



February 17, 2026

## Important Upcoming Dates

[Click here to request Steve join your congregation in worship.](#)

- February 19 | Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox -- Shared Ministry
- February 23 | Educators' Gathering
- March 19 | Webinar: The Ministry Toolbox -- Cultivating Generosity In Your Congregation
- March 28 | Leaderfest with Stephen Ministries

[View our calendar](#)

## Launching Thursday: The Ministry Toolbox Series

Our spiritual gifts mean we naturally have many different tools at our disposal in our toolbox, but sometimes those tools may need a little sharpening.

Enter: **The Ministry Toolbox of Providence Presbytery.**

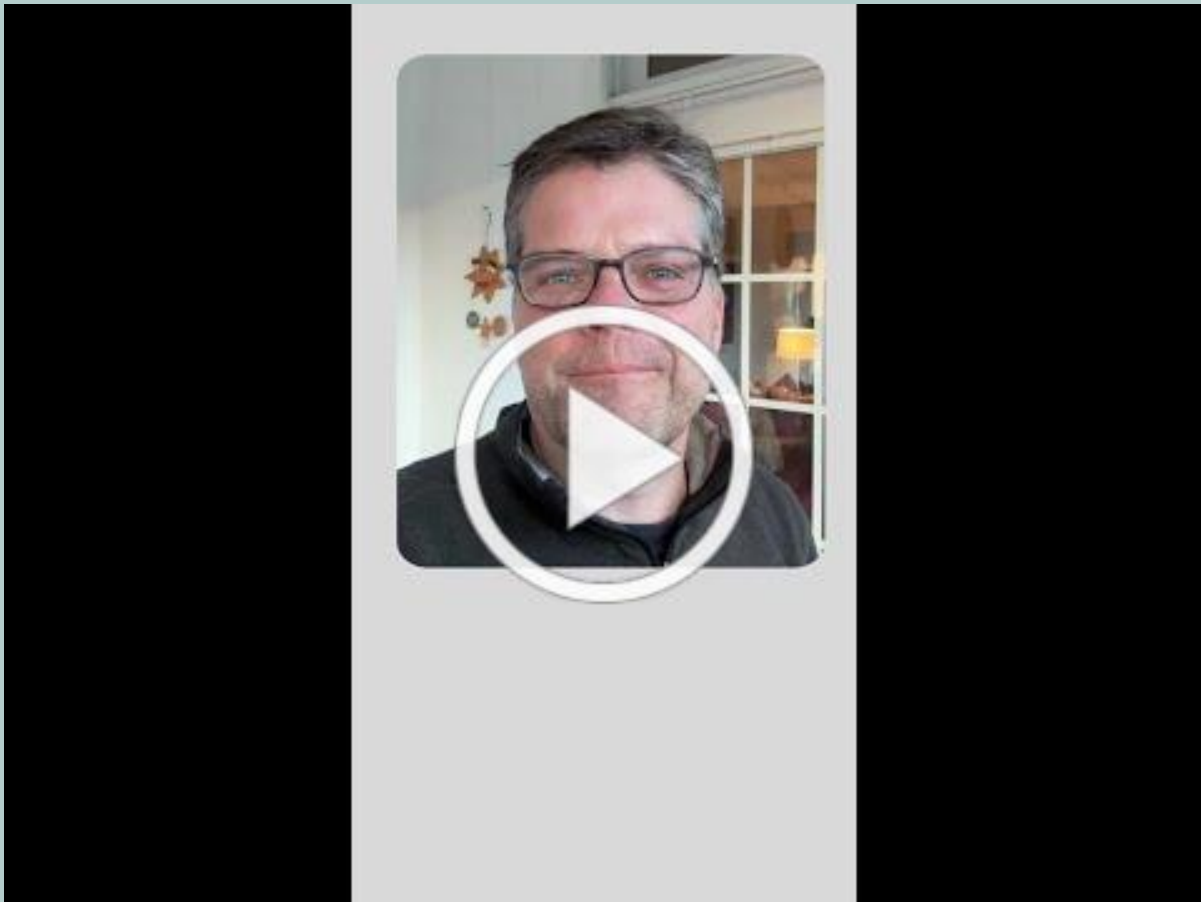
We've invited experts in various areas to join us in a monthly live webinar where they will present information on their area of ministry expertise, then we will have a Q&A session. We hope you can join us!

