

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Annual Report  
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019**

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Aileen Hawse  
Forest Mixdorf  
Edward Northey Jr.  
Marian Hastings  
Marlene Torgerson  
Kenneth Limberg  
George Mulder  
Doris Nothnagel  
Larry Simon  
John Holmes  
Clayton Lyon



### **Staff**

Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dan Voigt, Associate Pastor  
Patrick Marchant, Director of Music Ministries  
Erica Rissi, Director of Youth Ministries  
Jodi Dieken, Office Manager  
Dee Jordan, Church Secretary  
Becky Dietz, Financial Secretary  
Ben Maurer, Senior Custodian  
Larry Nosbisch, Custodial Assistant  
Stacey Coulter, Director of Child Care  
Charissa Lambert, Director of Messengers & Mice Choirs  
Brenda Buseman, Choir Accompanist

## With Christ as our cornerstone we Believe, Become, Belong, Build

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### Senior Pastor

***“And you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” 2 Corinthians 3:3***

To serve as a Pastor to Westminster is an amazing privilege as I can witness the above verse lived out each day. When the apostle Paul wrote this verse to the early church in Corinth, he wanted to stress how important it is to always be open to the Spirit's leading, and also to keep a vulnerable heart. As we've witnessed the Spirit at work in 2019, let's review some important happenings for our congregation.

\*Thankfully our staff remained in place for the entire 12 months, a wonderful way to have continuity as we serve. Dee Jordan did add to her duties in addition to serving as a part-time secretary, she now also serves as a part-time Christian Education assistant to Pastor Dan and Erica. I can't express how much I appreciate how hard our staff works to keep Westminster inspired, focused, organized and efficient. As we gathered for our Christmas party at my home and I witnessed the ping-pong tournament, it was so renewing to see a team so much enjoying each other as friends. We are dedicated and so very grateful. I meet weekly with each program staff person and we do our best to review thoroughly and plan for the seasons to come. I'm grateful for our personnel committee and especially want to thank outgoing chairperson Kerri Powell for her six years on the committee. Every position changed during her time except for financial secretary and office manager. Thanks, Kerri, for your leadership and dedication.

\*Our session commissioned a task force in January to address ongoing challenges with membership and finances. A report follows this yearend review. Great thanks to the task force who took time for interviews, summaries and recommendations to the session. I especially want to thank our church clerk, Gary Iversen who faithfully attends all the monthly meetings as well as special meetings to keep us always in order 😊 His heart for our congregation is huge and his deep faith is an inspiration.

\*Our worship services have been strengthened thanks to a continuing education conference I attended in May. The elevation conference sponsored by Worship Design Studio and led by Dr. Marcia McFee was not only inspirational, but so helpful. Several creative ideas that we implemented upon my return. We used three worship series, The Outsiders, It's a Wonder-full Life and Heaven and Nature Sing. These series were experienced in the summer, for our stewardship focus and our Advent season. There is continuity and creative expression through the liturgy, music, videos and often an anchor image. When we weren't in the midst of one of the Worship design series, we utilized the narrative lectionary for our worship focus.

\*I have enjoyed continuing to teach consistently in various small groups throughout the year. Our Wednesday night WOW group is an amazing group of women who support each other with prayer as we study various themes. We've been in the midst of the series "The Story" which is a condensed version of the Bible. We look forward to our choir's presentation of "The Story" on Palm Sunday evening as it tells the story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (a plug for a 2020 activity). I also taught two separate groups of *A Sacred Rhythm* by Ruth Haley Barton. One group met during Lent and another over the summer. I continue to meet monthly with the Journey group that came together in 2016; we have done further Bible studies and book studies, had yearly retreats and grown together on our spiritual path. A special thank you to Deacon Troyce Vich who has led numerous Journey groups and is presently teaching her fifth group. Our Presbyterian Churches in the Cedar Valley began a Bible study in September called The Grand Sweep in which various pastors share the teaching responsibilities and it has been life giving to be one of those leaders.

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\*My Presbytery responsibilities have increased with my role on Committee on Ministry as I serve as the liaison to First Presbyterian, Cedar Falls. They are in the midst of a search for a new head of staff as Rev. Brad Braley will retire in June. It is interesting to be an onlooker to this process. I am particularly sad to see Brad retire as he's been a wonderful support to me personally and to our Presbytery. Also, in the spirit of community we hosted 200 women for the Fall Gathering which featured Mandy Sullivan, an inspirational speaker.

\*We are also coming to the end of the enhancements for the Seeking New Paths campaign. As I review the booklet that we created in 2016 it is incredible to see the projects almost complete. We so enjoy the new coffee house, the stained-glass windows and of course the air conditioning. Now in 2019 the Social hall is complete and hopefully early in 2020 the sanctuary screen/projector will be complete. Thanks to Dean Thede for all the phone calls, emails and meetings to get these projects finished. Also, very appreciative of the extra funds given through pledges to make this dream come to life.

\*As head of staff it is always a joy to witness the all church events throughout the year. The special high lights like VBS with Erica dressed as a robot each day, summer music camp with the sanctuary bursting with life for the play at the end of the week. Also, the amazing presentation of The Hunchback of Notre Dame which illustrated so well Patrick's enthusiasm for building relationships with community friends. It is life giving to see the volunteers come forward for the Junior High dances and serving at Sunday Supper and who can forget the VERY HOT weekend in July when we had our Trucks, Trunks and Treasure sale in the back-parking lot. Our financial secretary, Becky Dietz went above and beyond to make this fund raiser happen. Thanks also to Sarah Hellman and her scrip team as they were able to contribute \$4,000.00 to the 2019 budget with their efforts. All of this takes many hands and hearts, thanks to all!!

