

## Stronghold Report to Blackhawk Presbytery, November 10, 2020

by Terry Mohaupt, Moderator of Stronghold Committee and Board Chair of Stronghold Center, Inc.



**This November Assembly meeting** of the Presbytery of Blackhawk will be the final one during which Stronghold Camp and Conference Center will be under the direct supervision of the Blackhawk Presbytery and its Council. Beginning on January 1, 2021, the new entity—Stronghold Center, Inc.—will act as its own Corporation, as a subsidiary of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, with its own Board of Directors, Bylaws, staff, and day-to-day operations. We are applying for our own 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status.

**For the past fifty-seven (57) years**, Stronghold has been an integral part of Blackhawk Presbytery, with shared operations, activities, facilities, staff, and offices. For those of you who have not been around that long or have been busy with other aspects of your lives during that time, you can read about the past, present, and future of Stronghold—from Walter Strong's beginning vision up to last year—in the article linked below:

["A New Chapter for Stronghold Castle"](#)

By John McGinty, in the March 5, 2019, issue of *Northwest Quarterly* magazine

If your program does not recognize the hotlink, copy & paste this URL into your browser:

<http://oldnorthwestterritory.northwestquarterly.com/2019/03/05/a-new-chapter-for-stronghold-castle/>

**I hope a smile of appreciation** will come over you as you read the rich, vibrant history of Stronghold, which so many of us throughout the decades have grown to love. Because the article was published in early 2019, a smile also may come to you as you read about plans that since have been upended by our current pandemic, which wiped away practically everything Executive Director, Danny Pierce, is quoted as planning.

**Without giving up to the challenges**, during these past very trying months, Danny and his reduced staff have gone far beyond what was expected and asked of them, working in areas well beyond their job descriptions and with numerous churches, organizations, and individuals who generously volunteered their time, talent, energy, and money to keep Stronghold going to get us to this point. The grounds and facilities look better than they have in a long time, thanks to more people than I can name here.

**Here is what will happen next.** While Stronghold will have its own governing body, it will remain connected to Blackhawk Presbytery, not only in terms of historical, personal, spiritual, and religious connections, but also in various provisions within its Bylaws; among these are—since Stronghold is a subsidiary of Blackhawk Presbytery—the Presbytery will approve a majority of Stronghold Board Directors and any actions that involve money beyond specified limits in expenditures, property, or loans; neither entity will be liable for the actions of the other; and, if Stronghold fails, the property will revert back to Blackhawk Presbytery. We also have a Covenant expressing the values and intentions that we will continue to share; it will be reviewed and updated regularly. Plus, a representative of Stronghold will continue to have a seat at the Presbytery Council table.

**We pray that Stronghold will rise again soon**, as restrictions are lifted when we have faith that the virus will come under control. Children will attend camp again. Churches will bring confirmation classes. People will come for yoga. Groups will come for arts, recreation, retreats, team-building, and spiritual enrichment, based upon the religious principles on which Stronghold was founded.

**For now**, you still can visit Stronghold in a safe way! Call Kitty at 815-732-6111, Ext. 613; or email <[reservations@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:reservations@strongholdcenter.org)> *Wear a mask when you come.*

**Thank you, Presbytery of Blackhawk**, for your past and continuing mission support; and bless you for providing the foundation upon which Stronghold can build to an even better future!

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