



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28, 2024
12:00 P.M.

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving God with Open Mind, Hands, and Heart



1420 W. Moss Avenue - Peoria, Illinois 61606

Phone 309-673-8501
Fax 309-673-6708

Website.....westminsterpeoria.org
Email.....wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

STAFF

Pastor **Rev. Tim Mitchel**
Phone 309-439-9737
Email.....pastor@westminsterpeoria.org
Hours Tuesday -Thursday 9 to 12 PM

Financials.....**Larry Hicks**
Phone309-439-9740 (leave message)
Email.....financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org

Buildings Mgr./Custodian.....**Steven Sager**
Phone 309-224-6237
HoursMon., Wed., Thur., and Fri. 8 to 3 PM
Off on Tuesdays
Email.....buildings@westminsterpeoria.org

Admin/Communications**Mary Lee Caudle**
Phone 309-673-8501
HoursMonday - Friday 8:30 to 2:30 PM
Email.....admin@westminsterpeoria.org

Organist/ChoirMaster.....**Polly Brecht**
Phone 309-673-8501
Hours Thursday 6 to 8 PM
Email.....music@westminsterpeoria.org

ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry
HoursMondays 9 to 11 AM

Elizabeth Richmond
Phone 309-697-9720
Email homerichmond@yahoo.com

Westminster Infant Care Center
Director **Valerie Sager**
Phone 309-674-6701
Hours Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM
in accordance with Peoria school calendar
Email WICC1973@gmail.com

President..... **Elizabeth Richmond**
Phone 309-697-9720
Email homerichmond@yahoo.com

Serving God with Open Mind, Hands and Heart



CONTENTS

- ❖ **Agenda** 5
Jim Burnham, Clerk of Session
- ❖ **Annual Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2023**..... 6
Jim Burnham, Clerk of Session
- ❖ **Pastor’s Report (Part 1)** 8
Rev. Tim Mitchell
- ❖ **Christian Education**..... 8
Peggy Bragg
- ❖ **Deacons** 8
Sue Burnham
- ❖ **Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series** 9
Polly Brecht
- ❖ **Member Care** 10
Kim Mitchell
- ❖ **Music Ministry**..... 10
Polly Brecht
- ❖ **Nominations Committee**..... 11
Larry Hicks
- ❖ **Personnel** 12
Larry Hicks
- ❖ **Properties** 13
John Jackson
- ❖ **Missions & Outreach**..... 16
Elizabeth Richmond
- ❖ **Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC)** 19
Valerie Sager
- ❖ **Finance** 20
Larry Hicks
 - *Budget - Fiscal Year 2022-2023*
 - *WPC Balance Sheet*22
 - *Westminster Development Fund (WDF) Report*.....25
- ❖ **Forward Update** 27
Sarah Tunall.....27
Larry Hicks28
- ❖ **Pastor’s Report (Part 2)** 29
Larry Hicks
- ❖ **Who is Tim Mitchell**..... 30
Kim Mitchell
- ❖ **2024 Elders & Deacons**..... **Back Page**

AGENDA FOR JANUARY 28, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE CORPORATION

The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024, following a luncheon that will be served after the regular Sunday Worship Service. The meeting will be held in the Parish House with the option of attending via Zoom.

OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER:

Moderator Rev. Tim Mitchell

CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM:

Clerk of Session

PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS FOR ELECTION:

Elder Larry Hicks

(Nominations for Elder and Nominations for Deacon)

DISCUSSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:

Session committees and others

REPORT FROM THE WESTMINSTER FORWARD COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
January 29, 2023
MINUTES**

The meeting was held in the Sanctuary immediately following the Worship Service on Sunday, January 29, 2023. The option was available to attend the meeting via Zoom.

OPENING:

The meeting was opened with prayer and called to order by the moderator, Pastor Denise Clark-Jones, at 11:03AM.

CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was confirmed by the Clerk of Session, James Burnham.

PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS FOR ELECTION AND ORDINATION

Action on this matter was deferred to a later date to be announced.

