

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND CHURCH NETWORK



WE BELONG

DR. AARON HOUSEHOLDER, AMS

We gathered together on November 7th at Southview Baptist Church, Lincoln, because we belong together.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

The Heartland Church Network is 65 unique, autonomous Baptist churches, yet we belong to one another. Each week our 65 churches worship in 9 different languages, in 28 municipalities, in a region spanning nearly 40,000 square miles, yet we belong together. We worship with different expressions and different styles, yet we belong as churches holding to Baptist doctrine and desiring to start, connect, and support other churches.

At our Annual Celebration, we had representatives from 28 churches with a total of 68 messengers and 18 guests counted among many more unregistered guests. Our business was brief. We elected two new officers: Pastor Shane Lester, Renewed Hope, La Vista, as Moderator; Pastor Mike Whitney, Sower, Lincoln, as Moderator Elect. We approved a \$551,207 annual budget for 2025. [You can download the 2024 Book of Reports here.](#)

Our story telling—to celebrate what God has done in 2024 through HCN churches—and our singing and praying in worship highlighted our evening. In our first panel discussion, ministry partners—Sherry Lust, HCN Disaster Relief, Alex Bartle, UNL Christian Challenge, and Rick Lechner, Freeway Ministries, Omaha—shared what God has done and how we might partner with their ministries. Our second panel was our new HCN Church Consultation Team—Pastor Ralph Lassiter, Mt. Moriah, Omaha, Pastor Dwayne Hawkins, Antioch, Omaha, Pastor Mike Whitney, Sower, Lincoln, and me—talked about what we have learned and experienced working with declining and dying churches so far this year.

And, of course, we took time to watch the amazing Cornerstone/Renewed Hope story on video. We shared a few minutes with Pastor Shane Lester to hear some more of God's work there. [Click here to watch it, or go to YouTube.com/@WeAreHCN.](#)

Though we are many, we form one body—the Heartland Church Network—and it is a joy to experience.

Thank you, HCN family for your prayers, your participation, and your financial partnership. We belong together. We are HCN!

Aaron

MEET SYLVANA



Sylvana Airan from Lincoln (Southview Baptist Church) has been speaking in many states since 9/11 happened. She is scheduled to speak again in Nebraska in early December, where she will be sharing about her life in Pakistan, the Muslim belief system, her testimony and God's protection and provision. She will also share how to reach the non-believers for Christ.

The events are open to men, women, college students and older teens. RSVP is required by December 1. Contact Sylvana at 402-540-9382 or sylvanaairan@gmail.com

She will be sharing on behalf of Stonecroft Ministries at the following rented venues. If you would like to attend or would like to invite her to speak at your church, then please contact Sylvana directly.

**December 9
12:00 PM**

Midland University Dining Hall
900 N Pebble St.
Fremont, NE

\$16 lunch

**December 10
12:00 PM**

Word of Hope Lutheran Church
157 S 22nd St.
Ashland, NE

\$12 lunch

**December 10
6:30 PM**

Christ Lutheran Church
750 Angels Share Dr.
Blair, NE

\$10 Dinner

**December 11
10:00 AM**

Aldersgate Methodist Church
8320 South St.
Lincoln, NE

\$10/person

If you or your church has a ministry that would benefit other HCN churches, let us know to be featured in a newsletter or email!



LOOKING AHEAD

The Heartland Church Network’s 2025 Christmas Fellowship is right around the corner. This event is meant to be a time of fellowship and encouragement for pastors and staff.

Join us **Saturday, January 11, 11:00AM - 3:00PM** at our NEW EVENT LOCATION, **The Belvedere, 201 E 1st St.** in **Papillion**.

Lunch will be served at 11:30AM.

January 11

Christmas Fellowship

11:00 am

PIVOT 2025
ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**Saturday
March 1st**
9:30AM - 3:00 PM

Our Annual Leadership Conference, PIVOT, was designed to EQUIP, ENGAGE, and ENCOURAGE all pastors, church leaders, ministry volunteers, and staff. The conference will be held at the **Heartland Church Network building, 2100 S 51st St.** in **Omaha**.

Join us **Saturday, March 1, 9:30AM - 3:00PM**. Lunch is provided. Keynote: Living by the Book with Pastor Tom Rempel, Lincoln. Keep an eye out for breakout topics and speakers to be announced!

Are you ready to become the man God has called you to be? At **Fight Club Men’s Conference: Fight for Your Life**, you’ll discover the three mindsets every man lives out of and how to break free from the ones holding you back. You’ll learn how to live with purpose, strength, and courage—embracing your identity as a valiant man of God. Don’t miss this chance to rise up, fight for your faith, and live the life of a spiritual warrior.

The time to lead is now. Are you in? Join us **March 14, 6:30 - 9:30PM**, & **March 15, 9:00AM - 1:00PM**, at the **Midtown Event Center** in **Norfolk**.

Sponsored by Heartland Baptist Church, Norfolk.

MEN’S CONFERENCE
FIGHT CLUB
FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE
MARCH 14 & 15 IN NORFOLK, NE



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