to know that this is the **interim** model for collaborative leadership at Countryside. We have taken great time to discern the three main public facing responsibilities the Senior Minister position has led in the past, and divide those evenly among the three leaders. We intentionally choose the two main distinct areas of leadership and responsibility for each individual leader, to not overload any one of the three leaders, but allow all three to have input in every area. This model will continue to be a work in progress throughout our interim time. The discernment process will be our opportunity as community to evaluate how this model fits us, and decide what changes, if any, need to be made before the search committee is formed.

We are excited for this new opportunity that God is leading us to, and we ask you to continue to share feedback with us and keep us and our leaders in your prayers.

Joy and peace,
Tracey Halvorson and the Transition Leadership Committee
tlc@countrysideucc.org

Q&A

Question: How will salary be structured?

We are leveling the salary playing field among the Leadership Team, to allow for expectations among these three to be similar regarding time commitment, responsibilities, workload, and leadership expectations.

Question: In a collaborative setting, who has the final say?

In a collaborative leadership team environment, each of the three leaders will be fully responsible for decision making "final say" within their area of expertise. They will do this in collaboration with the other two leader's input and help, where appropriate. Also, a new Leadership Relations Committee will be available to help if the decision comes to an impasse, and they are unable to resolve it themselves.

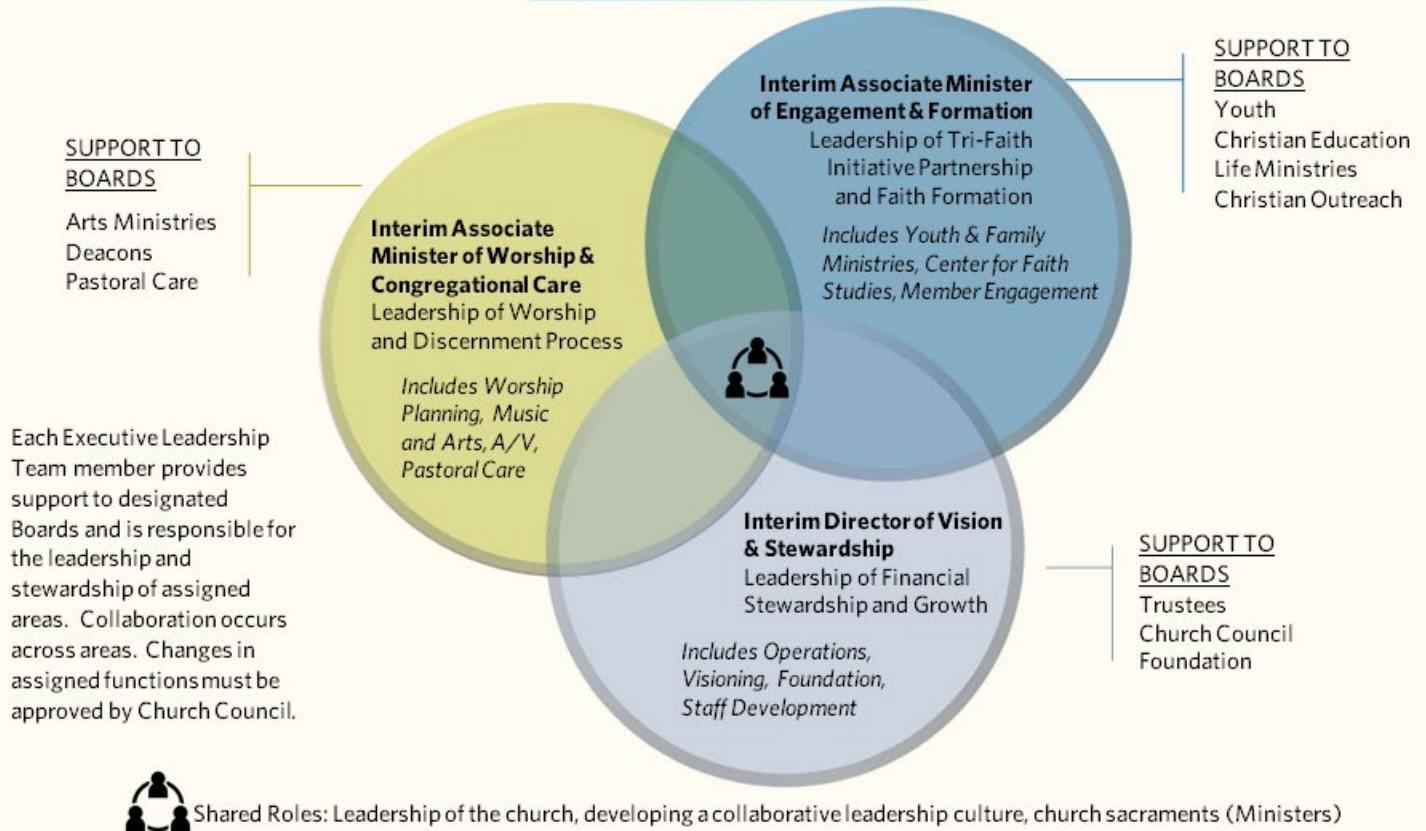
Interim Model of Collaborative Leadership

