



Westminster Presbyterian Church 2020 Annual Report

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Westminster Church Leadership
2020

The Reverend Jonathan S. Hauerwas, Pastor

Clerk of Session – Alec Works

Treasurer – Shelley Koutnik

Assistant Treasurer – Marcia Holcomb

Elders

<u>Term Expiring 2020</u>	<u>Term Expiring 2021</u>	<u>Term Expiring 2022</u>
Michael Dunbar	Phil Fry	Rob Gilbert
Brad Hall	Nancy Keogh	James Gray
Shelley Koutnik	Becky Pool	Sandy Gruneich
Todd Willis	Don Rearick	Ginny Melver

Deacons

<u>Term Expiring 2020</u>	<u>Term Expiring 2021</u>
Lisa Bansen-Harp	Dave Allison
Donna Gorring	Water Hayes
Suzanne Grafinger	Marcia Holcomb
Mike Grau	Andi Jopperi
RaeAnn Hall	Kris Keller
Kevin Melver	Kevin Spring
Pat Schumacher	

Westminster Presbyterian Staff

2020

Valerie Thorson, Director of Music/Organist/Five at Five Artistic Director

Sheila Svoboda, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Adam Kalcic, Communications Coordinator

Zachary Troyer, Director of Adult & Youth Handbells and Children's Choir

Claudine Schooley, Office Administrator

Debby Evrard, Staff Accountant

Dave Bodnar, Custodian

Pat Schumacher, Interim Evening Custodian

Becky Harlow, Substitute Custodian

Tracy Range, Childcare Provider

Child Care Assistants:

Chelsea Moses

Patrice Richards

Many thanks to Mallory Gray, who served as Youth Coordinator and Communications Coordinator through August 2020.

Enjoy your new adventures!

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

In March, concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our lives at every turn, ensuring that 2020 would memorably defy all expectations. In-person worship and gatherings were replaced with Live Streamed services and Zoom meetings as we adapted to an extended period of social distancing. A power outage during Holy Week compounded our challenges, and resulted in an article in the Akron Beacon Journal entitled “Let There Be Light.” Though Westminster’s Easter worship remained online, we were grateful when the power and lights were fully restored to coincide with Jesus’ resurrection.

Prior to the pandemic, we officially welcomed Valerie Thorson as our new Music Director and Organist. Several months later, we bid farewell to Mallory Gray as our part-time youth coordinator and communications coordinator when she accepted a full-time position with another employer. WPC then hired Adam Kalcic as our new, part-time communications coordinator. For the duration of the year, I assumed responsibility for youth programming as we continued to search for a suitable replacement.

In the midst of the pandemic, our programming evolved. Striving to connect more deeply with our homebound members, we began sending a weekly mailing including the bulletin and sermon, along with prayers crafted by a rotating group of faithful contributors. Many of our homebound members expressed their appreciation for the time and thoughtfulness devoted to this endeavor.

The Outreach Committee brought a new food collection and distribution ministry to fruition, and the Third Sunday Dinners adapted to a take-out only format. A number of adjustments were made to the Christmas Basket project to accommodate the 10-person limit for church gatherings. Once again, this event was a great success. Additionally, faithful volunteers continued to dedicate their time to children, youth, and adult programming utilizing video conferencing technology. I began a new, Monday evening Bible study.

At the dawn of the pandemic, our 40 Pieces of Music for 40 Days of Lent series was particularly meaningful for a number of our members. And, as weeks of physical separation turned into months, our congregation often expressed its gratitude for the musical offerings of our choral scholars who faithfully offered their gifts in worship behind large, uncomfortable masks designed for vocalists in group settings.

This year, our Membership Committee unveiled the portraits of three of Westminster’s former pastors; The Rev. Dr. William Markley, The Rev. Dr. Clifford Hayes, and The Rev. Derek Starr-Redwine. The upheaval which resulted from Markley’s ministry was addressed directly as a part of the unveiling, with The Rev. Cathy Ulrich, the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of our Presbytery, offering her apologies on behalf of our mid-council for its actions in the early 1990s. Notably, we also honored and remembered the faithful ministry that occurred during the Hayes and Starr-Redwine pastorates.

At the presbytery level, I began my work as a member of the Committee on Ministry, serving alongside churches in transition. I also began work on my final doctoral project, entitled “Blessed to Be a Blessing: Self-Giving as a Christian Discipleship Practice.” I

completed the Project Proposal Workshop and literature review, and received approval to move forward with the interview phase.

I have now served as Westminster's pastor for five years. I arrived in 2015, amid a string of operating budget deficits dating back to 2011. In 2017, our church originally set aside \$63,188 from the Rowley unrestricted fund to meet our existing obligations. Thankfully, not only were those funds not needed, but we ended the fiscal year with an operating surplus for the first time in five years. This trend continued in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Having projected deficits, albeit smaller, in each of those years, we ended with an operating surplus on each occasion. For 2020, our operating surplus was in excess of \$86,000.

In March, when news of the pandemic was first shared with the general public, we were scheduled to welcome four new members into our fellowship. Each of those individuals concluded that they would prefer to make their formal commitment to the church in the presence of the congregation once we resume in-person worship. The Safety and Security Task Force is meeting regularly to explore how we may safely gather, and Session is carefully monitoring the ongoing situation. We look forward to welcoming new adult members, in addition to confirmands, in 2021.

Sadly, the following ten Westminster members entered the church triumphant this past year: Mary Ann Strassburg, Charles Pearson, Mary Jo Stasell, Martha Dixon Nelson, Robert Heber Pierson, Sr., Harriet Yount Cutler, William Eugene Dickerson, Regina Rheinegger Dickerson, Emily Arlene Pierson, and Frank L. Field, Jr. Westminster's Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. Dr. Harry W. Eberts, Jr., also entered eternal life in 2020.

Friends, in a year like none that we can remember, the church did not close. We simply found new ways to be the church. I am grateful for your continued generosity and commitment to the church of Jesus Christ, and I look forward to seeing you again.

Yours in Christ,
Jon

Music at Westminster

In January of 2020, I was appointed to the ongoing position of Director of Music and Organist. Barely three months later, COVID-19 was upon us. The final Sunday for our full choir to sing was the day of the Annual Meeting—Sunday, March 15. Our final two scheduled Five at Five concerts—with violinist Andrew Sords and gospel ensemble the Wright Family Singers—had to be canceled.

In the weeks to come, we were all in uncharted territory. Some church denominations, such as the Episcopal Church, mandated that there be absolutely no live singing; while others, some unfortunately notably, continued to allow in-person singing, with disastrous results of viral spread.