February's topic is: **Shared Ministry with the Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon.** As Vice President of Ministry Innovation with the Board of Pensions, he has a wealth of knowledge to help congregations navigate complex situations. His presentation for us will include an explanation of the Dues Incentive Programs of the BOP and recommendations for congregations desiring sustainability in their ministry. [You can view Rev. Cannon's biography here.](#)



The conversation will take place February 19 from 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. [Please click here for more information and to register and get the zoom link.](#)

**Watch the video below for more info:**



## Border Ministry Fundraiser A Success



More than 150 people gathered for an incredible fundraising dinner at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill on February 7th. Organizers with the Mexico Border Ministry team invited a panel of immigrants to speak and answer questions about their experience in the United States.

Their journeys here were varied, and some quite heartbreaking, but they all had a similar message for those present -- they love this country and want to work hard, and the process to obtain legal status in this country is too complex, costly and lengthy -- reform is needed!

Funds raised from the dinner will support the local **Carolina Immigrant Alliance** which helps immigrants with paperwork requirements to obtain legal status, and **Frontera De Cristo** which operates along the US-Mexico border and works to provide Mexican citizens with employment and resources so they don't feel a need to immigrate.

If you weren't able to attend the event but would like to donate toward these non-profits [please click here](#).



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## Leaderfest 2026 Registration Open



# Providence Presbytery Leaderfest Seminar March 28, 2026

Unity Presbyterian Church / 303 Tom Hall St / Fort Mill, SC 29715

**Presented by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, featuring Joel Bretscher**

The mental health crisis has been a growing challenge in society for decades, with numerous proposed solutions that have fallen short of resolving the problem. Building on more than two years of research, Stephen Ministries St. Louis has developed a bold new approach for the church to make a far-reaching difference in this area. Come and hear about this unexpected, powerful way for you, your small group, and all of our congregations to help solve the mental health crisis.

## Schedule

**8:30–9:00 a.m.** Check-In and Continental Breakfast

**9:00 a.m.–Noon** Presentations

- How Your Congregation Can Help Combat the Health Crisis: A New, Expanded Approach
- What Jesus Teaches Us about Empathy

**Noon–12:45 p.m.** Lunch (included with registration)

- Optional Presentation on Getting a Church Involved with Stephen Ministry

**12:45–3:00 p.m.** Presentations

- Unexpected Ways to Care
- What We've Learned about Grief and Relating to Those Who Are Grieving



Scan the QR code on the Left to Register

\$20 registration fee

Space is limited. Pre-Registration by March 21 is requested.



**Joel Bretscher** has been a member of the staff at Stephen Ministries in St. Louis since 1995. As Program Director, Joel leads the writing and editing team in the development of books, videos, training materials, courses, and other resources.

He is the lead author of *The Gift of Empathy* and coauthor of *Caring Assertiveness*, both award-winning books.

[Click Here To Register](#)

**SC5 School of Theology:  
Registration Open**



## SC5 School of Theology 2026 Spring Semester March 27 & 28

The **SC5** School of Theology is sponsored by the five presbyteries in South Carolina: Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity.

**What is the SC5 School of Theology?** Theological training for elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

- **Enrichment Track** – for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology **and** for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.
- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** – for Ruling Elders who want to become a CRE or CP.

**For Whom?** Classes are for:

- Church Leaders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.
- Faith Formation Leaders interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

**When?** Friday, March 27 through Saturday, March 28, 2026

**Where?** The SC5 School of Theology classes are held at Presbyterian College

### Spring 2026 Semester Courses

- Old Testament (Core)
- Church History (Core)
- Worship & Sacraments (Core)
- Presbyterian Polity (Core)
- The Joyous Letter to the Church at Philippi (Elective)
- One Thread: Crafting Worship That Unravels (Elective)

### Costs:

- Course and 2 meals: \$75 for Enrichment Track, \$95 for CRE/CP Track
- Accommodations: Students may make arrangements as they choose. However, we negotiated with the Hampton Inn (located at Exit 54 off I-26) in Clinton for a discounted rate of \$119 for a King or \$129 for Queen room/night. The rate includes breakfast.

For more information about the SC5 School of Theology, please talk with your Presbytery leader, visit our website [here](#), or contact the SC5 School of Theology Registrar, Robin Morris, at [rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org](mailto:rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org) or call Robin at 864.288.5774.

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## News From Bethelwoods



## Employment Opportunities

Our friends at Tirzah (L) are searching for a supply pastor and a new pianist is needed at Beaver Creek.

[Details are available here.](#)

## New Lenten Series Available



Providence Presbytery's Mission Coordinator Dr. Eric Robinson has published a new Lenten curriculum with Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union.

**Stewards of Living Water** is a six-session Bible study for adults. The six one-hour sessions focus on scripture passages from the Revised Common Lectionary Year A for Lent, exploring themes of water related to rebirth, provision, healing, restoration, and ritual, as well as water justice in the world.