Congregation Church Council

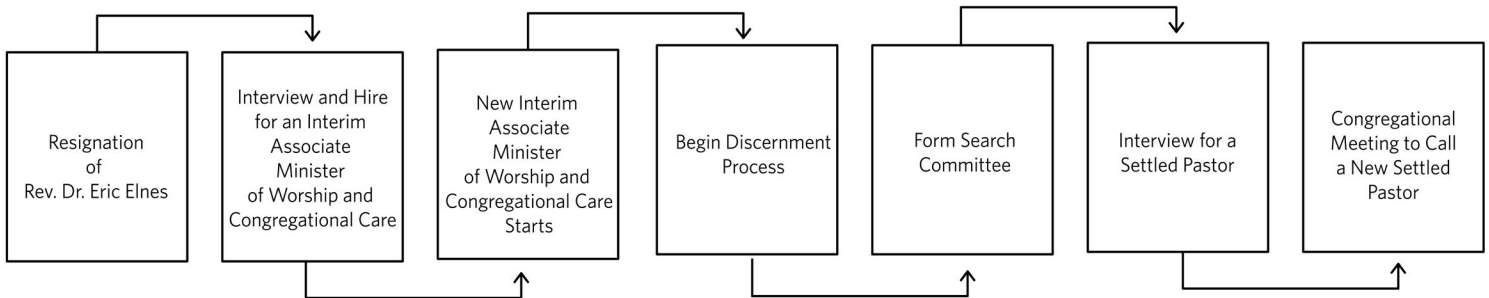
Leadership Relations Committee

Advisory group to the Executive Leadership Team; provides feedback to Church Council & Search Committee on the success of the model.

Executive Leadership Team



Interim Discernment Timeline 12 - 18 Months



Responsibilities need to be stated specifically, not generally.

Each leadership position will have a clear job description. There is a fair division of the responsibilities needed to lead Countryside among the three members of the Executive Leadership Team, with advice and oversight for them by the Leadership Relations Committee. This model will be fine-tuned as we move forward, based on input from these three leaders, the Leadership Relations Committee, Church Council, staff and Moderators.

Interim Designations

To be clear, the Interim designation in each job title in our Interim Model of Collaborative Leadership is a reference to the interim nature of both this collaborative leadership model, and the job title and responsibilities of our three leaders during our interim period. Chris and Dan themselves aren't "temporary" interims for anything but their job titles and leadership roles. They will continue as staff beyond the interim period, as their job descriptions are defined by the congregation-wide discernment process.

COUNTRYSIDE GIFTS DR. ELNES COSANTI BELLS

As a token of appreciation, Countryside Community Church gifted Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes a set of Cosanti Bells. "He has given gifts like this for years," Russ Schertz, Moderator of Countryside Community Church said, "we couldn't think of anything much more appropriate. We wanted to thank Eric for everything he has done and for his spiritual leadership."

Rev. Elnes said the gift means so much to him and his head spins thinking about how much he has done with Countryside and we have accomplished together. He really appreciates the support Countryside has given him and his family throughout his years here.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No. 106

SANCTUARY OPEN DAILY FOR PRAYER

Countryside's Sanctuary is now open for prayer, sitting in silence, reading the bible or other devotional readings. It is really up to you, how you would like to use your time. You will be buzzed in by the office then you will need to fill out a Covid 19 Health Screen form that is located on a table right inside the door. The hours are Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM through the month of November. Please wear your mask at all times and keep socially distanced from anyone else in the building and while using the sanctuary. There may be times you will be directed to the Chapel if the sanctuary is in use. Please email the office if you have any questions office@countrysideucc.org.

YOUTH CORNER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Sunday School lessons this month include a study of the book Circle Unbroken in three parts, a story of Deborah—ancient judge, prophet, warrior, and ruler, and the story of Jonah—a grumpy dude who follows spiritual direction EVEN when he doesn't want to do it. Like Miriam's family in our October Sunday school stories, our study of the Circle Unbroken will follow the story of another family whose history of basket making is carried through generations of injustices and oppression. Our Deborah story invites our students to link ancient times with the contemporary and to seek out some of Deborah's qualities in themselves. The story of Jonah follows a man who must extend God's mercy and love to people who are his enemies. The storytelling videos go out in our weekly Children's Ministry email and are accessible anytime with the link.

Sunday School Continues! After reading the story of Solomon and the Temple, our preschool students had fun building temples with materials they had around the house!

YOUTH

COYO is teaming up with BOCO to again this year to collect Christmas toys for children who live on the Pine Ridge Reservation. This year, the COYO students and leaders have put together a Target registry of gift ideas! You can access the list by searching for Pine Ridge Kids or Countryside Community Church (child's name). When you order something online from this registry, it will deliver your gift for the Pine Ridge youngsters directly to the church—super convenient! You can also drop off items in the church foyer Monday through Friday from 8am until 6pm.



Oliver's cushion temple



Marlon's temple