With the approval of Session, I enlisted the support of an ad hoc Vocal Advisory Board—five members of the congregation and/or choir who are singers and vocal music teachers, covering all grades from Elementary through College ages, to give input and advice to me and to the Worship Committee on the latest guidelines, timing and safety issues relating to singing by adults and children during the pandemic. Together, we studied the latest reports from the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the CDC, to formulate plans for safe singing at WPC.

Initially, it was thought that, although singers are so-called “super-spreaders” (their aerosols are more powerfully produced than those of speakers, and can travel considerably further) a simple distance of six feet between singers was sufficient to ensure safety. As further, more comprehensive studies were done, however—particularly by the University of Colorado (commissioned by national Performing Arts Organizations)—it became clear that masks were needed to help prevent the spread of potentially infectious aerosols. Not only were singers required to stand six feet apart, in masks—they also needed to stand facing the same direction. In this means, the spread of the aerosols was reduced considerably.

When Westminster made the decision to cease all in-person worship, and further, to live-stream services, the race was on to figure out how to make worship come together in a meaningful fashion. As I surveyed the Chancel space, I realized that there was no possibility of having all six Choral Scholars/Section Leaders sing from the choir loft and still have the requisite six feet of space between them, while facing in the same direction.

Other issues of concern were sightlines—the singers had to be able to see me, and also to “be seen” in the camera view of our iPad. After many days and hours of traipsing around the Sanctuary with the iPad set up on its tripod, I figured out a means for the singers to be safely spaced in the Sanctuary proper and still be able to see me at the organ, piano, or keyboard in the Chancel.

All of the worship team had many pitfalls to negotiate as the weeks went by, especially during Holy Week, when the church lost power. I had to quickly make plans to use the piano rather than the organ for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Thankfully, the power was restored on Good Friday evening, enabling me to use the thrilling Schantz pipe organ on Easter Sunday morning.

Christmas Eve was a quieter and more intimate service this year, with two talented violinists playing and accompanying the singers in some lovely light baroque music.

Faithfully,
Valerie Thorson

Children's Choir, Adult & Youth Handbell Choirs

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person activities at Westminster Presbyterian Church were suspended in late March of 2020. The Children's Choir, Youth Chimes and Adult Bell Choir were no exception. Prior to the shutdown, each group had performances during the first months of the year. In December, thanks to the efforts of our media coordinator Adam and all the dedicated parents, the children participated in the first ever Virtual Christmas Pageant! It was the children's first performance since February and was a great success. We look forward to the possibility of more virtual performances in the future and remain ever hopeful that we will one day rejoin in making music together!

Zachary A. Troyer
Director of Children's Choir, Youth Handbell Choir, and Adult Handbell Choir

Children and Family Ministry



Who would have guessed as we started in the fall of 2019 that we would be spending March and onward social distancing and with virtual worship? Our 1st challenge was to celebrate Easter. Worship went virtual and we started a butterfly mosaic project with the Sunday School families. We decided to record our Godly Play stories and send them out weekly to families. Our Tween class chose to meet via Zoom. There were 4 generous teachers willing to be recorded telling stories and the 3 Tween teachers committed to Zoom teaching. They continue to share their gifts in the same way.

Our VBS this year was virtual. We had 8 wonderful volunteers and 35 children with "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" A good topic for the times. The Tween class got together at Hardesty Park, socially distanced on Aug. 22nd. The Tweens continue to collect food on the first Sundays, but they do it in the back of the building, with congregants driving

and dropping the donations. Class numbers stayed consistent. We periodically have Library Conversations with the parents, but Zoom classes have not been popular for this and timing has been quite a challenge.

Staying connected has been my goal. We did have a socially distanced Reverse Halloween service opportunity. We had 2 separate groups decorate pumpkins, brought them to the doors of Rockynol, and paraded outside as residents watched from indoors. We had 8 children, 2 volunteers and 3 parents. For Advent we had 4 volunteers and myself hand deliver bags with activities to 25 families. We had a very positive response from this. What a year! Hopefully it's a once in a lifetime event and vaccinations do the trick to get us back together!

Respectfully submitted by:
Sheila Svoboda
Director of Family and Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry



Like many areas in the life of the church, youth programming experienced a number of significant changes during the age of pandemic. Having faithfully served for many years as youth teachers and leaders, Pat Santelli and Kate Huisinga stepped down with our gratitude. In addition, we bid farewell to Natalie who left for college and began the journey toward adulthood. In 2020, we extended signs of our appreciation and best wishes to Mallory Gray, who served as our part-time youth coordinator and communications coordinator before accepting a full-time position with another employer. Since that time, our pastor has provided leadership for the youth coordinator responsibilities as Westminster seeks a qualified replacement.

In February, the sub sale raised \$1,008 and, after expenses, \$784 was added to a youth programming fund for a future mission trip! In the midst of the pandemic, our youth continued to meet weekly at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings via Zoom utilizing the Spice Rack curriculum provided by Ministry Architects. Youth teachers included Mike Grau, Andi Jopperi, and Pastor Hauerwas. In 2020, our seven youth: Caden, Gabby, Kinsie, Holden, Sam, Pierce, and Dean assisted with the first Sunday food collection, third Sunday food distribution, the third Sunday dinner program, and property clean-up for a community member in need.

Annual Report of the Clerk of Session

2020 was an especially busy and challenging year for Session. Beginning in March, Session dealt with how to react to the coronavirus pandemic, meeting virtually via Zoom starting March 24. Discussions and decisions included how to continue to provide ministries and services while best considering the health of all involved. Besides 11 regular meetings (generally held the fourth Tuesday of the month), there were 14 E-meetings (decisions by email) and special meetings. 224 motions were presented and acted upon. There was also an Annual Meeting of the Congregation in March. Minutes are posted to the church web page after they have been approved by Session at their next regular meeting. If anyone has questions before or after minutes are posted, they may contact the clerk at wpcclerk1250@gmail.com.

Session is responsible for conducting the corporate affairs of the church, such as approving contracts and staffing. Much of the work of the Session is done by committees. Session acts upon motions presented by committees or Session members related to the worship, ministries and other activities of the church. The clerk, elected by Session, is responsible for recording the minutes of Session and Congregational meetings and maintaining membership rolls and required records, such as baptisms and weddings. Special thanks to Claudine Schooley and Shelley Koutnik and others who helped reconcile the official membership records of the church in 2020 (see statistical report). Session minutes also report worship attendance. Without in person services, estimates were made based on statistics available from broadcast services.

Westminster is a member of the Eastminster Presbytery (www.eastminsterpresbytery.org), which stretches from the Summit-Medina County line to the Ohio-Pennsylvania line. The clerk provides an Annual Statistical Report, the pastor's annual Terms of Call, and other requested information to Presbytery. The church's official record of Session and Congregational Meeting minutes for 2019 was reviewed by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry in November; no exceptions were reported.