Thanks to Pastor Dan for his genuine heart and creative ways. When there are difficult days in ministry and life (yes, those happen), he is sincere in his support of not only me, but our entire staff. And of course, thanks to our office manager Jodi, now in her 16<sup>th</sup> year. She knows us, puts up with us and continues on with her faithful ways!! Thanks be to God!!

Always with Hope,  
Pastor Tricia

### **Task Force Report—2019**

In late February of this year a task force was created to explore ways in which we could respond to areas of concern for our congregation. Two areas that were explored were membership engagement and financial concerns. The task force included Elders (John Speas, Charlie Lott, Bruce Jacobs, Mickey Waschkat) and members at large (Margo Grimm, Judy Clauson, Andy Van Fleet, Jeff Morgan, Rebecca Hoffman) and Pastors Jacobs & Voigt. The team read the book *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri Nouwen and met several times over the course of this year. Interviews were held with a cross section of the congregation to receive feedback regarding areas of great joy and lifting up concerns about the congregation. Much data was collected and then put into several pages of comments. These comments were then put into categories and presented to our Session in August. The Elders chose three areas from each category (Financial & Membership) and then had a special work session to list action steps which will be given to the staff/committees for future use.

Note: Some of the information below has already been put into use by this year's Stewardship team. That information is included below in this report.

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The task force also wanted to lift up that although we are experiencing short falls in our operating budget in recent years our overall giving has been at an all-time high when one considers the giving which was also given towards the capital campaign; so as an example in 2013, our overall giving was \$782,347.00. In 2017, just four years later our giving rose to \$1,006,948.00 when one adds the total given to the operating budget (\$828,554.00) plus the capital campaign (\$178,394.00).

Although it is always helpful when we can raise our operating budget giving, we need to be mindful of the ways we've stretched to add our capital campaign giving. The Seeking New Paths projects are already bringing us great satisfaction with the new coffee house, stained glass windows, air conditioning units, social hall renovations (almost complete) and we hope by the end of this year to have the screen and projector installed in the sanctuary.

Special thanks to all the task force members and elders for their hours of work. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback. May we always bring our God great glory with our efforts for the Kingdom.

Always with great hope,  
Pastor Tricia

### **Financial/Giving**

*Stewardship Asks*

*Financial Education*

*Endowment Understanding*

These Three were chosen as priorities by the Elders.

### Action Steps-

\*Raising the % of e-giving units to 50% (35% presently)

\*Create a spirit of Ownership of the Ministries (Like we own our houses and have a mortgage payment, do we engage with our responsibility to support the ministries of WPC.)

\*Stewardship Campaign- have members tell their stories of inspiration at Westminster

\*Children and Youth, challenging them with offering in class time, CE committee

\*Having an endowment push Sunday with a rep from Endowment speaking in Worship, forum during Sunday school to educate congregation about endowment funds/giving. Only option on that Sunday

\*Also encourage giving of time/talents as Stewardship—What is one NEW thing you could do in 2020 to serve Westminster (washing dishes on Wednesdays, ushering, Sunday supper, dance chaperone, etc...)

### **Membership/Engagement**

#### **Priorities**

*Deepen Spiritual Growth of Adult Ministries*

*Define & strengthen our identity at Westminster*

*Enhance Children's Ministries*

#### Action Steps

\*Small Groups- Create new groups as they establish long standing devotion

\*New Adult Classes- Ask new leaders to share their stories/skills, short term commitments

\*Create list of volunteers, their interests/gifts

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- \*Strengthen Identity by repeating the vision/purpose of the church
- \*Continue to Reach out to families who attend VBS/Promise Academy Lessons and Camps
- \*Children's Ministry – Strengthen relationships with families
- \*Contact children who are absent
- \*Create inter-generational relationships

### **Associate Pastor**

It has been a privilege to serve you all again this year as your Associate Pastor. I continue to enjoy being able to preach, teach, and learn with you all on a regular basis. I hope those times are as beneficial to you and your faith as they are to mine. 2019 also brought another Men's Retreat with one my favorite speakers (Mark Sundby), a short Mission Trip to Marshalltown to work with Habitat for Humanity there, and getting to know new missionary couples in Zambia and Indonesia. I also enjoyed being able to serve as a camp Pastor again at Lakeshore on Okoboji, and even started serving on the board as part of my Presbytery duties. In addition, I also served the Synod by helping to plan and run Synod School at Buena Vista University in July.

The biggest area of growth for me has certainly been in putting more concentration into the children's ministry of the church. Many thanks to the incredible and dedicated volunteers who lead, teach, cook, clean, organize, decorate, and give to make a wonderful and loving space for our children to grow in faith. They have been an inspiration to me.

The year, as always, is marked with difficulties and challenges too. We've buried some cherished people, and tight church budgets keep challenging us to do more with less. But through it all, it continues to be a wonderful journey to be on together as we deepen our faith and continue to notice presence of God's kingdom growing right here among us.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dan

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Here we are, the 2019 report, and what an amazing year it was! We expanded our youth programming with a spring musical for the LightShine & Messenger choirs, hosted a summer music camp with over 90 students, and hosted our first ever community theatre program in October to call out just a few big changes that 2019 brought!

- Throughout the Lenten season we held Taizé worship services on Thursday evenings with piano and cello accompaniment. These repetitive music & prayer services allowed time for personal reflection and prayer surrounded by candlelight and meditative music.
- Just in time for Easter, we celebrated the return of our sanctuary grand piano fully refurbished by Premier Piano Services in Walker, IA. The piano was fully restored from the inside out with brand new parts and a refinished case. It now looks, sounds, and plays beautifully!!
- Our Easter morning gam worship service included our Chancel choir as well as a brass quartet accompanying the worship service and a string quartet to accompany the choir anthem.