TERMS OF CALL:

Elder Larry Hicks reviewed the Terms of Call as presented in the Annual Report.

Elder Hicks noted that the proposed pastor's salary reflects the fact that she will be retiring in June. It was moved and seconded to accept the Terms of Call. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:

The Annual Report is available both online and in printed form. The following points were discussed.

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones pointed out that the Session is already at work on plans for transition following her retirement.

Elder Larry Hicks was recognized for his work on the video presentation of our worship services and other events that take place at the church.

The congregation was referred to the Annual Report for a summary of this year's activities of the various session committees. Elders were present to answer questions.

It was noted that Westminster will be hosting the Peoria Bach Festival this year.

Tom Clark-Jones will be leaving upon Pastor Denise's retirement, and, therefore the future of the music program needs to be considered.

Financial matters of the church are temporarily being handled by Elder Larry Hicks with the help of Dick Helfrich and Financial Secretary Denise Wirth.

Personnel and Nomination Committee Chair, Elder Larry Hicks, stated that a Finance Committee Chair needs to be found due to the relocation of Elder Brian Hakes to Wisconsin.

Also, a Session member to serve as Mission Committee Chair needs to be found due to the expiration of the term of Elder Jan Leonard. Anyone willing to explore the possibility of serving in either of these positions is asked to contact Larry Hicks.

Jeanie Olson was unable to speak about the Deacons due to a technical problem with Zoom.

Steve Sager was recognized for the many Properties Committee projects that he proposes and supervises throughout the year.

Elizabeth Richmond reported on recent activities of the Food Pantry and WICC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
January 29, 2023
MINUTES
continued...

DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH:

Elder Larry Hicks led the discussion. The following points were discussed.

The Session has begun working to find the best way forward for the church.

The Presbytery is prepared to give advice as we plan for the future.

Elder Larry Hicks proposes to establish an ad hoc committee to develop a plan for the future of Westminster in light of the fact that today's financial reality is not the same as it was just a short time ago. Among the factors needing consideration are new pastoral leadership, stewardship of available financial resources, and maintenance of our property.

At this point the floor was opened for discussion. The following questions were raised.

Will WICC and the Food Bank be considered in any discussion of the future of the church?

Answer: Yes.

Will we be looking for an Interim Pastor?

Answer: Maybe. Pulpit Supply is another option.

During the discussion of this matter it was mentioned that it may be necessary to consider a part-time pastor.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Burnham, Clerk of Session

PASTOR'S REPORT (Part 1)

Tim Mitchell, Bridge Pastor

I look forward to meeting each of you and discovering together what God has in store for Westminster in the coming year. Since I will be filling the time between the departure of Denise and the hiring of a permanent pastor, I have chosen to call myself a Bridge Pastor. I am serving part-time. I will be overseeing worship, staff and coordinating pastoral care. I know you are accustomed to a full-time pastor, and this may be a challenging year since I'm part-time. But I am convinced we can work together to solve any issues.

The Westminster Forward committee has identified four ambitious goals:

1. Create stability in people participating in worship.,
2. Grow and maintain social justice initiatives.,
3. Financial stability,
4. Develop a community for empty nesters and older adults.

These are worthy goals and will require the participation of every member to accomplish them. Please consider which of the four objectives you are most interested in and choose one to help make this an excellent year for Westminster.

PASTOR'S REPORT continued page 29 . . .

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Peggy Bragg, chair

Since the pandemic, our C. E. program has been different. We have not had an adult education class and the SING! Choir Camp was not held.

Pastor Denise continued her Lectionary Bible study each Thursday afternoon via ZOOM. After her retirement in June, we have not had the study.

The monthly meetings of Circle of Friends resumed this year

DEACON REPORT

Sue Burnham, moderator

The Deacons look forward to meeting with Rev. Mitchell as we work together caring for our congregation. He has reached out to us to offer support and guidance.