Special thanks to all who served in 2020. None knew what would be faced, yet all continued to serve.

Alec Works
2020 Clerk of Session

Clerk of Session Report
2020

Baptisms

Adult	0
Children	0

Member Statistics

Membership as of January 1, 2020 **374**

Gains

Members Received	0
Adjustment to Reconcile Records	13

Losses

Deletions	93
Letters of Transfer	1
Deaths	10

Membership as of December 31, 2020 **283**

Average Monthly Attendance by Year

	2018	2019	2020
January	123	106	123
February	151	133	122
March	158	108	103 (3 services) 589 (2 services)*
April	189	190	486 *
May	238	150	395 *
June	84 (44)	85 (29)	225 *
July	80 (30)	74 (26)	348 *
August	89 (34)	99 (26)	212 *
September	145	127 (91*)	311 *
October	145	136	262 *
November	119	130	301 *
December	199	197 (114**)	308 *

**Jazz Vespers

* Facebook views
602* for Christmas Eve

*Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last in person worship service at Westminster was on March 15, 2020. Westminster began holding virtual (access live service using Facebook Live or recorded using YouTube) as of Sunday, March 22, 2020. While the number of persons participating in a virtual service cannot be accurately measured, the figures above provide some measure of the outreach.

Facebook “Views”, “Reach” and “Engagements” are measures of how many views, clicks, comments, “likes” and shares have been recorded by the service provider. Some people may sign off and back on, enter several comments, even view or check in later in the day, increasing the number of “Engagements”. However, we also do not know how many people are viewing each screen. These figures do provide some measure of the involvement of not only members of the congregation, but also non-members; it also includes some who live out of state. The number of Facebook Live sign-ins has generally ranged between 45 and 52.

In Memoriam

Julia A. Falor	February 11, 2005
Ruth DeKalb Verbulecz	February 17, 2007
Mary Ann Strassburg	January 23, 2020
Charles J. Pearson	May 16, 2020
Mary Jo Stasell	June 25, 2020
The Reverend Dr. Harry W. Eberts, Jr.	July 12, 2020
Martha Dixon Nelson	August 7, 2020
Robert Heber Pierson	August 9, 2020
Harriet Yount Cutler	August 21, 2020
William Eugene (Gene) Dickerson	August 24, 2020
Regina (Gina) Dickerson	September 15, 2020
Arlene Pierson	December 2, 2020
Frank L. Field, Jr.	December 20, 2020

Worship Committee

With no hesitation, I can say that 2020 will be chronicled as one of the most difficult years that Westminster has endured. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, virtual worship services (live on Facebook at 10:30; recorded service then posted on the church webpage) were held Sunday mornings beginning March 22, 2020, as well as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas Eve. With the dedication and talent of Michael Dunbar and Mallory Gray (and the use of a borrowed cell phone and a camcorder), we were able to provide an online Worship service to our congregation and others to view from the safety of their own homes. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Michael and Mallory for their hard work and commitment of the livestream services.

Our weekly worship service was composed of ten participants to ensure safety of others and to adhere to the guidelines proposed by our Session. The worship team was inclusive of the Pastor, liturgist, music director/organist, six choral scholars, and videographer.

Virtual Communion was introduced to our viewing congregation on August 9th. Participating viewers of the service could join Pastor Hauerwas by using their own elements during the service.

Hanging of the Greens is usually a fun filled event on the first Sunday of Advent after worship. This year with the help of Earl Pierson and Kristy Yates, visible sections of the Sanctuary to live viewers, and the exterior of the building were decorated with our traditional garland, wreaths and bows. My personal thanks go out to Earl and Kristy for helping make this project go smoothly.

Traditionally after Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Eve services, members of the congregation were able to leave with their palm branch, or a memorial flower such as a poinsettia or Easter lily. For those wanting to pick up their memorial flowers or palms, the Worship Committee offered a drive by pick-up area behind the church. Palms from Palm Sunday were passed out on Palm Sunday in the afternoon for those wishing to receive a palm branch. Worship Committee members were on hand December 27th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for those wishing to pick up their memorial poinsettias. Poinsettias and palm branches were also distributed to the homebound. Easter lilies were delivered to the homebound April 12th by the Chancel Flower Arrangers, Celtic Garden Committee, and Worship Committee.

The Celtic Garden Committee provided a beautiful garden in 2020, despite only allowing small gatherings and social distancing that had been implemented by our Session. Our thanks to this committee and the Chancel Flower Arrangers for providing a peaceful setting and providing hope during uncertain times.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Fry, Moderator
Worship Committee



Discipleship Committee

At Westminster, Discipleship offers opportunities for all our congregants to strengthen their faith and communion within the church by participating in events and activities that are variations of educational, spiritual, and communal. In this current environment, all gatherings are virtual.

Under the umbrella of Discipleship are the Children & Family Ministry and Youth programs that are represented by their own reports from leaders elsewhere in this report.

In addition to children, parents, and youth, Christian education is also provided for adults, primarily led by Rae Leonard and Pastor Jon Hauerwas. In 2020, Sunday morning classes did not meet, but weekly Bible Studies were held via Zoom on Monday and Thursday evenings. During Lent, Pastor Jon, Valerie Thorson, and Sheila Svoboda provided the 40 days email series entitled “40 Pieces of Music for 40 Days of Lent.” Weekly, the Wednesday Evotional series continued, primarily authored by Pastor Jon, but supplemented by staff members and members of the congregation.

In 2020, Cathy Melder continued coordinating the library responsibilities until lockdown, and then implemented a puzzle sharing box outside the rear door of the church.

Prior to the pandemic, Claudine Schooley was leading a class entitled “Beyond Suffering and a Christian View on Disability Ministry.”

Since we could not gather in person, the Eberts Lecture scheduled for 2020 was postponed. Starting in early winter, a monthly Zoom fellowship gathering has been offered to the congregation.

We look forward to when we are able to gather in person again, whenever that might be.

Discipleship Moderator,
Kara Hauerwas

The Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry has continued to make quilts and give quilts away. We have given nine quilts to deserving members and friends of Westminster. We meet almost every month on the third Tuesday to design a quilt, contact people who might want a quilt, and visit. We would like any new members who would be interested in quilts to join us. Some folks design the quilts, some sew the squares together, some sew the backs and binding on and some put yarn in for tying. And of course, we visit with each other. Come join us if you think this sounds like fun!