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- Our LightShine & Messenger Choirs presented their spring musical “Danny and the Shacks” on May 12<sup>th</sup> at a 10am worship service in the Sanctuary. With a large variety of music from slow ballads to rap break downs, we explored and shared a fun retelling of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being protected in the fiery furnace and the story of Daniel in the Lion’s Den surrounded by some rock-star musicians.
- Our Summer Cabaret & Sanctuary piano dedication was presented in June of this year on a Wednesday night with a potluck meal shared before the fun and encouraging performance welcoming all of Westminster’s congregation to share their talents. This year’s cabaret featured 14 performers who were willing to share their amazing talents with us!
- We took on a completely new adventure revising our Promise Academy of Music summer music camp and hosting it on our own without UNI’s CMS program. We presented a weeklong 9am-5pm camp for children and young adults ages 6-18 with our end of the week goal being a complete performance of Disney’s Frozen JR. a 60-minute musical that over 85 students learned in just 5 days’ time with great success! It was a wonderful experience seeing our building filled with so many kids throughout the week, and the sanctuary with an audience of 374 people in attendance the night of the show.
- Our Promise Academy of Music’s fall semester continued to offer piano, ukulele, guitar, and band instrument instruction to students. Our fall 2019 semester had an enrollment of 20 students.
- Perhaps our largest undertaking for 2019 was a community theatre performance of The Hunchback of Notre Dame in October. Through this program, we were able to invite community members into our building to join us in creating a beautiful musical that celebrates the diversity of people and the encouragement to love those around you. The rehearsal process was 8 weeks from August through October with 5 performances October 17-20<sup>th</sup>. This outreach program brought many community members into our building, allowing them to meet and connect with our members and see how Christ’s Love truly does abound at Westminster.
- The Chancel Choir & Messengers participated in the ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service held at St. Edward’s Catholic Church this year. We had about 25 Westminster members sing with the combined choir.
- Rudolph’s nose shone brightly at Westminster at our Cocoa & Carols event held on December 8. This year’s performance was held in the Shared Life Center with cookies and cocoa during the performance. The event included performances from Westminster’s ensembles, and narrations from Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.
- The Meisteringers presented their Bell Festival in the 9am worship service on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Performing selections from Advent and Christmas repertoire, this celebration of handbell music included various techniques and ringing styles as well as a varied style in music from meditative hymns to a resounding Repeat the Sounding Joy.
- On Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> the Chancel Choir performed Heather Sorenson’s “The Silence and the Sound” the cantata included a full orchestra created from members of Westminster’s congregation as

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well as UNI music majors, professors, and area musicians. The 6:30pm performance was matched with a Live Nativity held in the Shared Life Center before and after the performance.

- The Christmas Eve musical, “Christmas Spirit” directed by Charissa Lambert & Patrick Marchant, included the Messenger & LightShine choirs. We had a great time working together preparing this fun musical that offered acting parts across both choirs, as well as an opportunity for the choirs to sing all of the songs together.

I look forward with great hope and expectation as we adventure through 2020!

Yours in Christ,  
Patrick Marchant

### **Director of Youth Ministries**

Our youth continue to enlighten us with their gifts, willing hearts, and bodacious spirits. We have been so blessed to do life with some of the best Jr. High, Sr. High, and Leaders in our area!

Their programs are blessed by many of you and in particular Susan Larsen, Dee Jordan, Emily Bittner, Steven Jordan, Whitney Rissi, Holly Ritter, Stacy Hesse, Jocelyn Williams, Regina Rivers, Bruce Jacobs, Lori and Eric Johnson, Carrie Heinzerling, Missy Pooch, Angie Tieskotter, and Jessica Augustine. These leaders are such a strong influence in our youth’s lives, and our programs are forever stronger because of their gifts to youth ministry.

Susan Larsen, Steven Jordan, and Whitney Rissi help lead our Jr. high program.

Emily Bittner, Dee Jordan, Whitney Rissi, and Dee Jordan help lead our Sr. High program.

Susan Larsen, Regina Rivers, and Bruce Jacobs help lead our Confirmation Class.

Lori and Eric Johnson, Carrie Heinzerling, Missy Pooch, Angie Tieskotter, and Jessica Augustine help lead our Sunday School Class.

Jocelyn Williams, Stacy Hesse, and Holly Ritter help lead our Game Room.

I would like to share a few of our highlights in 2019:

- Our youth program was blessed to be able to begin a new small group ministry called, “Summit Studies”
- Our youth program has begun highlighting another form of worship in our Wednesday Programming by hosting a musical worship service for the combined ages between their normal classes
- We have been blessed to have the involvement of our Jr. High and Sr. High schoolers in our Sunday and Wednesday worships
- We confirmed 9 youth into the church and celebrated 12 graduating seniors
- The youth got down and dirty and washed many of your cars at our Youth Car Wash and raised money by celebrating our moms at our Mother’s Day Brunch
- 19 junior highs and 4 adults attended Great Escape summer camp
- 20 youth and 7 adults traveled to San Francisco for their summer mission trip
- We have been blessed to host numerous events around the church for our youth including our fall-bash kick-off, fear factor lock-in, BYOC Game Night, the Office Olympics, and more!
- 13 junior highs and 3 adults went on our Jr. High Fall Retreat

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- 15 high schoolers and 4 adults went on our Sr. High Winter Retreat
- They packed meals at the FMSC and helped serve at our Annual Meeting, Easter Joy, The Cantata, Cocoa and Carols, and more!

Our Friday night dances continue to go strong and we celebrated 51 years of community service in 2019! These dances are made possible by the members of Westminster and their willing hearts to chaperone and serve! Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry to the middle schools of the Cedar Valley.

The youth continue to be a strong presence at Westminster Church and I want to thank our members for their outpouring of love and support in all that we do! You can follow along with all that we do here at Westminster and beyond by checking out our social platforms @wespreyouthia

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erica Rissi

### **Director of Child Care**

Westminster has welcomed many new babies into our church family this year and our nursery staff enjoys watching each one grow! We currently have 8 workers, including one director. There is typically a leader present to take charge of the children and supervise the workers. In general, we provide at least 2 to 3 people in the nursery every time it is available, for safety reasons. We have implemented a system for cleanliness in the nursery, keeping children safe with a sign in and out for each service, and keeping in touch with each family that enters the door. We painted and are adding some design touches to make the nursery appealing to the children that come in our door.

There are 2 rooms available for use; one for babies and toddlers and one for preschool children. Each room has toys and games that suit each age level. The nursery provides care for children kindergarten age and younger, with exceptions when needed. We understand there are some circumstances when the nursery and staff need to be utilized by other children. We are able to provide childcare for any church activity. We are proud of our facility and of our staff.

We look forward to the year ahead working with your little ones!

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey Coulter

### **Session**

#### **Class of 2019**

Judy Kester (Y3) Miss  
Cathie Miehe (Y6) Nom  
John Speas (Y3) Fin  
Karen Siler (Y3) Nom  
Carrie Heinzerling (Y3) CE  
Charlie Lott (Y3) P  
Kristie Brown (Y5) Fin

#### **Class of 2020**

Marie Hills (Y2) WM  
Kerri Powell (Y5) Pers  
Bruce Jacobs (Y2) Prop  
Matt Loesche (Y4) Fin  
Carolyn Weichers (Y1) CE

#### **Class of 2021**

Mickey Waschkat (Y4) Pers  
Dean Thede (Y4) Prop  
Jo Broadston (Y4) WM  
Felicia Cass (Y1) Miss  
Tasha Knight (Y1) CE

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## **Session Committee Chairpersons – 2019**

Christian Education – Carrie Heinzerling  
Finance – Kristie Brown  
Endowment – Harrison Cass  
Worship and Music – Jo Broadston  
Mission – Judy Kester  
Personnel – Kerri Powell  
Property – Dean Thede  
Nominating – Karen Siler  
Stewardship – John Speas

**Report from Session** - Total members as of December 31, 2018 – 507

## **Additions**

Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith – 5  
Certificate of Transfer – 6  
Youth Professions – 9  
Other - 6

## **Deletions**

Certificate - 4  
Death – 10  
Moved from MEMBER status to INACTIVE - 22  
Total active members as of December 31, 2019 – 497

## **Christian Education**

### Sunday Morning Adult Education

Sunday Morning continues to be a great time for our church members to grow in various areas. Last year we brought back Thomas Eachus to speak on mental Health, Dr. Wells (UNI) on religious persecution, our friends Dema Kazkaz and Erin Maiden came back to talk about Women's perspectives from other faiths, Dr. Waggoner (UNI) came to speak about his new book on Religion in American Education, Pastor Tricia taught a class called *Sacred Rhythms* on spiritual disciplines, Geoff Grimes taught about church architecture, Dr. Donna Hoffman can and spoke on civil religion, Erin Arickx taught *Financial Peace University*, Cedar Valley Hospice brought in a few speakers, Scott and Vicki Cose taught on Parenting, and Pastor Dan continues to teach on the Bible and spiritual topics. Suggestions for topics and speakers are always welcome.

### Monday Morning Bible Study

The Monday Morning Men's Bible Study continues to meet almost every week throughout the year, even when Pastor Dan is unable to make it. They are a faithful and thoughtful group, committed to getting to know each other and be guide by scripture. It is a joy to start he week with these men and any who are able to join us at 9 am on Mondays are welcome. We continue to read through different Biblical books and periodically Pastor Dan will insert a topical study related to scripture. In 2019 we covered Proverbs, Difference accounts of Jesus' birth, Gospel of John, and Revelation.

The women's group meets as often as Cathy Young is able to teach them throughout the year. They certainly pack out the parking lot and learn a lot and have a good time.

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### The Journey

Our intensive discipleship course continues to draw people and be important for many in their faith development. One group that started 3 years ago continues to meet and have retreats with Pastor Tricia. Troyce Vich continues to be a champion of this class and continues to teach a new group on Sunday mornings. If you have any interest in digging deep into your faith please contact Pastor Dan and I'll put you on the list for when a new group starts.

### Wednesday Night Men's Group

A small group of Men continue to meet on Wednesday Nights and cover various topics. Currently we are in the middle of *The Story*, which is a study that walks through the whole of scripture. The Wednesday Women's group is also doing this same study. Last Winter and Spring they each covered various topics on faith, the church and spirituality.

### Children's Ministry Highlights

2019 brought some great moments for our Children's Ministry. Our Easter Joy celebration continued with great games and crafts and even added a walk through the Bible. VBS continues to be a huge success with over 100 kids in attendance and this year we explored our faith in an outer space theme. We also sent 5 kids to summer camp and Pastor Dan even attended with three of them and served as the camp Pastor that week. Our Wednesday Night ministries continues to be full of a lot of fun and learning. We've continued our after school pick up, which is getting even more popular, and explored new teaching curriculum using building bricks and an online resource with fun short videos. A Family and Youth friendly Worship has also continued once a month, and we celebrated Mike Howland, our intern who has been with us for a year and half, but moved to Des Moines for student teaching. Also, with the addition of Dee Jordan to our ministry staff, where she helps prep things for all ages, we've had to bring back the use of various cooks from the congregation to make our meals. Their work and dedication has been greatly appreciated. Sunday mornings has also continued to follow the lectionary of Sunday Mornings and the teachers continue to do great work in growing up our little ones in the faith. 10 Bibles were handed out this year to our 3yr olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

### Partners in Education

We continue to support Kingsley Elementary by bringing birthday bags to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, cooking a lunch in December for the entire staff, are pen pals with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the fall. We also had a meal with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in May, as well as, welcome the whole school for their evacuation drill. Kingsley has also blessed us with some great artwork, promoting some of our events, and caroling to our staff. What a fun partnership!

### Fellowship

The Christian Education team also continued to support the fellowship of the congregation by going to a Bucs baseball game last June, having an event at Palmers in August, providing cookies and serving at the Cocoa and Carols Event, had a murder mystery event, and hosting a pumpkin carving event for families in October.

### Grand Sweep

This year also brought the addition of a Bible Class taught on Tuesdays by a rotation of the 7 Presbyterian Pastors in the Cedar Valley. The course called, *The Grand Sweep*, will last for 2 years, and cover all the books of the Bible. People are welcome to join at any time.

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### Retreats

This brought the second annual Men's Retreat. It was held again at Lakeshore Center in March of 2019 and led by Mark Sundby and Tom Allen from Leaderwise. They spoke on various ideas around being a Spiritual Man. Westminster was also host to a women's retreat this fall that was sold out.

I look forward to continuing our discipleship together in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dan Voigt

### **Deacons**

The Deacons have continued their crucial work to our Westminster family by visiting and staying in touch with our members in need of little extra attention. They also continued to support the entire congregation by offering blood pressure checks, offering a prayer vigil, providing a meal for our Genesis Sunday in September, and food and service for the Cantata. They've also aided our outreach efforts by supporting foster care graduates, hosting our Neighborhood's Night Out event, providing welcome bags for church visitors, and ushering as the Hunchback performances. This year also brought the addition of offering communion to the shut ins on our visits and also reading *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.

Special thanks to outgoing Deacons Peggy Henning, Joan Craig, Jim Mather, Don Kester, Becky Willhite and Don Shafer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dan Voigt

### **Endowment Committee**

Westminster Endowment Foundation members during the year 2019 were – Harrison Cass - Chair, Bob Buckley, Jerry Clauson, Paul Grarup, Patricia Jacobs, Kathy Schreiner, Jeanne Speas and Mickey Waschkat.

Endowment Funds are kept in Trusts and are professionally managed by the trust departments of Community Bank and Trust and Lincoln Savings Bank. Investments are in keeping with the philosophy of supporting current needs but with an eye towards growing the investments in the long-term to assure increasing level of support over many years to come.

Committee Approved Expenditures for 2019

#### **GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK**

- Premier Piano Service
- Portable Speaker System
- Wireless Microphone System
- Westminster Presbyterian 2019 Operating Budget

#### **SHIREY FUND/COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST**

- Feed My Starving Children
- Visitation Pastor funding for 2019 Operating Budget

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## **MEMORIAL FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK**

Memorials were contributed to the church from the following friends and families of -

- Aileen Hawse
- Ed Northey
- Marian Hastings
- Marlene Torgerson
- Ken Limberg
- Doris Nothnagel

## **FERN GRAY FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK**

Fern Gray Fund allows members of the church to apply for Scholarships to help fund their college tuition. In 2019, \$21,750 was allocated to twelve students that applied. Guidelines for scholarships are in the Fern Gray Fund Trust.

If you would like information about any of the Endowment Funds, please contact Becky Dietz in the church office or one of the members of the committee.

Becky Dietz,  
Financial Secretary

## **Finance Committee**

2019 began with a deficit around \$61,032.37, from 2018. Unfortunately, pledges continue to fall from previous years. Staff and committees were fiscally responsible and cut expenses wherever possible. The 2019 budget was for \$784,669.00 and total expenses ended at \$745,300.01. Receipts ended at \$758,758.28, which included \$57,000.00 from Endowment. By year-end, revenues exceeded expenses by \$13,458.27. We thank the congregation for continued generosity.

In addition to monthly monitoring of the financial reports the committee also:

- Assisted with review of year-end financial position and need to ask congregation for extra year-end gifts.
- Prepared reports for the Messenger Newsletter, keeping the congregation updated with monthly budget summaries.
- Assisted with the 2020 Stewardship Campaign
- Developed the Operational Budget for 2019 in conjunction with Committee Chairs and staff. Presented asking budget to Session for their approval. Will work on the same for 2020.
- Recognized that pledges for 2019 may not allow for 2019 Operational Budget. Will support the effort to find a solution to this challenge.
- The church purchased equipment for snow removal and salting. This has reduced operating expenses for these items.
- Thank you to Matt Loesche and Kristie Brown, for their service on Finance Committee, through 2019.
- We will be welcoming new members in 2020, Felicia Cass and Jolan Adams. John Speas will be the new Finance Chair. Felicia Cass will also be an elder.
- Updated the input to the weekly bulletin to reflect YTD Total Revenue, YTD Disbursements and YTD revenue over expenses.

## With Christ as our cornerstone we Believe, Become, Belong, Build

Below are some normal operating expenses for our church.

- \$3167.82 - Average Monthly MidAmerican Energy
- \$460.00 - Average Monthly Waterloo Water Works - (Water / Sewer / Fire Lines / Storm Water)
- \$6596.49 – Snow Removal / Salt – January 2019 – April 2019
- \$117.70 - Monthly Garbage
- \$197.22 per time - Elevator Service Fees - quarterly
- \$492.20 - Elevator - Annual Safety Inspection
- \$120.00 - Elevator - Annual Licensing through Iowa Division of Labor Services
- \$109.00 - Sump Pump - Annual Maintenance Contract
- \$1250.00 – Average Monthly Insurance Premium

Additional Income to General Fund

- \$4000 – Scrip
- \$3777 – Table Runners (thanks Margo)
- \$25 – Amazon Smile
- \$1000 – Trucks, Trunks and Treasures - 13 vendors (thanks Bruce Jacobs and Becky)
- \$1500 – Friendship Club
- \$140 - STUFF