Deacons send cards, make phone calls, visit, and offer support in rough times. They also have delivered Easter lilies and Christmas Poinsettias.

Bonnie Jackson's term ended in 2023. We thank her for her service. Three new Deacons will be elected and installed very soon.

Continued next page . . .

Many thanks go to all our Deacons:

Janet Baker – Class of 2024

Edna Nugent - Class of 2025

Janet Baker - Class of 2025

Sue Burnham, Moderator – Class of 2025

Susan Leighty – Class of 2024

Phyllis Rafferty - Class of 2025

Alice Nash - Class of 2025

GRETCHEN R. IBEN SERIES

Polly Brecht, chair

After arriving in June I was made aware of this series. By the end of July the Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 was laid out. As there was no help, I asked the following to serve on the Iben board:

Becky White, Betsy Beck, Julie Herridge, Dan Callahan, and Dave Hoffman.

Dick, Abby, and Dennis were also great at greeting and other help with the receptions etc.

The three events in the Fall all were well attended by the community and we had receptions after each event in the parlor (with the exception of Lessons and Carols).

September kicked-off with Guitarist Guido Sanchez- Portuguez from the University of Illinois. Originally from Costa Rica, Dr. Portuguez played an exquisite program of classical guitar works including a Bach suite and Villa-Lobos. He was well received. I was delighted that several guitarists from the area were able to attend.

October featured the early music group Echoing Air from Indianapolis. The group, two counter-tenors, gamba, two recorders, and harpsichord, presented a 90 minute program that explored secular, chamber, church, and theatrical baroque works of England. It was informative as well as mesmerizing for those who attended. Wonderful group.

Then in December the traditional 9 Lessons and Carols Service was presented by the choir with additional singers from the church, Dennis and Julie Herridge, Shane Strauss's mother Wendy Strauss, and professional soprano Karen Stewart. Readers for the service included Mary Dill, Dennis Herridge, Doug McQueen, Dave Kortemeir, Anna Bussian, Laura Van Riper, Kim Mitchell, Betsy Beck, Peggy Bragg, and Jim Burnham. Sue and Jim Burnham also helped in our piece with handbells. I believe the service was well received and went very well. I was very proud of the hard work by the choir.

It seems to me attendance could be better...hopefully that will improve. The series is a generous gift to the community.

MEMBER CARE

Kim Mitchell, chair

The membership total as of December 31, 2022, was 114

The membership total as of December 31, 2023 was 100

No weddings were held at the church during the past year. No baptisms were conducted.

INCREASES: 0

DECREASES: -14

Deaths: -5

04.09.23 - Julia Mitchell Hoffman

05.08.23 - Byron DeHaan

07.04.23 - Eugenia Olson

09.28.23 - Lesley Matuszak

10.01.23 - JoAnne Gibson

Transfers - 2

Brian Hakes

Joyce Hakes

Removals - 7

Alan Kupper

Linda Kupper

Ned Matuszak

Michael Hedden

Lynn Hedden

Michael Kupper

Frank Picl

Necrology Roll:

Byron DeHaan

JoAnne Gibson

Julia Mitchell Hoffman

Lesley Matuszak

Eugenia Olson

MUSIC PROGRAM

Polly Brecht, chair

This report is essentially from July thru December of 2023 as I was hired the end of June.

The summer consisted primarily of Organ led music, with some wonderful special guest musicians...

Marcia Henry Liebenow, violinist and Kyle Dzapo, flutist, both faculty members and colleagues of mine at Bradley University.

Beginning the week before Labor day were regular Thursday night rehearsals for the choir and regular choir led Sunday worship services. I was lucky to inherit a paid quartet. Shane Strauss, Kate Kortemeir, Doug McQueen, and Dave Kortemeir have been committed to Westminster week after week, and I am grateful for their professional attitudes. We are fortunate to have them.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Larry Hicks, chair

The charge of the Officer Nominating Committee is to prepare a slate of officers, elders, and deacons, for election by the congregation, to fill a three-year term unless there are extenuating circumstances.