Marian Wahl

Outreach

First Sunday Food Collection

This mission has been a great demonstration of the generosity and adaptability of WPC staff and congregation! January-March, we continued our approximately 19-year tradition of having our enthusiastic children collect food and money carrying bags throughout the sanctuary. To continue this collection safely during COVID-19, we transitioned to drive through drop-off in July. This provided a perfect opportunity for Tweens or the youth to witness people's generosity, have a rare chance at fellowship with one another and, of course, to serve others. Besides unloading many bags laden with food, they proved adept at sorting the food. Next, a few adult helpers created bags containing a variety of foods which filled the trunk of Becky Pool's car as she headed to Good Neighbors. In addition, from October -December, we had ample food to share 20 bags each month (30 bags in Dec.) with the busy food pantry run by extremely appreciative members of Christ Woodland Methodist. Additionally, every third Sunday of the month from 1-2:30, two or three volunteers waited at the back door to provide bags of non-perishables to those who dropped by the church.

Thanks not only to adult volunteers but also to our Tweens and Youth for all their efforts!



Food for Life

Over the course of one year, our Food for Life volunteers prepare up to 4,800 hundred ham and cheeses sandwiches to feed the poor and homeless. Food for Life has continued to make ham and cheese sandwiches for the needy in spite of COVID-19. Due to decreased attendance at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in downtown Akron, we have only made sandwiches for them once a month. Recognizing the need at Haven of Rest our volunteers started providing sandwiches to them once a month. Thank you to the faithful volunteers who participate in this program.

Third Sunday Dinner



Despite the challenges of 2020, the group of volunteers continued to provide meals to the greater community of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The year started off with the “in-person” dinners for the months of January and February. The team of volunteers cooked, served, washed dishes and delivered delicious meals to local members of the community. With the development of the pandemic, suspension of these meals occurred through the summer with the return of a drive through option occurring in late summer that has continued to present. The team of cooks and volunteers has prepared hot meals for pickup every third Sunday since August and has donated left over meals to the Haven of Rest.

This has proven to be a resilient ministry. The comments, whether in-person, or from people who have come for the take-out option, still carry true; they are grateful for the hot meal and grace of those who work to serve.

Mission Projects

Besides the local projects, Westminster Presbyterian Church participates in three denominational collections annually.

One Great Hour of Sharing collected on Palm Sunday supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Each of these programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Our congregation raised \$790 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Pentecost Collection focuses on encouraging and supporting young people especially those at risk. Forty percent of the collection is donated to a local project. This year our Youth selected RAHAB Ministries Minor Safe House for youth fleeing human trafficking as the local beneficiary receiving \$563.

The Peace and Global Witness collection is held on World Communion Sunday. Congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. Twenty-five percent of this collection is retained to support a local peacemaking effort. Two hundred forty-two dollars were donated to the Family Resource centers at Helen Arnold CLC and Robinson CLC to help families in our community access needed services.

Giving Tree



The 2020 Giving Tree event, sponsored by the Outreach Committee, was a great success, even considering the "unusual" circumstances it had to work around. Almost 300 items were donated, gathered, inventoried and delivered to ACCESS Inc., an agency dedicated to meeting the needs of Homeless women and children. The needs of ACCESS were even greater in 2020 due the pandemic, and WPC members came through big time. Along with the usual gloves, hats, mittens and scarves, members honored the committee's request to be imaginative in their giving. As a result, additional items such as toothbrushes and floss, toys, boots and assorted clothing items, and even a book were gathered.

A heartfelt thanks go out to all who participated.

Christmas Baskets

This year's Christmas Basket Project consisted of a combination of 113 Acme gift cards and 87 food baskets that were delivered on Saturday, December 12. \$15,350 was raised for this effort versus total expenses of \$8,249. Ten members of the basket assembly team and 18 delivery drivers ensured success this year in distributing food to needy families in Summit County identified by the Salvation Army. The gift cards went to families at Saferstein and Portage Trail Village apartments. With a truck graciously donated by Stutler Leasing, hams, canned and fresh food purchased from Acme #1 were unloaded, assembled and loaded into the cars of our drivers, who delivered an average of five baskets each. This was all able to be done while following strict COVID-19 guidelines that were put in place.



Membership Committee

Early in 2020, the Membership Committee had finalized our updating of the three pastoral portraits absent from our display in the church. These included portraits of Derek Starr-Redwine, Clifford Hayes, and William Markley. These portraits were presented to the congregation during one of our virtual services.

Our future focus is an update to our church's historical record (from 1997 to present day) that began late in 2019. We had gathered information from various members of the congregation, and were also focused on summarizing pertinent information in the church's annual reports. This had been ongoing work that was difficult to complete due to the pandemic and the lack of our ability to meet in person. This work will be the focus going into 2021.

Sandy Gruneich
Membership Committee

Homebound

When the pandemic really hit in early 2020 and Westminster's Sunday services started being "virtual", Claudine Schooley and Jim Shriner started writing weekly letters to about 25 WPC "homebound" members. Since that time, Kate Clark and Jacquie Mabry have joined in on Claudine and Jim's efforts. These letters consist of a biblical passage, a related prayer and comments along with a sermon from Reverend Hauerwas and the announcements of the current bulletin. Follow-up with some of these members have shown a real sense of appreciation and closeness to the church. These weekly letters will continue until the church resumes in house services, and possibly after that. Our thanks go out to Claudine, Jim, Kate and Jacquie for these outreach efforts.

Properties Committee

Care and maintenance of the building and grounds continues regardless of a pandemic. Certainly, COVID-19 had an impact. Below are some of the things that happened.

EXTERIOR. Many of you, I am sure, have not been in or even driven by the church. We were hoping to have the steeple repaired and painted. Issues beyond our control prevented this from happening.

Thirty overgrown arborvitaes were removed from the corner of West Exchange and South Rose. This really opened up and improved the view of the church when driving west on Exchange or south on Rose.

The recycle bin was removed from Ohio Living Rockynol parking lot. The bin was often overflowing and not emptied regularly.

The parking lot and driveway around to back of the church were sealed, reinforced and striped.

INTERIOR. The aging, leaking steam boiler was replaced during the summer while not in use.

WYDACA had to close (about ten weeks) in the spring due to COVID-19. They are now reopened with reduced hours and number of children due to health regulations. WYDACA had approval to expand to the area formerly Ohio Living. This was put on hold due to COVID-19.

Infinite Legacy Project had to close temporarily. We are working with them to hopefully return soon.

Members of this committee go above and beyond all expectations. With the participation of Dave Bodnar, our custodian, we have been able to accomplish much more. Please give a big thank you to Ellen Daugherty, Phil Fry, Brad Hall, Roger Nelson, Mark Preebe and Dave Stobbs.

In 2021, we look forward to much more activity. Projects such as the steeple and the nursery are expected to actually happen.

Comments and questions are always welcome, appreciated and encouraged.

