



Pictured are: Chuck Erickson, Marilyn Francis and Rev. Delores Doench of the Platte Center Church; Moderator Rev. David Kincaide; and Nancy Lister-Settle, Presbytery Hunger Action Advocate.

Just Neighbors Award August 2017

**Presented by: Compassion, Peace & Justice Task Force
of the Presbytery of Des Moines**

Presented to: Platte Center Presbyterian Church of Creston

We want to recognize one of the sponsoring congregations of the United Charitable Association. The organization offers safe housing, food and basic needs for persons suffering domestic abuse, transient persons, and those needing transitional housing. They also help with finding legal assistance, counseling, or medical treatment when needed. They describe themselves as a group of compassionate people seeing a need in their community, working together to find a solution for people who need a hand up.

The organization itself is the brainchild of the Creston and Platte Center churches. The building in Lenox has been purchased for \$45,000—and is now completely paid for. \$35,000 to \$40,000 of that expense was donated by members of the Platte Center Presbyterian Church, \$25,000 by one individual. Chuck Erickson, the Platte Center church treasurer, also serves as the Association treasurer. Rev. Delores Doench has been fundraising tirelessly, speaking with churches, businesses and organizations in the area. The renovations to the Lenox building are due to begin in the next couple of weeks with volunteers doing most of the work—they are looking at this as hands-on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance training!

Yes, the Platte Center church has help from other partners, but this little country congregation shows us all what a small number of people with big hearts and commitment can do for their neighbors. So it is with immense pleasure that we recognize Rev. Delores Doench and the members of Platte Center Presbyterian Church with the Just Neighbors Award.