

# Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

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## Convocation Speaker

**Carol Howard Merritt**

Carol serves on the pastoral staff of Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC where her primary responsibilities now are for campus ministry and worship leadership. Born a Southern Baptist in Florida, she is a graduate of Austin Theological Seminary. Before coming to Western, she served pastorates in Abbeville, LA and Barrington, R.I. Both of those congregations experienced significant growth under her leadership. She is the author of *The Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* and *Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry to a New Generation* and cohost of the *God Complex Radio* podcast with G.A. Vice Moderator Landon Whitsitt. Carol also blogs regularly on issues related to the emerging church, generational differences, and being the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at [www.tribalchurch.org](http://www.tribalchurch.org).

## Worship Leaders

**Chris Levan**

*Pastor, Eglinton/St. George's United Church  
Toronto, Ontario*

**Tamara EnTin**

*Pastor, Kesley Presbyterian Church  
Kesley, IA*

## What is Synod School?

Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational – to stretch the mind, nurture the soul, and offer hope.

Come...and grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit.

Come...for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth.

Come...to participate in a unique experience of Christian community, as we worship, study, play, and live together.

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**Synod School 2012**

Watch for Course Catalogs and registration information coming to congregations in late February.

# Synod School 2012

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July 22-27, 2012  
Buena Vista University  
Storm Lake, Iowa

An Educational Ministry  
of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

## People Say...

*"I found it to be just as great as everyone has said..."*

*"...the best thing is the warm, friendly, worshipful atmosphere."*

*"...an unexpected spiritual awakening - wow!"*

*"...the sense of community – like finding Grace and God's gifts around every corner."*

*"...all ages of people coming together to explore their faith, learn and have fun."*

*"...like a family reunion for us each year. Great, safe place for my kids."*

*"...So many ideas to take back home."*

*"...thoughtful, energetic, fun-loving teachers, staff and leaders."*

*"...a tremendous opportunity for personal and spiritual growth."*

*"I appreciated watching my children learn about God in a fun way!"*

*"my class became a retreat; worship experience, fellowship, a very holy, sacred time"*

## What is Synod School?

Daily morning and evening worship for all ages with spirited music and singing.

Daily convocation focusing on the theme of the School.

Morning and afternoon programs for children of all ages.

Special convocation, program, and classes for youth.

Opportunity for adults to participate in from 1 to 4 classes on a wide range of topics – something for everyone.

Bookstore and Global Gift Shop.

Live music nightly at the Coffeehouse.

Plus Art Share, lots of fun, fellowship, mini-courses, movies, and as much relaxation as you want.

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**Synod School 2012**

## Some Course Topics

Ballroom Dance  
Basketweaving  
Bullying  
Choir, Song Share, & African Drumming  
Church and Stage  
Church's Response to Key Societal Issues  
Creativity as a Discipline of Faith  
Crochet, Sculpting, Stamping & other crafts  
Doubt and Belief  
Forgiveness  
God at the Box Office  
Great Decisions 2012  
Improvisation  
Leadership, Program & Ministry Skills Training  
Left Behind and Loving It  
Mindfulness  
Multimedia and Organic Worship Planning  
Neuro-Science and Ministry  
Old and New Testament Bible Studies  
PowerPoint 201 & Social Networking  
Pre-Retirement Seminar  
Science and Faith  
Spirituality & Spiritual Formation  
Sports, Recreation and Hobbies  
Stained Glass  
*Steadfast Hope* -- Palestinians, Israel & Peace  
Tennyson's *In Memoriam*  
Theological Study & Reflection  
Understanding Mormons & Jehovah's Witnesses  
Visiting the Medieval Church  
Watercolor Quilting  
and more...

## Professional Development

Newly Ordained Clergy Newcomer Seminar  
Newly Ordained Clergy Reunion Seminar  
Parking Lot Conversations for Pastors

## Synod School

*An Educational Ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies*

For more information contact Diana Barber at the synod office, 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207, or visit the synod web site at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org).

Course catalogs will be mailed to congregations in late February. Registration will open on March 1.

**July 22-27, 2012**

**Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa**