



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2022 Annual Report

**WITH CHRIST AS OUR CORNERSTONE WE
BELIEVE, BECOME, BELONG, BUILD**

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STAFF

Pastor Jonny Craig, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Charissa Lambert, Director of Music Ministries
Steven Jordan, Youth Leader
Jodi Dieken, Office Manager
Becky Dietz, Financial Secretary
Dee Jordan, Church Secretary/Christian Ed Assistant/Director of Child Care
Mary Lisa Mueller, Visitation Associate
Larry Nosbisch, Set ups/Projects
Dr. Mariko Morita, Choir Accompanist/Organist
Jennifer Ponsart, Director of Meisteringers



Larry Weigle 2/16/2022
Agga Tynan 3/6/2022
Thieleane Raecker 3/25/2022
Cynthia Harmon 3/30/2022
Marian Champ 3/31/2022
Beverly Crawford 4/10/2022
Opal Hanna 4/26/2022
Sharon Juon 5/11/2022
Carol Burger 5/25/2022
Jim Freshwaters 8/7/2022
Don Benson 9/12/2022
Ronald Wieben 10/5/2022
Helen Cook 10/23/2022
Hailee Grovo 11/8/2022
Nancy Showers 12/11/2022

STAFF REPORTS

SENIOR PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

As I read through the annual reports from various ministries and committees through the church, I was struck by the goodness and faithfulness of God. Westminster, like many churches, has been in a prolonged moment of transition over the past months and years. I don't need to rehash the challenges here—you all have lived through them—but I think it's worth remembering them because often it is the most difficult times where God's presence becomes most obvious to us. The Bible is filled with stories of God's people facing seemingly insurmountable challenges yet somehow persevering. The somehow is not a secret—they are carried through by God—but often it is only in hindsight where that becomes clear.

One area where I see God's presence clearly is through the work and enthusiasm of the Westminster staff. From my first days on the job, it was clear to me that Jodi Dieken, Dee Jordan, and Becky Dietz have been the glue that have held the day to day work and ministries of the church together over the past year. Their institutional knowledge and love for the people and work of Westminster are obvious to anyone who steps through the office doors and the organization and warmth that they bring to the administration of the church, Christian Education, and our financial life are beyond commendable. Their work is often unseen and easy to take for granted, but I can't imagine the various ministries and activities of the church operating without them. I would be remiss at this point not to also include Larry Nosbisch and the quiet, tireless way he approaches his work at the church.

I have also seen God's provision for Westminster through the way those inside the church have stepped into staff roles and helped carry the ministry forward. Charissa Lambert, Steven Jordan, and Mary Lisa Mueller have all begun new positions or increased their responsibilities at the church in the past few years and I am so grateful for the creativity and joy they bring to their work. It requires a variety of skills to navigate the differences between adult and children's choirs, traditional and contemporary services, and the various rehearsals and performances that dot the calendar and we are so blessed by Charissa's leadership of our music ministries. Steven's creativity and love for our students is evident to anyone who has interacted with our youth ministry, and he continues to challenge himself to grow in his skills as a leader and teacher. And Mary Lisa has provided pastoral care and warmth to so many in our church community who are unable to attend or who just need an additional of God's love and presence in their lives. Even our very part-time team members—Jennifer Ponsart and Mariko Morita—are emblematic in my mind of God's guiding hand over Westminster as they have steadily shared their talents and joy with us in the midst of uncertain times.

As part of my interview process with the PNC, I was asked about my leadership style and I immediately said collaborative. I am not and don't want to be a lone ranger and I have been so encouraged by the vibrant committee life at Westminster. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul describes the body of Christ in literal terms—some are the hands, some the feet, others the head or the neck. The point he wanted to make is clear: it takes a variety of people with a variety of gifts and talents doing a variety of things to make the church what it is called to be—the presence of Christ in the world. I see this reality at work in our various committees and teams and feel so grateful for the sense of shared ministry present in our church body. I began this letter by talking about seeing God's provision and it is certainly the case that I see God at work clearly in the leadership and work of the people of Westminster.

I have loved the chance to get to know folks over the past month and a half or so I've spent at Westminster and am looking forward to many more years of building relationships and working alongside the members of this congregation to be a beacon of God's love in Waterloo and the Cedar Valley. I feel very privileged to be your pastor and pray that God will continue to deepen our love for one another and our impact in the world around us.

Blessings,
Pastor Jonny

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

- On Good Friday 2022 Westminster Choir combined with other Presbyterian church choirs in the area to sing for the service at First Presbyterian in Waterloo.
- The hiring of Jennifer Ponsart to lead our Meisteringers Bell Choir.
- Starting in the Fall Charissa Lambert led the Church Mice Choir, The Messenger Choir, Chancel Choir and Contemporary Worship.
- Summer special music was filled with musicians from our church and also friends of Westminster.
- All Choirs returned in September with weekly rehearsals. New rehearsal time for Meisteringers was put into place to accommodate the new music staff and a better flow for Wes Pres Wednesdays.
- On December 4th, Cocoa and Carols took place in the Shared Life Center. All Choirs participated and individuals and small groups also joined in for a night of family fun to kick off the Holiday Season.
- On December 11th, Meisteringers led a one service Sunday as they shared the music of Advent with several musical offerings.
- On December 18th, the Chancel Choir, Messenger Choir and Church Mice, shared a multigenerational cantata entitled, "The Witnesses". The script was originally just a play and musical selections were added to create a unique presentation.
- The Worship Team continues to practice twice a month on Thursday nights.
- The Chancel Choir has added an Introit and a Dismissal song to Sunday sharing of music.

Respectfully submitted,
Charissa Lambert

YOUTH LEADER

This year Wes Pres Youth has been packed with much fun, many laughs, some tears, plenty of hugs, lots of learning and measureless growth. There are too many meaningful moments from the past year of youth programming to keep a list, but here are some of the highlights:

- We tried some new activities this year during our Wednesday night programming such as: Human Battleship, Wes Pres Youth Jeopardy, The Egg Drop Challenge, a surprise costume party, and one of our new favorite games: Fish Volleyball!
- We Confirmed 1 student into the church and celebrated 10 graduating Seniors!
- After 3 years we were finally able to take our middle schoolers back to Great Escape, which was a great experience for all, as we were able to run around and have fun as well as learn from some great people! We cannot wait to return!
- The High school students took a trip to Blue Knob, Pennsylvania where we helped a local man, named Steve, by working in his yard and building a fence! We couldn't have asked for a better week together, as the Great Scott

Cose would always say: “We leave as a group, and we come back as a family.” And we truly did become a family on our trip.

- This year we were able to resume our middle school dances! The dances have been a great success in every way possible! I would like to thank those of you that have been able to volunteer to chaperone the dances because we would have no success without all your support!
- We held a car wash in our back parking lot and raised just over \$400 in two hours!!
- The High school group was also able to travel to Jewell, Iowa for a winter retreat and during Spring break we traveled to Mall of America for a day trip!

It’s an honor to be able to work and grow with our students every week and we appreciate everyone’s support in our youth program. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Jordan

DIRECTOR OF CHILD CARE

Our nursery is open during worship times and during our Wes Pres Wednesday program. We welcome all children from birth to kindergarten (with special accommodations when needed). We also provide childcare, from our nursery staff, for young children up to middle school age of volunteers/chaperones during our middle school dances in the Game Room. The Nursery Staff also assist in the kindergarten room during Wes Pres Wednesdays as needed.

We are proud of our facility and of our staff. We currently have 5 nursery staff and one director. Our staff takes pride in providing a clean and safe environment for the children of Westminster. We have a system in place to keep children safe with a sign-in and out for each event.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Jordan

VISITATION ASSOCIATE

The Visitation Associate position was developed in the spring of 2022 after Westminster’s Session had made the decision to move to a one pastor congregation. The 10 hour per week role was intended to assist in our new one pastor setting as well as support the deacons in their ministry.

After I became aware of this opportunity, I was quick to apply. Even though I was currently a teacher, I had plans of transitioning into new career challenges. I have significant education and experience in working with older adults plus in mental health. After being hired, I began working 5 hours per week until the school year ended and then went to a 10 hour per week schedule.

Since this is a new position, I address needs as they evolve. During my typical week, I visit 6 – 8 persons. These individuals are homebound, in the hospital, suffer from an illness or loss, new to the church, or needing encouragement to return to the church in some capacity. It is also a priority to attend staff meetings, confer with the pastor, and have a close relationship with the deacons.

Each visit is unique. Generally, on the first week of the month, I take Communion to members who live in nursing home type care. I see a number of persons who have experienced loss of a family member. Routinely I review and discuss the scripture and sermon from the previous week. Our members also appreciate updates about the activities of the church. There are several persons experiencing dementia that I sit with and pray. This year I have had the privilege of supporting two of our members as they transitioned into Heaven.

Through this position, new relationships have been established and others expanded. One of our families is now coming back to church more regularly and an individual has formally joined our congregation. There continue to be members whose health concerns make them hesitant to attend services, but appreciate phone contacts or visits. Many church members are now connecting with me regarding persons who could use a check-in, such as following surgery.

I very much enjoy and appreciate serving Westminster as the Visitation Associate. I encourage you to contact me regarding persons that you would like me to see or if you would like a visit yourself.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lisa Mueller

SESSION

Total members as of December 31, 2021 - 457

Additions

- Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith – 5
- Certificate of Transfer – 2
- Youth Professions – 1
- Other – 4

Deletions

- Certificate – 4
- Death – 12
- Moved from MEMBER status to INACTIVE – 5

Total active members as of December 31, 2021 – 448

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Ministry (3yr old – 5th grade) We held in-person classes the entire year for both Sunday school and Wednesday nights. Our programming ran January-April and then again September-December. Some of the events we held along with our regular programming were:

- Our carnival in January for the 3yr olds through Jr. High age. Our high school group helped run the games.
- Easter Joy celebration where we had live bunnies, jumpy houses, crafts, games, snacks and an Easter egg hunt.

- The annual Picnic on our last night of Wednesdays in the spring, which in addition to the picnic, included our game night outside, we also said good-bye to Pastor Dan and his family.
- Our annual Palmers Family Fun started off our fall programming where we share a meal together and then families can enjoy the activities at Palmers.

We have held Worship Wednesday on the first Wednesday of each month where we combine all of the classes (kids through adults); we invite a member of our congregation to come and share a devotional with the group along with music, prayer and a skit performed by our youth group.

Wednesday Meals- We have offered a free meal all year on Wednesday evenings during our program year. Anyone is welcome to come to eat and we hope you stay for the activities.

VBS- This year's VBS theme was Adventure Island, and it was an amazing week. Our key verse for the week was Isaiah 60:1, "Arise! Shine! Your light has come: The Lord's glory has shone upon you." The students had a new theme each day and searched for the lanterns of Love, Trust, Faith, Joy, and Hope to help light their path to God. They spent the week learning Bible stories, singing songs, learning dances, making crafts, eating snacks and playing games! Beacon the Puffin was our mascot and, along with our lighthouse keeper, walked the kids through the theme for the week and the kids had a blast! We were told it was one of the best VBS weeks we have had.

Adult Sunday school in the spring was run by Pastor Dan with multiple themes. Since we were without a Pastor starting for the fall program year we elected to do adult Sunday School only on the first Sunday's of the month. We had Harrison and Felicia Cass teach two of those months and Hospice House came in and led the last month. Troyce Vich is leading another year of Journey. The faith-deepening JOURNEY class is a small group (6-10 persons) meeting together for 16 weeks to study our Bibles to understand who God is, who we are and what is God doing in our lives. Pre-registration is necessary due to the sharing and bonding experience of the group. We have been offering this class since 2016!

Adult ministry – There are women's and men's bible study groups that meet on Monday and Tuesday mornings, respectively. There are also men's and women's groups that meet on Wednesday evenings during WesPres activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Hoffman, Chair of Christian Education

DEACONS

The Deacons are committed to being spiritual guides to our members and serve as dedicated disciples. We celebrated many opportunities to visit, send cards, phone and reach out to those people on our special care list. We were delighted to once again have face to face opportunities. The twelve deacons also work tirelessly in numerous activities held throughout the year. This group are beautiful examples of Christ spiritual warriors.

Highlights:

The Labyrinth was available to members to walk through on three dates in January and February.

Bonnie Smith Davis, Susan Larsen and Nancy Osgood set up, gave information and worked the three-hour sessions. We were saddened as the number of attendees was non-existent or minimal. Two other dates were held in March and April with low attendance.

Twelve people attended the snow shoeing event at Hartmann Reserve. Heidi Warrington provided a delicious, hot soup after folks came in out of the elements.

Pastor Dan Voigt provided communion training for those deacons who wished to distribute the sacraments to their home bound members. The deacons who give communion provide the names to Session.

Pastor Dan urged us as deacons to reach out to our members who had new babies in 2022. We decided to mail gift cards as our outreach celebrating a new birth.

Mary Lisa Mueller, visitation associate, began attending our monthly meetings to be aware of our special care members as well as to inform us of her visitations. Mary Lisa also gives us details from the Area Agency of Aging which we can supply to our home bound.

Prayer Vigil was held on May 4 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. About ten people attended. Special thanks to Ann Northey, Heidi Warrington, Curt Edler, Vicki Cose, and Nancy Osgood for making the vigil happen.

Our card ministry continues to serve those members under twelve and over eighty receiving a birthday greeting. We also mail sympathy, concern, support, illness, love and support to those who are listed in the weekly bulletin. Ann Northey spear heads the ministry. Bonnie Smith Davis, Nancy Osgood and Vicki Cose mail the monthly birthday cards.

A card making class is held for anyone interested in creating specially designed cards. Many folks from the congregation and community attend.

Easter lilies were delivered to any of our special care members wishing to have one. The lilies allow the home bound to enjoy the gifts from Westminster and Deacons.

Kingsley Elementary staff (our Partners-in-Ed) were Westminster guests on June 2. A meal of soup, salad and dessert, as well as a gift bag, were given to each of them as a token of their dedication to educating the Kingsley children.

Neighborhood Night Out occurred on a hot and humid evening, August 2. The event had not happened for several years, due to Covid. Our church willingly hosted the event providing tons of manpower and hard work to make the night a success. About forty people and Mayor Hart enjoyed hot dogs, chips, cookies and a cold lemonade. A huge thank you to Ann Northey, Faith Sonksen, Bruce Pals, Curt Edler, Bonnie Smith Davis and Vicki Cose for their faithful dedication and work ethic.

September 11 was our Back to Church Sunday. The deacons and capital campaign committee collaborated serving hot croissant sandwiches, fruit and donuts to a large crowd. Members were pleased to be back together as our Westminster family.

Waterloo First Presbyterian Church will begin to host the free Sunday Supper community meals in January of 2023. First Pres requested us to become involved again as we had numerous volunteers prior to the pandemic. The deacons and mission committee wholeheartedly felt this is a viable and wonderful outreach opportunity. More information will be forthcoming in the new year.

Poinsettias were delivered to our home bound and assisted living patients.

Highland Elementary School students were given items from our G-Love tree. Much appreciation to those members who willingly gave hats, mittens and gloves.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Cose, Deacon Moderator

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Westminster Endowment Committee members during the year 2022 were – Mickey Waschkat - Chair, Ron Coenen, Jeanne Speas, Jeff Morgan, Eric Johnson, Sam Holden and Pastor Dan Voigt.

Endowment Funds are kept in Trusts and are professionally managed by the trust departments of Community Bank & 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 2022:

General Endowment Fund/Lincoln Savings Bank

- Westminster Presbyterian 2022 Operating Budget – Not used

Shirey Fund/Community Bank & Trust

- Visitation Associate funding for 2022 Operating Budget - \$14,500

Francis & Dorothy Winter Sanctuary Fund/Lincoln Savings Bank

- Consulting, Installation Services, New Cameras for Sanctuary \$9,533.02

Westminster Endowment Fund/Torgerson Early Childhood Education/Lincoln Savings Bank-Not used

Westminster Endowment Fund – Torgerson Piecemakers/Lincoln Savings Bank –

- New Keurig coffee maker for Coffee House

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 2022, \$25,500 was allocated to nineteen students that applied. Guidelines for scholarships are in the Fern Gray Fund Trust.

Memorial Fund/Lincoln Savings Bank

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

- Don Benson
- Carol Burger
- Marian Champ
- Larry Weigle

One Estate was received from a member's death.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Mickey Waschkat, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The financial picture at Westminster for 2022 appears to be on target as we near the end of the year. Westminster continues to show solid improvement in both revenues and expenses when compared to our budget. Through November, we show revenue of \$481,474 and expenditures totaling \$456,482, giving us a surplus of \$24,992. December typically is a strong giving month as members fulfill their giving and the church brightens with the holiday season. Although we budgeted using around \$27,600 in reserves and \$26,000 in endowment support, we have only used \$10,500 in endowment support this year. As you may remember, over the past several years Session made several decisions centered around staffing and programing that have allowed Westminster to be on solid financial ground. Without these proactive decisions, this year's finances would look completely unsustainable.

We are working on next year's budget and like many of your own budgets, this is proving to be more challenging. Once Session approves a 2023 budget, we will communicate this to our members. I would like to thank our Finance Committee members who take their responsibilities very seriously. I especially want to recognize Margo Grimm on completing her six-year term. Happy New Year and wishing all a prosperous 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
John Speas, Finance Chair

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee is responsible for determining monetary distributions locally, nationally, and worldwide in the amount of 10% of the total yearly pledges and additional monetary receipts.

We were busy with hands-on mission work in 2022! The Food Pantry received donations of personal supplies and food with many members spending hours packing and distributing items from the pantry to the community. Our food pantry continues to serve the community on the first Saturday and third Thursday of each month. Members donated items for the Stork's Nest; purchased Christmas gifts for children in foster care; adopted a family for Christmas from our Partner in Ed, Kingsley Elementary; met with clients referred to WPC from Love, Inc. for assistance in paying water bills; we worked on a Habitat for Humanity build; and organizing/serving an amazing Annual Christmas Dinner. The Christmas Dinner had both a pick up meal and an in person option. And we were finally able to host Feed My Starving Children in October!

Monetarily, the congregation supported many wonderful groups doing amazing work in the world. Support was given to Lakeshore Camp, Dubuque Seminary, our Missionaries abroad, Hope of Hope, the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Self-Help International, Protestant University of Congo, the Reach Out Orphanage in Honduras, and scholarships for Westminster youth to attend camps and to go on mission trips.

We were able to sponsor The Blessing again in 2022. We received many nominations for community charities in the Cedar Valley doing incredible work in our community. Following the vote of the congregation, Cedar Valley Angels was given the \$7,000 to use in their work with foster care families in the area.

One of Westminster's greatest strengths is its commitment to mission work. Our thanks to each of you who support the Mission programming financially, hands-on, or in both ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina River, Chair

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 2023. The group faithfully and prayerfully 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.

Vicki Cose, Heidi Warrington, and Susan Larsen will return for a second term and Troyce Vich will begin a new term as Deacon.

Jodi Fabrizio and Ryan Greve will be returning to serve as Elders for their second terms. Additionally, Christina Sales, June Klein-Bacon, Don Kester, Rick Gorman and Marv DeWaard, will be joining Session as new Elders representing Nominating, Finance, Property and Worship & Music respectively.

Members of the 2022 Nominating Committee were: Judy Clauson – Session, Karen Siler - Session/Chair, Marla Edler, Matt Loesche, Vicki Cose, Harrison Cass, Don Kester, Susie Heaton, Lori Johnson and Jenny Dodd

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 Session members 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, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The 2022 Personnel Committee representatives included Associate Pastor, Daniel Voigt (January – May); Session Members: Scott Cose (PNC Chair) and Jennifer Owen-Kuhn; Congregational Members: Jess Nauholz, Jeanne Speas, Joe Vich, Kristie Brown (Secretary), Eric Johnson (Chair) and Amy Miehe.

In January, Personnel interviewed candidates and in May hired Mary Lisa Mueller as a part-time Visitation Associate.

In March, Personnel accepted the resignation of our full-time Associate Pastor, Dan Voigt. Pastor Dan had been with Westminster since October, 2016. We wished Pastor Dan well during worship on May 8 as he departed for a new position as a Senior Pastor in the Minneapolis, MN area.

In November PNC recommended the hiring of Jonny Craig as the Senior Pastor. He will serve as our designated Pastor until he completes ordination procedures by the Presbytery, which is anticipated in the late spring of 2023.

2022 has been a challenging year for Personnel, as it has been for Westminster as a whole. When Pastor Dan left in May, Westminster was left effectively without a head of staff. This created some uncertainty as to chain of command and ultimate authority. The determination was made that Session had ultimate authority in the interim, with Personnel serving in both a recommending and administering role. While it was a challenging time for Personnel, it was for similar reasons challenging for the staff. Ultimately, I believe all parties acted as best as can be expected given the circumstances.

One theme that has continuously been raised throughout the year has been regarding staffing adjustments and priorities given our decreasing congregation size. Ultimately, Personnel determined that these decisions needed to be made once the new Senior Pastor was hired, and at the direction of Session. Personnel is willing to give input in the process if requested, and hopes this matter can be addressed and resolved in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Johnson, Personnel Committee Chair

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.

Members of the property committee in 2021 were: Loren Duchman, Alisa Engelhardt, Randy Waschkat, Mark Kennedy, Don Kester, Dan Grosser, Cody Alberts, Dwight VanWyngarden and Dan Hills.

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 by the Property Committee volunteers who also did our lawn mowing and removed snow from the sidewalks and entrances.

To keep the building clean we contract with Merry Maids cleaning service and our part time maintenance person, Larry Nosbisch performs minor repairs when needed and does room set ups.

Expenditures from major maintenance for the year included replacing the van trailer axel, removal of three trees and trimming of three others, Boiler room updates mandated by the insurance company, striping of the front parking lot and repair of 4 air conditioners.

Small projects were completed by members of the committee during the year including a church cleanup day in April, Sanctuary ceiling light bulbs replacement, potholes repaired, roof cleaning of leaves to prevent leakage and weekly lawn cleanup.

Dan Hills and Alisa Engelhardt will be leaving the committee. As chairman, I want to thank all of the other committees outstanding help this year and for their willingness to volunteer as needed. Their willingness to give to our church is very gratifying. New members starting this year will be Dean Thede, Troy Elliott and Rick Gorman.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Kester, Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As we near wrapping up the Westminster stewardship campaign for our gifts for next year, I want to extend my sincere thank you for those who have sent in their pledge cards. For those of you who are still discerning your support of our church, there is still time to make a big impact on the ministries and programing that we can offer at Westminster. Last year's pledges made up 87% of our budgeted giving, we would like to see a similar percentage this year. Currently pledges are about 75% of last year's total. Your pledges not only make a significant impact on how our church operates but having confirmed pledges also allows our Session to arrive at a reasonable and obtainable budget for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
John Speas, Finance Chair

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following is a timeline of the hard work and due diligence of your PNC. This committee has been a very faithful and dedicated group working countless hours, reading PIF's, listening to sermons and meeting regularly. We appreciated your constant support and prayers as we searched for our next Pastor.

Major Activities

- The PNC was nominated by our Nominating Committee, elected by our congregation on January 24, 2021 and began meeting in March of 2021.
- Over the course of 21 months, this committee met over 50 times and each committee member spent hundreds of hours through this discernment process.
- A very detailed 35-page mission study was prepared which took 9 months to complete. It was approved by session and the COM (Commission on Ministry), February 28, 2022 and shared with the congregation and prospective candidates.

- A (CIF) Church Information Form was prepared, approved by our session and the COM on March 1, 2022 and submitted to the (CLC) Church Leadership Connection which in turn, shared the (PIF) Pastor Information Forms with the PNC.
- We received and reviewed in detail over 90 PIF's from across the U.S.
- The PNC watched several hundred sermons of possible candidates.
- Through due diligence and review of these PIF's and sermons, we selected 10 candidates that this committee felt would be a good fit for Westminster. These interviews were conducted by zoom, first with a 30 minute "meet and greet" and later with a 60-minute detailed interview.
- After thoroughly discussing each candidate, we felt we had much to offer as a church and community. However, 5 candidates chose not to continue the process and 1 candidate did not receive a good review from COM and we did not pursue them.
- Phone calls were made to the provided references for the remaining 4 candidates. We entertained two candidates and their families in Waterloo.
- We arranged for the COM of the Presbytery of N.E. Iowa to meet the candidates.
- The COM enthusiastically endorsed each candidate.
- Based on our thorough and prayerful search, PNC unanimously determined that Pastor Jonny Craig was the person God has chosen to be the next Pastor at Westminster. PNC presented the proposed candidate to COM for its consultation, and they voted unanimously for the process to proceed as did our session. Because Pastor Craig has several matters to complete in the Ordination process, PNC recommended to Session that Pastor Craig be offered a contract while he completes those matters. A special Congregational meeting was called on Nov. 27th to share information and answer any questions they might have had. There were no questions and the congregation affirmed unanimously to extend a formal Call to Pastor Craig. Pastor Craig will complete all conditions on or before July 1, 2023 at which time the congregation will be asked to formally extend a Call to Pastor Craig.

Again the PNC would like to extend its heartfelt thanks for your prayers and words of encouragement as we discerned, processed and traveled this journey together!

Respectfully submitted by:

Westminster Presbyterian Church PNC - Scott Cose (Chair); June Klein-Bacon, Judy Clauson, Kendal Crawford, Steven Jordan, Jennifer Owen-Kuhn, Regina River

PIECEMAKERS

Piecemakers is a sewing group that meets weekly on Thursdays, from 9-3. We make tied quilts in Baby, Lap Robe, Twin, and Full sizes from donated cotton fabrics. These quilts are given to local nonprofit organizations. This year we gave seven quilts to Black Hawk County Veterans and six to Friends of the Family.

We gifted a quilt to Pastor Dan Voigt for his service to our church family.

Sewing skills are not necessary to participate. There are several steps in the quilting process that do not require sewing. We would love to have more helping hands.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Porter

PRESBYTERIAN PANTRY

As we finish two and a half years of operation, about the only constant at the Food Pantry has been change. The Pantry opened in the midst of the COVID era. In addition to dealing with learning all of the requirements imposed by USDA regulations to participate in the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB) programs, regular adjustments to the COVID rules kept us busy. One big positive of that time period was that the NEIFB received significant amounts of food through state and federal programs. Expenses purchasing food for the Pantry were very minimal. We served an average of 40 households each distribution during our first six (6) months. During 2021, the number of households averaged forty-six (46). Shortly after the calendar turned to 2022, a number of changes occurred that impacted the Pantry. First, we had begun to experience space issues in the Pantry and received permission from Property and the Session to increase the size of our storage area, almost doubling our size. Our second major change was that the federal and state government programs changed as the country began to exit the COVID era. The result was a reduction in the amount of food the NEIFB was receiving and some supplemental programs assisting the “food-insecure” population was decreased. The final issue, and perhaps the most impactful, was the significant increase in the cost of food. More families struggled with the need to supplement their food supplies.

We started 2022 distributing about 55 boxes at each distribution; that continued through June although numbers were slowly increasing. As we started the second half of the year, our numbers just exploded. The second half of 2022 saw our average increase to 101 boxes. An all-time high of 134 boxes were distributed the week before Thanksgiving with the final few cars only receiving a few meat products as we had completely emptied our shelves. During 2022, our Pantry distributed over 77,000 pounds of food and other household items. In addition, we were able to provide fifty (50) winter coats to families due to the generosity of our members. We are blessed to be able to help so many people, but are working very hard to find enough food products to be able to continue to assist all who come. We want to express our many thanks to the congregation members who have continued to support the Pantry through volunteering and donating items to distribute. When we have to purchase food instead of getting it through the NEIFB or through congregational donations, costs increase substantially.

We were pleased to receive a \$3,000 grant from our Presbytery to assist with expenses and also were awarded a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources which allowed us to purchase an additional refrigerator which enables us to receive additional products to distribute, including fresh produce; this has allowed us to diversify what we have available for distribution. We look forward to 2023 and trust that we will be able to continue to serve our community needs. We are not sure what the future holds but hope and trust that food will continue to be plentiful from the NEIFB, that funding will be sufficient and that our wonderful volunteers and congregational support will continue to be strong.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Iversen

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women did not meet in 2022. We were able to make our pledges to National, Presbytery, and Synod. We also gave gifts to our graduating seniors in May. We assisted with several funeral lunches. Funeral homes are now being asked to provide catered lunches, however the PW women assist when needed to help serve, bake desserts and provide drinks.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Butler, Moderator

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Approximately 7 years ago, I was approached by two female members of Westminster asking if I would lead a Women's Bible Study. The men met weekly, but there wasn't yet the opportunity for women to do the same. We began our study of the New Testament in Matthew 1:1 and have worked, verse by verse, through the gospels, Acts, the letters of Paul, and the Pastorals. In January, we'll begin our study of Hebrews.

During the pandemic, we switched from in person 9 a.m. Monday morning study to Zoom. We've continued that because we can participate via computer or I-pad from anywhere. While most of our members belong to Westminster, we now have participants from Arkansas, Texas, Florida, and multiple denominations.

Studying the Bible word for word, verse by verse, is challenging. This year, we've dealt with verses quoted by Presbyterians during the Civil War who were both pro- and anti-slavery. We've faced challenging texts about the role of women in worship and the church. Yet through it all, our faith and understanding have been deepened. Women of any age who would like to join us - or check out the study - are welcomed with open arms. Please email me at cathyyoung4@gmail.com if you're interested. This wonderful group of women have become a tight knit small group as we celebrate learning, growing in faith, and supporting one another.

Blessings,
Rev. Cathy Young

2022 Committees

(Elders bold)

Elders

Chairs/Red BOLD if an Elder

Meets 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. No July or November

2022		2023		2024	
Judy Kester	Y6 WM	Rebecca Hoffman	Y2 CE	Jennifer Owen Kuhn	Y1 Per
John Speas	Y6 Fin	Scott Cose	Y2 Per	Judy Clauson	Y1 Nom
Karen Siler	Y6 Nom	Marie Hills	Y5 WM	Trisha Crawford	Y1 CE
Cody Alberts	Y3 Pro				
Jodi Fabrizio	Y3 Mis				
Ryan Greve	Y3 Fin				
Regina River	Y3 Mis				

Christian Ed

Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:15 pm - 6 times per year. February, April, June, August, October, December

2022		2023		2024	
		Michelle Galanits	Y5	Rebecca Hoffman	Y4
Sue Brainard	Y6	Angelina Patel	Y5	Trisha Crawford	Y4
Carrie Heinzerling	Y6	Steven Jordan	Y2		

Endowment

Meets as needed. Needs Session approval at December mtg.

2022		2023		2024	
Mickey Waschkat	Y6 '21	Ron Coenen	Y2	Jeanne Speas	Y4
Eric Johnson	Y3			Sam Holden	Y1
Jeff Morgan	Y3				

Finance

Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm - 8-10 times per year.

2022		2023		2024	
Felicia Cass	Y3 '21	Jane Klein-Bacon	Y2	Roger Davis	Y4
Margo Grimm	Y6			John Speas	Y4
Jolan Adams	Y3 '21			Ryan Greve	Y1

Missions

Meets 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm - 6 to 9 times per year. February, April, June, August, October, December

2022		2023		2024	
Kendal Crawford	Y6	Jean Gardner Siler	Y5	Jodi Fabrizio	Y1
Angie Tieskotter	Y6	Gary Iversen	Y5	Kassy Grosser	Y4
Regina River	Y3 '22	Missy Pooch	Y2	Lois Sinram	Y1

Nominating

Meets as needed - normally in Fall - Current meetings Sundays at 12:30 pm

2022		2023		2024	
Marla Edler	Y6	Don Kester	Y5	Jenny Dodd	Y1
Matt Loesche	Y3 '20	Susie Heaton	Y2	Karen Siler	Y4 '22
Vicki Cose	Y3	Lori Johnson	Y2	Judy Clauson	Y1
Harrison Cass	Y3				

Personnel

Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:15 pm - 4 times per year. January, April, August, October

2022		2023		2024	
Jess Nauholz	Y6	Kristie Brown	Y2		
Joe Vich	Y3	Scott Cose	Y2	Amy Miehe	Y1
Jeanne Speas	Y3	Eric Johnson	Y2		Y1
		Jennifer Owen-Kuhn	Y2	extended by Personnel 3/6/22	

Property

Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15 - 10 times per year

2022		2023		2024	
Don Kester	Y6	Loren Duchman	Y2	Dan Grosser	Y4
Alisa Engelhardt	Y3	Mark Kennedy	Y2	Randy Waschkat	Y4
		Cody Alberts	Y5	Dan Hills	Y1
				Dwight Van Wyngarden	Y1

Stewardship

Meets as needed - late Summer / early Fall

2022		2023		2024	
Mimi Coenen	Y6	Cindy Thede	Y2	Ryan Greve	Y1 '22
Bob Heaton	Y6			Harrison Cass	Y1

Chair to be chosen by Finance

Worship & Music

Meets 1st Monday of the month at 5:30 pm - 6 times per year. January, March, May, August, October, December

2022		2023		2024	
Alex Powell	Y6	Vicki Grimes	Y5	Judy Kester	Y1 '22
Amy Knoll	Y6	Marie Hills	Y5	Marv DeWaard	Y1
				Kim Porter	Y1
				Connie Duchman	Y1

Deacons

Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. No July or December

2022		2023		2024	
Curt Edler	Y6	Ann Northey	Y2	Monica Johnson	Y1
Bruce Pals	Y6	Nancy Osgood	Y2	Bonnie Smith-Davis	Y4
Susan Larsen	Y3	Matt Haines	Y5	Faith Sonksen	Y1
Heidi Warrington	Y3			Keary Secor	Y1
Vicki Cose	Y3				