

# Iowa Religious Media Services marks 31st anniversary in February

Iowa Religious Media Services marked its 31st anniversary at its 2017 annual meeting and re-covenanting service on Feb. 15 at the Iowa United Methodist Conference Center.

Among those representing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the gathering were Bob Houser and Kim Coulter, IRMS board members; Walter Bubar, pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines; David Feltman, pastor to pastors in the Presbytery of North Central Iowa; and Shamaine Chambers-King, moderator of the Leadership Council of Des Moines Presbytery.



In her annual report, Sharon Strohmaier, executive director of IRMS, shared several statistics regarding the viability of small town Iowa. Half of the communities in Iowa have populations of 500 or less; 600 towns in Iowa have no schools due to consolidations or closings; and 700 towns no longer have a grocery store. Community gathering places are also at risk — those gathering places include churches.

Building on observations made throughout the last three years, Strohmaier reminded the gathering that an elegant solution is one that yields the maximum result in the simplest, most effective manner. IRMS partners in ministry, providing essential resources at a minimum cost, connecting the dots between denomination, church and community, and providing the elegant solution needed.

With the challenges faced by churches now, Strohmaier noted, also comes wonderful opportunities prompting innovative thought. Those denominations and congregations that will not only survive these challenges, but thrive, are those that seize the opportunity of every available resource.

Iowa Religious Media Services continues a long tradition of service, offering more than 10,000 resource titles to subscribing churches and their individual

members at no additional cost. Non-subscribers may also use IRMS resources for a nominal weekly rental fee.

Additional information about IRMS and its complete catalog can be obtained at <http://www.irms.org>, by writing IRMS at [questions@irms.org](mailto:questions@irms.org), or by calling 515.277.2920.