### BUDGET SUMMARY

	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	YTD	YTD	BUDGET
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 91,844.37	\$ 87,665.38	\$ 758,758.28	\$ 729,891.54	\$ 784,669.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,172.74	\$ 3,244.13	\$ 34,365.21	\$ 34,849.43	\$ 35,700.00
OPER & MAINT	\$ 7,862.44	\$ 5,531.84	\$ 85,167.90	\$ 97,042.70	\$ 94,750.00
CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 2,763.39	\$ 938.22	\$ 19,680.88	\$ 17,283.98	\$ 24,100.00
PERSONNEL	\$ 44,639.27	\$ 41,526.82	\$ 502,144.39	\$ 516,509.78	\$ 514,515.00
MISSION	\$ 5,133.66	\$ 4,563.21	\$ 58,965.92	\$ 77,202.42	\$ 68,000.00
MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 5,128.03	\$ 2,838.50	\$ 15,781.21	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,800.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 177.50	\$ 287.82	\$ 716.22	\$ 1,257.30	\$ 1,500.00
HOSPITALITY & DEACONS	\$ 1,159.90	\$ 599.00	\$ 5,104.50	\$ 3,753.66	\$ 5,000.00
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH	\$ 427.50	\$ 1,136.40	\$ 3,799.62	\$ 3,917.12	\$ 5,700.00
PER CAPITA	\$ 1,633.68	\$ 2,008.96	\$ 19,604.16	\$ 24,107.52	\$ 19,604.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 72,098.11	\$ 62,684.90	\$ 745,300.01	\$ 790,923.91	
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 19,746.26	\$ 24,980.48	\$ 13,458.27	\$ (61,032.37)	

Respectfully submitted,  
 Kristie Brown, Chair of Finance Committee

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## **Mission Committee**

The Mission Committee is responsible for administering distributions locally, nationally, and worldwide in the amount of 10% of the total yearly pledges and additional monetary receipts. Committee members for 2019 were: Judy Kester, Mike Lewis, Kendal Crawford, Angie Tieskotter, Jean Gardner, Gary Iversen, Lori Johnson, and Felicia Cass. Pastor Dan Voigt served as our staff liaison.

Hands-on Mission work by church members included Sunday Suppers, Habitat for Humanity, helping with tornado recovery efforts in Marshalltown, donations of personal supplies for the Food Bank, donations of baby items for the Stork's Nest, packing meals for Feed My Starving Children, purchasing Christmas gifts for CASA children, meeting with clients referred from Love Inc. for water bill assistance, and organizing/serving the Annual Christmas Dinner.

Monetary support was given to many organizations including Lakeshore Camp, Dubuque Seminary, Missionaries (Hederstedts and Charles and Melissa Johnson), House of Hope, Food Bank, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Cedar Valley Angels, Self-Help International, Protestant University of Congo, the Honduras Mission, Kaden's Klostet, and scholarships for Westminster youth to attend camps & mission trips.

In November we introduced The Blessing. This new project called for congregation members to submit suggestions for a group to receive a \$7,000 gift. The committee narrowed the submissions from thirteen to three, and presented them for a vote by the congregation. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) was the recipient. It is hoped that we will be able to offer a Blessing again in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Kester

## **Church Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding active members of the Congregation to serve on standing and certain ad-hoc committees, to serve as Deacons and to serve as Elders. Our goal is to maintain an engaged group of members actively serving on each committee.

The Nominating Committee met numerous times from October to November to fill openings for terms beginning in January 2020. The group faithfully and diligently worked towards finding the right persons to serve in the open positions. The committee felt confident in the slate of individuals put forward to serve.

Bruce Pals, and Curt Edler will return for a second term and six new Deacons have been nominated: Dawn Wallbaum, Susan Larsen, Marv Dewaard, Heidi Warrington, Judy Baier, and Vicki Cose.

Judy Kester, John Speas, and Karen Siler will be returning to serve as Elders for their second terms. Additionally, Cody Alberts, Jodi Fabrizio, Ryan Greve and Regina River have been nominated for Elders starting in 2020.

Members of the 2019 Nominating Committee were: Cindy Thede, Wally Dietz, Trisha Crawford, Karen Siler (Elder), Peg Kugler, Shelly Smith, Cathie Mieke (Elder), Don Kester (Deacon), Marla Edler. Pastor Jacobs and Pastor Voigt also attended our Committee meetings. For 2020, pending the Congregation's approval Matt

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Loesche (Elder) will replace Cathie Mieke (Elder) who has completed her term as Elder and new members Harrison Cass, Vicki Cose and Steve Grimm.

This year the Nominating Committee is grateful for the willingness and generosity of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian in participating in the decision making and planning of the church. I would like to thank all WPC members for their dedication, especially those finishing their committee duties. I encourage everyone to be an active and engaged member of our Church and reach out to the Committee Chairs or Elders throughout the upcoming year if you are interested in serving our Church.

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*

In Christ,  
Karen Siler

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee during 2019 consisted of Dr. Patricia Jacobs, Head of Staff; Session members – Kerri Powell (Chair), Charlie Lott and Mickey Waschkat; Congregational Members – Stacy Hesse, Jennifer Nauholz, Harrison Cass, Geof Grimes, Andy Van Fleet and Jodi Fabrizio (Secretary). In 2020, Jodi Fabrizio will become an Elder and assume the Chair position. We thank Kerri Powell and Andy Van Fleet for their service on the Personnel Committee and welcome Jeanne Speas and Joe Vich for 2020.

2019 was a wonderful year for our staff! Pastor Dan Voigt and Youth Director Erica Fernandez took over leadership for all Children’s Ministries. This allowed us to expand Dee Jordan’s responsibilities to include Program Assistant duties for our Children’s Ministries. We appreciate the extra effort that goes into making sure all of our youth programming goes off without a hitch – including Vacation Bible School, Easter Joy, Wes Pres Wednesday, Sunday School, Confirmation & Senior Sunday!

Music Director Patrick Marchant continues to bring the Promise Academy to life with two recitals and a week-long music camp culminating in a performance of Frozen Jr. We also rejoiced in the community theater production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame and our Chancel Choir’s cantata. Pastor Tricia Jacob’s leadership shines through the many opportunities we have to grow our faith together as a church, and as a community.

It goes without saying that we are blessed at Westminster with a tremendous and dedicated staff at all levels. We encourage you all to regularly express your appreciation to them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerri Powell

### **Property Committee**

The Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the Building and Grounds of the Church property. Our budget has line items for utility bills, maintenance contracts, snow and lawn care, kitchen and janitorial supplies, insurance, new equipment and equipment repair and maintenance of the Church van. We also set aside money annually for major repair costs of the Church building. The Committee members take turns by month unlocking the Church on Sundays.

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Members of the property committee in 2018 were: Bruce Jacobs, Dan Hills, Dean Thede, Jim Galanits, Randy Waschkat, Scott Cose, Don Kester, Craig Ritland, Cody Alberts, and Rick Gorman.

We contracted a lawn care company to control our weeds and to fertilize. A second company was contracted to remove the snow from our lots. Fallen branches were removed periodically throughout the year. Property Committee volunteers did our lawn mowing.

2019 was again a busy year. In April the committee had a property cleanup day and also approved the use of our back parking lot for a city wide garage sale. The committee sold excess church property at the garage sale and also made donations to Habitat for Humanity.

Expenditures from major maintenance for the year included a new main fire alarm panel and an aluminum ramp to allow us to move our lift up onto the chancel area to change the lightbulbs in the ceiling. We changed bulbs during September. Thank you, Alisa for going up in the lift!

In August the committee and volunteers tackled the major task of redoing our front parking lot islands. The islands were cleaned off, excess and crowded plants were removed, plastic was laid and over 15 tons of landscape rock was spread on the islands.

In 2019 the Property Committee continued overseeing the design, bidding, and construction of our Seeking New Paths projects. As 2019 ends, the majority of our project have been completed. The Social Hall renovations will be completed soon. As 2020 starts the video capabilities for the Sanctuary will soon start.

Craig Ritland will be leaving the committee. I want to thank him for serving 6 years on the committee. His willingness to give to our church is very gratifying. New members starting this year will be Dan Grosser, and Alisa Engelhardt - Smith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Thede, Chair of Property Committee

### **Stewardship Sub-Committee**

*"I came that they may have life, and have it Abundantly."* -- John 10:10b

In 2019, Westminster initiated our 2020 stewardship challenge with this year's theme "A Wonder-Full Life". During October, we heard from several of our members about how our Church has made their lives abundant.

As we finalize our annual stewardship program you, as a congregation, have made pledges totaling \$578,000 which is slightly behind the 2020 targeted budget. Session will be reviewing this year's proposed operating budget and discerning the next steps.

Respectively Submitted,  
John Speas, Stewardship Chair

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## **Worship and Music Committee**

Pastors Tricia Jacobs and Dan Voigt continue to lead Westminster's worship service. Sermon themes included "Come Follow Me" for Lent, "The Outsiders" during the summer, "It's a Wonder-Full Life" for stewardship season, and "Joy to the World" for Advent.

The Music Department is led by Patrick Marchant who oversees all music activities at Westminster including directing the Chancel Choir, Meisteringers, Westminster Chimes, Praise Team and LightShine. Charissa Lambert leads the Messengers and Mice choirs. Mariko Morita continued as Westminster's organist.

Many special programs were continued this year. These included:

- Lenten Taizé services
- Monthly activities during the summer which replaced "BBQ and Blessings"
- Lenten Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Services
- Messenger and LightShine musical "Danny and the Shacks"
- The summer music academy's production of "Frozen"
- Discovery Night services monthly from through May which were replaced by a short worship service for youth on Wednesday nights starting in September.
- Genesis Sunday to usher in the new school year
- All Saints' Sunday with candle lighting to honor those who had died the past year
- Participation in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service
- Cocoa and Carols
- Bell festival in December
- Choir Christmas cantata entitled "The Silence and the Sound"
- Youth Christmas musical entitled "Christmas Spirit"
- Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7, with communion at the 7 pm service. The 11 pm service was not held this year.
- Monthly communion using the intinction method.

Other items of note for this year include:

- Seasonal decorating of the church by the Chancel Guild led by Sarah Hellman and Steven Eilers
- Improvements to the sound systems in the sanctuary and shared life center
- Continued efforts by this committee to support and value both traditional and contemporary worship opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Broadston

W & M Chair

## **Presbyterian Women**

Presbyterian Women are active in the church and participate in the Presbytery Spring Women's gathering. One circle meets the third Wednesday of the month (except for January, July, and August) for Bible study and fellowship. There is a six-member board which meets monthly to take care of business. Offering at these meetings go to missions.

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Piecemakers is the name of our sewing group which meets every Thursday to make quilts and sew children's clothing. These are donated to the Red Cross and other local and foreign places. Lisa Engelhardt is coordinator of sewing.

Presbyterian Women are responsible for funeral lunches and we prepared and served six in 2019.

All women of the church are invited to participate in any or all of these activities. We welcome newcomers!

Jean Butler,  
Presbyterian Women Moderator

### **Piecemakers (World Service Sewing Ladies)**

Piecemakers is a sewing group within the Presbyterian Women. We continue to meet on Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. In 2019, we added a new meeting time on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm.