Ginny Melver, Moderator
Properties Committee

Memorial Garden

Due to COVID-19, the committee did not have its normal quarterly meetings. But that doesn't mean we did not accomplish anything. Agenda items such as marketing/promotion, finance and garden upkeep/maintenance were handled either by email, text, or in the case of the garden itself, on our hands and knees. Our next open house, scheduled for Sunday June 27, 2021 is still on, pending the reopening of the church. There was one interment in 2020. Our beloved member of many years, Harriet Cutler, entered eternal life on August 21, 2020. Our goal is to make all Westminster members aware of this important aspect of what our church has to offer. And, as we include as part of each of our Script articles, we would like to close this report with this Memorial Garden reflection... "Gates of memories will never close. How much we miss you no one knows. Days will pass into years. And we'll think about those memories with silent tears."



Safety & Security Task Force

After the development of a security plan for Westminster in 2019, the objectives for the task force for 2020 were to recruit additional personnel for ushering duties and to train all in the processes required to implement the security plan.

Efforts to recruit additional persons were not very fruitful, eventually yielding only two persons. At the same time, discussions suggested that several persons presently involved in ushering were not eager to take on the full responsibilities associated with the plan.

One training activity was held for interested parties, that being familiarization with Westminster's fire alarm system.

With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, no further efforts were attempted in the implementation of the security plan.

The advent of promising vaccines and possible vaccinations occurring in 2021 has expanded the role of the task force to address steps necessary to facilitate reopening of the church for in-person worship. Our group has been expanded to include representation from the Worship committee.

By year-end, a general list of concerns and challenges had been developed, and an initial task force Zoom meeting had been scheduled.

Donald Rearick, Moderator.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women began 2020 with three Bible study groups meeting monthly and a sewing group that also met regularly to make items to donate. Plans were made to have a Spring Gathering and elect a Coordinating Team, but unfortunately those plans had to be changed. One Bible study circle was able to continue to meet virtually throughout the year, sewing also continued, and a team was elected this fall at a virtual gathering. The team recommended that Westminster's Presbyterian Women dissolve. The 2020 giving was able to proceed as budgeted and the team was given permission to disburse the remaining funds in 2021. The Women's Evening Circle will continue to meet on the third Monday at 7 p.m. and it is hoped that the other circles will meet in person when it is possible.

Total Receipts in 2020 - \$2619.42

Total Disbursements in 2020 - \$2350.00

Board of Deacons

Befrienders: Valentines and Visitation

In February 2020, seed money from the Befrienders' January bake sale bloomed into 160 Valentines for residents at Ohio Living-Rockynol, as well as for homebound WPC members and those at Concordia, Greenfield Estates, and Brookdale Nursing Home. Ordering, conditioning, arranging, and delivering all those flowers took a team effort. Thanks to Margaret Quirk, Kristy Yates, Sook Lee, Lisa Bansen-Harp, Anna Marie Wilton, Margie Brideweser, Margo Works, Jim Shriner, Suzanne Grafinger, and Le and David Linder. Long-time Befriender Kris Keller could not be with us in-person, but was with us in spirit and in our hearts. The real stars of the day were junior delivery people Georgia Vuchak and Liam Hauerwas. We hope to include more children in the future!



Greeting Card Ministry

Pat Schumacher continued to lead the Greeting Card Ministry in 2020 sending greeting cards to the members of our church that are on the Prayer Chain. Cards are also sent regularly to the homebound. Those 80 years of age or more and reaching special birthdays (85, 90, 95, and 100) receive Birthday Greetings. Thinking of you, Get Well and Sympathy cards are sent regularly to members of our church family.

The Finance Committee Report 2020

Calendar 2020 is the fourth consecutive year that Westminster Presbyterian Church has ended the year with a surplus. Revenues in excess of expenses provided a surplus in the amount of \$86,349. At year-end, this surplus is added to our Reserve Fund, which now has a balance in the amount of \$190,038. This balance will provide sufficient funds to operate for three or more months in the event of an emergency and cover short-term budget deficits.

Here are the highlights:

Revenues:

- Contributions received were \$18,536 under budget. Unpaid pledges at year-end totaled \$10,833. This is due to death, illness and other personal issues that prevent households from meeting their commitment. Loose offerings were \$5,000 less than anticipated due to the loss of in-person services.
- In 2018, the Endowment Fund adopted a new end of year procedure to distribute investment earnings that were received in excess of the annual allocation. In January 2020, the operating budget received an additional \$5,967 in endowment proceeds from 2019 endowment earnings. Restricted funds supported by endowment distributions also received an extra allocation.
- Dividend and interest income was \$3,800 below budget due to declining interest rates.
- Building Use fees from WYDACA were reduced from \$1,000 to \$450 per month in exchange for WYDACA hiring their own cleaning staff. The loss of \$6,600 in building use fees saves \$15,600 in cleaning expenses.
- All committees and ministries experienced a decline in revenues without in-person, on-site activities.
- In total, revenues for 2020 were \$41,712 below the amount budgeted.

Expenses:

- Not only were revenues below budget for 2020, but expenses were also below budget due to the lack of in-person, on-site activities.
- Discipleship ended the year \$9,119 under budget with savings in each ministry category. The primary savings was from the Student Mission trip costing \$3,000 that was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Overall Office and Admin expenses are under budget \$12,245. Printing, toner, paper and office supplies expense were greatly reduced without the need to print weekly Bulletins. New membership and accounting software saves \$250 per month.
- Outreach expenses are \$9,457 under budget for the year. Outreach ministries were eliminated until safety measure for our volunteers and the community were put in place. Third Sunday Dinner and Food Collection ministries were restarted in July and our congregation generously supported the annual Christmas Basket project.

- Total Properties expenses were under budget by \$16,352. With the majority of the building closed during the week, utility usage was at a minimum. Utility expenses were \$13,824 under budget. Additional savings were realized in the reduction of paper supplies and cleaning products needed when the building is in use daily.
- Personnel Expenses are \$64,791 under budget for the year for a variety of reasons. Here are just a few:
 - Position vacancies in the Music Department saved \$5,424 in hourly wages.
 - A full complement of nursery workers was not needed after March 15 resulting in a reduction of cost by \$5,205.
 - The Youth Coordinator position was vacant beginning in August. The position is fully funded by Rowley New Church Life funds through 2020.
 - The Maintenance Department had a major decrease in expenses with the elimination of the Evening Custodian saving \$15,600 per year. WYDACA now cleans the day care area.
 - Police services were terminated effective March 15 with the elimination of in-person services saving \$5,268
 - With the pandemic the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation refunded \$4,681 in current and prior year contributions.
- Worship expenses were under budget \$12,319. The elimination of Jazz Vespers contributed \$5,000 to this savings.
- Deacons were under budget by \$3,615 as we did not enjoy a potluck picnic or church fellowship meals in 2020.
- Overall – expenses for the 2020 operating year are under budget by \$128,061.
- No Rowley funds were used to support general operations in 2020.

Many thanks to our generous donors and fiscally responsible leaders.

The Finance Committee Members

Todd Willis, 2020 Moderator	Shelley Koutnik, Treasurer
Ralph Davis, Endowment Fund	Alec Works, Endowment Fund
Marcia Holcomb, Assistant Treasurer	Reverend Jon Hauerwas

The Finance Office relies on volunteers to count the collection every Monday morning and to assist with thank you letters, memorial acknowledgements, attendance tracking, preparing invoices and various other office tasks. Thanks to our Monday Morning Counters, Chuck Lebold, Bob Leonard, Marc Messaros and Don Rearick and to our Office Volunteers, Pookie Barnes, Ellen Daugherty, Donna Gorrington, and Kyra Bosnik.

The Rowley Fund

In early 2014, Westminster Presbyterian Church received a very generous, unrestricted gift from two Trusts established by W.A. Rowley. The total of the trusts was approximately \$2,280,700. During 2014 and 2015, \$60,732 was expended on various one-time projects such as Ministry Architects, Christmas in July and Pastoral Search expenses. In 2015 and 2016, a total of \$70,340 was used to cover operations.

In 2016, Session recognized that the Rowley Gift was being depleted to cover operating expenses. Session approved a plan to reduce dependence on the Rowley Gift with managed spending. It was determined that dependence on Rowley Funds would be reduced by \$10,000 annually. In addition, Session set aside \$250,000 for new projects to help grow the church membership and \$320,000 for capital projects. These funds became the Rowley Unrestricted Fund. Session also transferred \$680,000 to the Endowment Fund for the establishment of the Rowley Designated Endowment Fund.

During 2018, the Rowley Unrestricted Fund provided funding to replace the flooring and carpet in the Sanctuary, Narthex and surrounding hallways from the amount specified for capital projects. Funding set aside for new church life projects provided the funds needed to begin creation of a new website, westminsterakron.org. And, due to the conscientious fiscal management of our committee moderators and ministry leaders in 2017 and 2018, Session was able to move an additional \$200,000 to the Rowley Designated Endowment Fund for investment.

In 2019, Rowley New Church Life Funds enabled us to fund the position of Youth Coordinator for 10 hours per week. A total of \$25,000 was designated to support the salary of Youth Coordinator for two years. The new website, westminsterakron.org, was completed in early 2019 for a total cost of \$5,360. Session also designated \$10,000 from Rowley New Church Life funds to begin a quarterly Jazz Vespers worship service. Two services were held in 2019 and funds are available for two additional services.

The pandemic and livestreaming the worship services brought some new challenges to Westminster and the Rowley Unrestricted Fund was available to help. The need for video equipment and an upgrade to our Wi-Fi system cost \$1,916. We also hired a Social Media Coordinator to livestream our worship services and handle communication to keep our congregation connected and make sure the community beyond had access to our services. Rowley Unrestricted Funds provided \$32,300 for much needed repairs to our boiler and helped to upgrade the Sanctuary Sound System at a cost of \$6,680. New membership and accounting software that will save us over \$3,000 annually was funded with \$1,847 from Rowley Unrestricted Funds.

At December 31, 2020, the Rowley Unrestricted Fund holds \$1,009,411. This includes \$197,456 for capital projects and \$223,029 for new projects. The Rowley Designated Endowment is worth \$1,145,878.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Balance Sheet Analysis

Westminster Presbyterian Church Balance Sheet Analysis

Comparison at December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020

	12/31/18	12/31/19	12/31/20
Assets			
Checking Account	90,179.89	71,721.09	91,858.05
Investment Accounts **	1,434,528.74	1,478,209.33	1,556,186.07
Mortgage Receivable	46,922.81	45,916.90	44,870.01
Total Assets	1,571,631.44	1,595,847.32	1,692,914.13
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			
Unrestricted Funds	186,896.47	238,697.50	367,060.09
Session Designated Funds	170,826.21	186,613.70	196,553.97
Donor Restricted Funds	105,331.45	74,206.81	69,411.54
Restricted Endowment Distributions	28,999.52	34,767.13	50,477.43
Rowley Gift Fund **	1,079,577.79	1,061,562.18	1,009,411.10
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	1,571,631.44	1,595,847.32	1,692,914.13

** During 2016, \$680,000 of the Rowley Gift Fund was transferred to the Endowment Fund to create the Rowley Designated Endowment Fund. In 2018, an additional \$200,000 was added to the Designated Endowment.

Unaudited Statements for Internal Management Use Only

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Actual Revenues and Expenses

Comparison of the years ending December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020

	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
Revenues:			
Contributions	411,440.00	388,013.76	395,765.11
Endowment Distributions	65,593.00	77,896.83	80,668.24
Interest and Dividend Income	29,240.00	33,898.84	30,712.10
Discipleship Ministry	2,981.24	659.40	399.00
Office and Administration Income	2,608.00	1,282.80	1,155.00
Outreach Ministry	14,566.73	16,440.39	11,922.44
Personnel Committee	19,921.55	17,854.25	17,106.00
Properties/Building Use	46,473.24	42,750.56	37,949.94
Worship Committee	10,288.93	9,056.54	8,323.13
Deacons Programs & Ministry	<u>3,389.05</u>	<u>1,956.05</u>	<u>977.03</u>
Total Income	<u><u>606,501.20</u></u>	<u><u>589,809.42</u></u>	<u><u>584,977.99</u></u>
Expenses:			
Investment Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Discipleship Ministry	7,480.78	5,026.94	1,581.02
Office and Administration Expenses	41,344.12	40,437.05	39,613.37
Outreach Ministry	35,746.03	34,176.68	28,157.91
Personnel Expenses	370,214.78	348,120.76	321,613.50
Properties/Utilities and Maintenance	111,605.59	111,098.93	97,297.65
Worship Committee	16,516.69	10,849.68	9,655.52
Deacons Programs & Ministry	<u>4,869.77</u>	<u>3,292.05</u>	<u>710.04</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>587,777.76</u></u>	<u><u>553,002.09</u></u>	<u><u>498,629.01</u></u>
Surplus at December 31, 2018	<u><u>18,723.44</u></u>		
Surplus at December 31, 2019		<u><u>36,807.33</u></u>	
Surplus at December 31, 2020			<u><u>86,348.98</u></u>
Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy of the detailed financial report for 2020			
Unaudited Statements for Internal Management Use Only			

Stewardship Campaign

Our Kick-Off of our 2021 Stewardship Campaign, “God Has a Plan for Us”, started on October 18, 2020 and concluded on Pledge Sunday, November 8, 2020 with the Consecration of Pledges. Reverend Jon Hauerwas’ sermons during the pledge campaign included his understanding of how “God Has a Plan for Us”.

We provided four direct mailings to family members with “Thank You Letter”, including status updates.

The two goals for this year’s Campaign were to obtain 60% of family units pledge and reach and exceed our 2020 pledge amount of \$321,901. We were unable to reach either of these two goals during this campaign but feel very blessed at having 94 family units pledge an amount of \$300,339 during these most uncertain times brought on by the pandemic.

Reverend Jon and Westminster Presbyterian Church “Thank You” for your generous support, pledging considerations and your continued support in so ways. We all look forward to getting through these difficult times together.

God is with us always and has a plan for us!

The Operating Budget Report

On February 23, 2021, Session approved the 2021 Operating Budget. Total expenses in the amount of \$575,896 are anticipated. Revenues are estimated to be \$536,672. If needed, the projected budget deficit in the amount of \$39,224 will be funded with \$11,000 of principal from the Rowley Unrestricted Fund and \$28,224 from the Reserve Fund. For the last four years, there has been a surplus at year-end, which has been added to the Reserve Fund and is available to cover periodic operating budget deficits.

Highlights of the 2021 Operating Budget:

Revenues:

- Pledged income decreased by \$21,562 (7%) for 2021.
- Total contributions for 2021 are estimated to be \$20,676 less than 2020 receipts.
- The budgeted amount for Endowment Distributions is based on the prior year allocation. Extra earnings are distributed the following January.
- Budgeted interest and dividends are \$10,855 less than the prior year actual and reflect decreasing interest rates.
- Building Use fees from WYDACA are \$6,600 less than prior years. WYDACA cleans its own space in exchange for reduced Building Use fees.
- Total revenues for 2021 are budgeted at approximately \$9,100 less than 2020 actual.

Expenses:

- All committees planned their expenses in anticipation of in-person worship and ministries resuming early in the year.
- Discipleship budgeted for a Student Mission trip. Programs supplies for every age group has been included in the 2021 budget.
- Office and Administration expenses will return to pre-pandemic levels with increases in paper, printer and office supply costs for weekly Bulletins and other correspondence. Computer equipment and software upgrades budgeted in 2020 are postponed until 2021.
- Outreach is looking for two missionary families to support in 2021 to replace two families that retired. Outreach also hopes to participate in the Akron Pride Festival in August and provide monthly Third Sunday Dinner and Food for Life ministries. These were cancelled or suspended for part of the 2020 year.
- Properties expenses such as utilities and consumables are budgeted at pre-pandemic levels as our congregation returns to the building.
- Deacons have budgeted for church meals so that we may become reacquainted through fellowship.
- Personnel anticipates the return of our music staff for children's choir and handbell choirs. Nursery staff will again be on duty and police service will return.
- Expenses are projected to be \$77,267 higher than 2020 actual. With it comes the hope of resuming our church life and becoming reacquainted with our church family.

Thank you for giving generously.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Proposed Operating Budget

	<u>2021 Budget</u>
Revenues:	
Contributions	375,089.00
Endowment Distributions	73,750.00
Interest and Dividend Income	19,778.00
Discipleship Ministry	3,400.00
Office and Administration Income	1,000.00
Outreach Ministry	12,000.00
Personnel Committee	7,800.00
Properties/Building Use	32,650.00
Worship Committee	9,050.00
Deacons Programs & Ministry	<u>2,155.00</u>
Total Income	<u><u>536,672.00</u></u>
Expenses:	
Investment Expenses	0.00
Discipleship Ministry	9,630.00
Office and Administration Expenses	45,198.00
Outreach Ministry	33,600.00
Personnel Expenses	359,543.00
Properties/Utilities and Maintenance	107,800.00
Worship Committee	16,150.00
Deacons Programs & Ministry	<u>3,975.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>575,896.00</u></u>
 Deficit to be funded by Rowley Unrestricted Fund and the Reserve Fund	 <u><u>(39,224.00)</u></u>

Please contact the Finance Office if you would like a copy
of a detailed financial report for 2020 or 2021 operating budget

Report of the Westminster Endowment Fund 2020

The Westminster Endowment Fund receives contributions for the support in perpetuity of Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC). These funds are invested and the investment income is used to support programs of our church. The Endowment Fund, except for the Telford Fund, is centralized in one master account to simplify accounting and to enable each of the named funds to earn the same rate of return. Each named fund is allocated investment income based upon their percentage of the total account.

The market value of the Endowment Fund was \$ 5,175,159 at the end of 2020. This includes capital gains and losses, dividends, interest and contributions and is net of distributions to WPC. The Endowment Fund provided \$134,334 of support to WPC operations in 2020.

The Westminster Endowment Fund holds both unrestricted and donor restricted funds.

The Unrestricted Funds, used to support WPC operations, are:

- **The Westminster Endowment Fund**, which includes the *Westminster Fund, C. Smith and Frances H. Bateson Endowment Fund, Lois Randall Goldthorpe Memorial Fund, Reinherr Fund and Rowley Designated Endowment Fund.*
- **The William B. and Delphine C. Telford Endowment Fund**

The Donor Restricted Funds, used to support specific projects and programming, are:

- **Joyce Wortman Barnett** for the physical maintenance of WPC
- **Brideweser Music Endowment Fund** for the enrichment of musical programming
- **The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Endowment Trust Fund** for special projects as selected by Session
- **Doris S. Corns Endowment** for organ maintenance
- **Leone & Franklyn Dickinson Fund** budgeted for the upkeep of church property
- **Harry W. Eberts, Jr. Endowment Fund for Teaching and Preaching** for expenses of and stipends for guest preachers and speakers
- **Margaret Enyart Endowment Fund** to further the music enrichment program at WPC
- **John R. and Neva I. Humphreys Endowment Trust** budgeted for WPC operations
- **Russell & Vivienne Johnstone Endowment** to support organizations dedicated to serving the needs of Akron area poor
- **The Vivienne Johnstone Endowment For Habitat For Humanity** to support the Summit County affiliate
- **Kaye Lebold Memorial** to be used at worship committee discretion
- **The Thomas Reef Flower** for chancel flowers in memory of Thomas H. Reef
- **The Schooley Fund to Support The Bell Choir** for support of the Westminster Bell Choir
- **The James Henry Seiberling Endowment for Music** for enrichment of musical programming
- **Blanche Shaw Flower Garden** to buy plantings for the Celtic Garden

- **Phyllis Spaethe Scholarship** for need-based undergraduate scholarships for WPC members
- **World Hunger Endowment Fund Established by James and Rosemary Spindler** to support organizations dedicated to reducing world hunger
- **The Robert W. & Anita L. Young Endowment Fund** for youth programming

We encourage members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church to contribute to the future of our church by donating to the Westminster Endowment Fund. The Endowment welcomes gifts of cash, real estate, insurance policies, bonds, stocks, and other forms of securities. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact an Endowment Director.