Participants are invited on a transformational journey from the dryness of the desert to the life-giving water of a well and a pool, seeing how Christ and the Holy

Spirit are at work in the search for Living Water. The path will lead to personal spiritual nourishment and engage our calling to live out our baptisms through mission, partnership, and stewardship for the sake of the world. Through multisensory and engaging activities, participants will experience God's life-giving nourishment. Perfect for a congregational setting or small group study.





# EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS FUNDRAISING

The ECRF is designed for religious leaders in faith-based organizations and institutions who wish to learn more about the spirituality of fundraising and gain a core foundation in fundraising principles.

**Atlanta, Georgia**  
**May 11-13, 2026**



Scan the QR code for  
more information & to  
register

# EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS FUNDRAISING



Presbyterian College is partnering with Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Lake Institute on Faith and Giving to offer the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) in the southeast region.

The Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) is designed for religious leaders in faith-based organizations and institutions who wish to learn more about the spirituality of fundraising and gain a core foundation in fundraising principles. The ECRF covers four key topics and includes select required reading to be completed in advance and the completion of a final project.

The ECRF provides the research, tools, and customized training to meet the growing needs of leaders in religious communities and fundraisers for faith-based organizations. The focus of the ECRF is on the cultural, organizational, and philanthropic practices unique to religious institutions. These practices in turn enable donors motivated by spiritual and religious values to experience the joy of generous giving.



The ECRF utilizes faculty presentations, interactive discussion, selected readings, and a context-specific final project to address:

- Nurturing Generous Congregations and Organizations
- Nurturing Generous Donors
- The Practice of Religious Fundraising
- Integrating Religious Leadership and Fundraising

This hybrid, in-person and online, program allows students the opportunity to earn a certificate in fundraising as they explore motivations for giving in the nonprofit sector. The course begins with a required two and half days in-person teaching sessions, hosted by Presbyterian College, three additional online teaching hours, and ends with a practical application project.

*Learn More &  
Register Today*

[www.presby.edu/graduate-programs/  
graduate-certificate-partnerships/](http://www.presby.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-certificate-partnerships/)



JOIN US NEXT IN  
ATLANTA, GA  
MAY 11-13, 2026

For more information about the in-person teaching sessions, email Rev. Erin Farry at [erinfarry@presby.edu](mailto:erinfarry@presby.edu). For information regarding the certificate program and final project requirements, visit [www.lakeinstitute.org/ecrf](http://www.lakeinstitute.org/ecrf).

## New Action Circles Aim To Prevent Gun Violence Against Children

Imagine a school bus of 50 children crashing, killing every child, every four days for a year. Year after year after year. Wouldn't we do something about it?

That is the equivalent number of children being killed by gun violence in the United States today — about 50 children every four days. Since 2020, gun violence has been the top killer of American children — more than cancer, vehicle crashes or any other disaster. It has been the number one killer of children of color since 2006.

Image



Starting February 4, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship will launch “Protecting Children from Gun Violence: Imagining a New World.” This is a new action circle experience created by educators, church leaders and pastors in the Fellowship’s Gun Violence Prevention Ministry. The faith-based action circles will gather participants on Zoom for one hour weekly on five Wednesdays at noon Eastern Time. The winter action circles run Feb. 4- March 4 and the Spring Circles run April 15-May 13. Four cycles will be offered each year. Participants can bring a bag lunch or breakfast, depending on their time zone. The Action Circles are ecumenical and are offered free of charge.

[Learn more about the action circles here.](#)

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## 2026 Providence Presbytery Stated Meetings

- May 17, 2026 | Oakland Avenue Presbyterian, Rock Hill, SC | 2:30 p.m.
- August 16, 2026 | Virtual | 1:30 p.m.
- November 8, 2026 | Riverview Presbyterian, Fort Mill, SC | 2:30 p.m.

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## Providence Presbytery Staff Members

**Executive Presbyter:** [Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley](#)

**Stated Clerk:** [Rev. Dr. David Bender](#)

**Business Administrator:** [Rose Lemmons-Berry](#)

**Mission Consultant:** [Eric Robinson](#)

**Technology & Communications Coordinator:** [Katie Rutland](#)

## Newsletter Submissions

Do you have content or announcements for the Presbytery Newsletter? It will be published every other Tuesday. Please send items to be included to [Katie](#) no later than the Friday before publication.

[View as Webpage](#)



Providence Presbytery | P.O. Box 2601 | Rock Hill, SC 29732 US

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