The Piecemakers enjoy making quilts in full, twin, and infant sizes. We like supporting our community by giving away the quilts we make to local organizations. In 2019, the Piecemakers gave away a total of 77 quilts! We continued to donate to the Red Cross, giving them 25 quilts. We also found many new organizations to support. We gave 16 quilts to House of Hope, 16 to Friends of the Family, and 3 to the Cedar Valley Hospitality House, which are organizations that help homeless women, single mothers, and women who have come from abusive situations. The Piecemakers also made 17 quilts for the Black Hawk County Veterans Affairs, to show appreciation and support for those that have served our country through their military service.

Piecemakers is open to all that enjoy sewing, or those that are interested in learning to sew.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Engelhardt

### **Sweet Hour of Prayer**

Faithful members meet weekly with the pastors for prayer time. We pray for concerns from Sunday connection cards, the cares and concerns list of our Westminster family, the activities from the church calendar and for our staff and members. We give thanks and praise for answered prayers as we recognize God's hand on the life of our congregation. Please join us in Pastor Tricia's office on Monday's at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Troyce Vich

### **Friendship Club**

We meet the first Thursday of the month, except January, July and August. We start out with a potluck dinner, which is one of the best I have been to (great food), then we have a speaker on a variety of topics through the year for the evening followed by our club meeting.

With my second year completed. Time seems to go so fast, but we had another fun year. We had speakers that covered a variety of topics: Chiropractic's and Your Health, Lenten Taizé Service, Surprises in Scotland by Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Tomb of The Unknown Soldier, The Promise Academy by our own Patrick Marchant Music

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Ministry, Hawkeye Community College by our own Dr. Linda Smith, N.E. Iowa Food Bank and we tried a game night in December with prizes. We donated \$450 dollars to our youth group summer activities and we donated \$1500 to our church treasury to help with the budget. I would like to thank Mary Lou Snyder for all her years as Secretary/Treasurer and for her help and patience showing me the ropes.

We have about 26 regular members and are always looking for new ones. There is no age limit, so please come out and bring new smiles, jokes and your spouse with you. So, come check us out in the start of a new decade 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Gorman

### Women's Bible Study Group

From 9:00 to 10 am on Mondays, all women -- including those not members at Westminster -- are invited to gather around our table in Room 216 as we work our way through New Testament. We study each chapter verse by verse and have completed our study of Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts. Unfortunately, my need to undergo serious surgery derailed us in October in the middle of the book of John. The group will recess while I'm in Florida. The study will resume on Monday, April 13. This in-depth study lends itself to those who come weekly, as well as those who can drop in from time to time. The group is caring, congenial, and committed to more deeply living out our Christian faith. Our lively dialogue and discussion give women the opportunity to better understand the Bible and how to live as Christ's disciples.

Blessings,  
Rev Cathy Young

### Sunday Supper

We just completed our fourth full year in this community ministry of the five Cedar Valley Presbyterian Churches (Cedar Falls First, Cedar Heights Community, Unity, Waterloo First, and Westminster). As noted below, we served well over 5,000 meals in 2019! Our volunteers have developed a strong bond with many of our guests, and there is a palpable sense of joy and good fellowship each Sunday evening in the dining room and kitchen.

We have it on good authority (from our guests, of course!) that our chefs are the best in the Cedar Valley. Our partnership with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank makes it possible to provide nutritious meals at a very low cost per person. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of planning and preparation to serve anywhere from 100 to 165 guests every week, and we are grateful to our chefs, who do all of this work on a voluntary basis. We are truly blessed!

#### Meals served (4 Sundays per month unless otherwise noted):

January — 410	July — 535
February — 90 (1 Sunday, due to weather)	August — 390 (3 Sundays, due to Irish Fest)
March — 502 (5 Sundays)	September — 642 (5 Sundays)
April — 282 (3 Sundays, due to Easter)	October — 583
May — 398	November — 410 (3 Sundays, due to concert)
June — 582 (5 Sundays)	December — 497

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## TOTAL — 5,321 meals served in 2019

### Chefs:

Jan Schwab, Lynda and Craig Cose  
Pastor Dave Kivett  
Dee Jordan  
Lesley Johnson

### Volunteer Leaders:

Sally Davis  
Trudy and Julian Olson  
Kari O. Narey  
Pastors on a rotating basis

### Pastors:

Brad Braley	Tricia Jacobs	Dave Kivett
Dave Feltman	Johnny Janssen	Dan Voigt
Pat Gadelmann	Christine Kaplunas	Amy Wiles

### Special Volunteers:

Jan and Don Schwab come early every Sunday afternoon to prepare beverages and get things set up, and they stay until the end of clean-up, helping in any way needed. Jan and Don, along with Lynda and Craig Cose, also do most of the grocery shopping at the Food Bank every week and keep the pantry and freezers well stocked and organized. If there are repairs needed, Craig is often our go-to person. And the Schwabs and Coses take care of purchasing needed appliances and supplies for our suppers.

Sally Davis is our treasurer and works with Kelley Galyen to keep us on track with the Sunday Supper budget and expenditures. Sally also prepares quarterly reports for us, and Kelley sends monthly reports to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Tom Christensen and Kevin McClain serve as our youth helpers. One of them is there each week to help out in the dining room, address any needs our guests may have, and also assist with spills and mishaps that occasionally occur in the dining room.

Matt Haines, Dan Klann, and Mary Mumm regularly serve as our dishwasher operators. They do an extraordinary job keeping the clean-up running smoothly and quickly, and we're so thankful for their service.

A special thank-you to our pastors for their commitment to this ministry. They wear many hats, as our pastoral care providers, volunteer leaders, and chefs. They also lead our quarterly team meetings, along with keeping the minutes of our meetings and drafting the master schedule of volunteers from each church.

We have also had the benefit of numerous volunteers from outside agencies, including Kiwanis, Girl Scouts, UNI students, church youth groups, and the Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley.

Every one of our volunteers serves with a smile and a positive attitude. It has been such a wonderful experience to work side by side with all of you. Thank you very much!

With sincere gratitude,  
The Sunday Supper Team