2020 Financial Report of the Westminster Endowment Fund

Net Portfolio Value:	December 31, 2019	\$ 5,006,304
	Net gain (loss) in 2020	<u>168,855</u>
	December 31, 2020	\$5,175,159

Basis for Contributions:	December 31, 2019	\$ 2,785,443
	2020 Contributions	<u>2,180</u>
	December 31, 2020	\$ 2,787,623

Distribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church in:	2015	87,842
	2016	89,151
	2017	118,128
	2018	113,258
	2019	146,839
	2020	134,334

Note: The 2019 total includes a non-recurring \$ 16,075 distribution from the Margaret Enyart Endowment Fund for organ refurbishment.

2020 Endowment Directors

Ralph Davis Ben Hoffman
George Leidy Alec Works Jerry Young

The WPC Endowment Directors gratefully thank Jerry Young for his years of service, which officially ended as of the end of 2020.

2020 Contributors to the Endowment Fund

Scott & Susan Abell, Kelly Abell O'Shea, Patrick Abell
Julia Bain
Margaret Brideweser
Jean Colley
John & Lisa Consilio
Ellen Daugherty
C.M. and Mary Deloe
Romyne Dill
Barbara Forshey
Thomas & Nancy Gallagher
Carl & Catherine Gillman
Douglas & Claire Grant
Greater Akron Phi Mu Alumni
John & Sandra Gruneich
Eleanor Humphrey
Nancy Keogh
Thomas & Shelley Koutnik
Kenneth & Ann Jonas
Donna Larson
Eileen Loranger
PEO Sisterhood Chapter P
Loren & Rebecca Pool
Lola Rothmann
Arthur & Jean Schooley
Patricia Schumacher
Roger & Sheila Ward
Frederick & Barbara Werner
Michael & Denise Werner
Shirley Werner
Anna Marie Wilton

Addendum
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Akron, Ohio
Minutes of Congregational and Corporation Meeting
Sunday, March 15, 2020

The Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator the Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas at approximately 11:25 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following the morning worship service. An opportunity was provided for any so desiring to leave. He explained that the purpose is to conduct the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Also present: The Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas, Pastor; Alec Works, Acting Clerk of Session

Pastor Hauerwas opened the meeting with prayer. Copies of the Annual Report were made available at the entrances to the sanctuary; also, electronic copies had been sent to members earlier in the week.

Pastor Hauerwas then called for a motion to elect Alec Works to serve as Clerk of Session for the congregational meeting. Following a motion and second, **MOTION C-2020-01 prevailed to elect Alec Works to serve as Clerk of Session for the Annual Congregational meeting.**

Based on current membership as of January 31, 2020 of 373, per our Manual of Operations, a quorum is 10%, or 38 members. Alec reported that a quorum was present. Alec counted at least 44 members present.

Pastor Hauerwas then turned to the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting. He called attention to pages 36-39 of the Annual Report, where copies of the minutes for the 2 congregational meetings from 2019 were included. The minutes from each of these had previously been approved by Session. A motion was made and seconded from the congregation to receive and approve these minutes. **MOTION C-2020-02 prevailed to receive and approve the minutes from the two 2019 Congregational Meetings.**

Pastor Hauerwas explained that each committee was asked to write a report of activities from the previous year. These reports were also included in the 2019 Annual Report. He then called Alec Works, Acting Clerk, to present suggested changes to the bylaws of the congregation. Alec noted that the proposed changes had already been reviewed and found acceptable by Session. Most of the changes relate to sizes and terms of elected committees. The size of the congregation has decreased by over 100 since 2013, making it more difficult to fill positions. Changes to Article VIII clarify some terminology related to the Endowment Fund. With no questions, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt the changes [a two-thirds majority was needed]. **MOTION C-2020-03 prevailed to adopt the changes to the Congregation's Bylaws as proposed.**

Pastor Hauerwas then called Treasurer Shelley Koutnik forward to presented the 2019

Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Shelley directed attention to pages 21-24 of the Annual Report. Highlights included: With total revenues of \$589,369 and total expenses of \$552,562, there was a surplus of \$36,807. This amount was added to the Reserve Fund which was restarted two years ago. No Rowley Funds were needed to meet operating expenses. Higher interest earnings and endowment distributions contributed to higher revenues. There were significant savings in personnel expenses, along with savings in administrative costs and the delay of a youth mission trip. With no questions from the congregation, a motion was made and seconded to receive the report. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-04 prevailed to receive the 2019 Treasurer's Report.**

Shelley then presented the 2020 budget, as included as pages 30-32 of the Annual Report. This budget had been approved by Session on January 28, 2020. The budget includes revenues of \$605,642 and expenses of \$626,611 for a projected deficit of \$20,969. This is within the limit set by Session, which would be covered by Rowley Unrestricted Funds if necessary. Future challenges include fully funding certain expense items from current revenues rather than expiring or New Church Life funds. A motion was made and seconded to receive the 2020 budget. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-05 prevailed to receive the 2020 Budget as presented.** There were no further questions for the Finance Committee.

Pastor Hauerwas next invited Shelley, as elder and member of the Personnel Committee, to present the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2020 on behalf of the Personnel Committee. Pastor Hauerwas then excused himself from the meeting. Ushers distributed the proposed 2020 Terms of Call for the pastor as approved by the Personnel Committee and then by Session on February 24, 2020. The terms represent a 3% increase in the pastor's total compensation. As part of explaining the terms, Shelley first commented on the status of Pastor Hauerwas' satisfactory progress towards his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia theological Seminary. She then shared some of the comments received from elders, committee moderators, staff and others regarding the pastor's performance evaluation. The comments received were substantially positive. Regarding the pastor's availability during coffee hour, Shelley noted that he greets attendees in the narthex immediately following the service, so he may not be in Wright-Herberich Hall right after a service. After opening the floor for a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 Terms of Call. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-06 prevailed to approve the Pastor's 2020 Terms of Call as presented.** Details of the Terms of Call, which were distributed, are available to members of the congregation upon request.

Pastor Hauerwas then returned and resumed duties as Moderator. He asked if there were any questions for him or other committees. Discussions again focused primarily on the decline in membership over the past decades and efforts made to draw more people in. It was noted that Westminster is not alone in its membership decline. Session has been actively engaged in seeking to discern how best to reach out to our community. We have funds available for new church life programs, but we also need committed people to carry out any new or expanded programs. The Jazz Vesper services were cited as an example of new efforts to reach out.

With no new business brought up, Pastor Hauerwas called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so made and seconded. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-07 prevailed to adjourn the meeting.** The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Hauerwas at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Works, Acting Clerk of Session

The Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas,
Moderator