DEACONS

The following deacons retired from the Board of Deacons in December 2023.

Class of 2023 are Bonnie Jackson and Phyllis Rafferty

The following have graciously accepted another term as Deacon:

Class of 2026, Phyllis Rafferty

The following are continuing their three-year term

Class of 2024 are Janet Baker and Susan Leighty

Class of 2025 are Sue Burnham, (as Moderator) Alice Nash, and Edna Nugent

The following are nominees for a three-year term

Class of 2025 are Edna Nugent

Class of 2026 are Abbie Alexander, Wendy Bowles, and Jean Schlesinger

ELDERS

The following elders retired from the Session on December 31, 2023:

Peggy Bragg, Christian Education - Class of 2023

Elders staying on for another three year term are:

Peggy Bragg, Christian Education - Class of 2026

Elizabeth Richmond, Missions - Class of 2026

Elders who are continuing their term are:

Jim Burnham, Clerk of Session - Class of 2024 (second 3yr term)

John Jackson, Properties - Class of 2024 (second 3yr term)

Larry Hicks, Personnel - Class of 2025 (second 3yr term)

Kim Mitchell, Member Care - Class of 2025

The following are nominees for a new three-year term are:

Peggy Bragg, Christian Education - Class of 2026

Elizabeth Richmond, Missions/Outreach - Class of 2026

The Nominations Committee is currently seeking nominations for Session and the Nominating Committee. If you have a desire to help your church family through volunteering in the leadership, please let Larry or Pastor Tim know.

PERSONNEL

Larry Hicks, chair

During 2023, the big change was the retirement of Denise Clark-Jones. She and her husband Tom, our organist and choirmaster, subsequently moved to the Cleveland, Ohio area to be near family. Despite the transition, the office staff continued to work from home one day per week. Also, our longtime Financial Secretary, Denise Wirth left mid-year. On the plus side, we welcome Dr. Polly Brecht as our organist and choirmaster. Polly brings a wealth of experience and energy to our music program and we look forward to her leadership in the coming years.

The Session kept the worship services going with pulpit supply preaching. Our pulpit supply pastors after Pastor Denise retired included Chip Roland, Tim Mitchell, Alan Willadsen, Laura Reason, Linda Philabaun and Sarah Tunall. Many thanks to them for their contributions.

As most of you know, Tim Michell has agreed to serve as our Bridge Pastor for the foreseeable future while we continue to discern our future needs. Recently one of our choir members, Shane Strauss, has begun serving as our Office Assistant. We welcome Shane to our staff.

During this period of change, a big THANK YOU to our office staff and affiliates for all their hard work keeping our church running.

Our staff currently includes

- Pastor (Head of Staff) Rev. Tim Mitchell
- Organist/Choirmaster Dr. Polly Brecht
- Admin/Communications Mary Lee Caudle
- Office Assistant - Shane Strauss
- Buildings Manager Steven Sager

Note, the office staff can still be reached by cell phone, text, or email (see page 3 for office hours).

PROPERTIES

John Jackson, chair

Committee: Dan Callahan, Larry Hicks

I first want to give a thank you to our buildings manager Steve Sager and his assistant Caden Richmond for the work they do here at Westminster on the buildings and grounds. Much of what they do behind the scenes you may not be aware of. We all know they keep our buildings clean and the grounds mowed. There is also prepping the Parish House for use by many in the community. This report will give you an idea of some of the never ending other tasks .. Also a thanks to Dan and Larry for their valuable input helping with the church.

The 2023 year was filled with many special tasks.

January

- Getz sprinkler inspection finds deficiencies—Glycol in system must be replaced as no longer meets new fire code.
- Paper work for Parish Hall solar project submitted to Foster-Jacobs.
- Snow removal and salting ongoing with Mark Hoerr Co. Both church vehicles inspected and passed.
- Problems with church front door alarm Oberlander replaced sensor.
- Fellowship hall setups and clean ups for Moss-Bradley Residential Association (MBRA) social/meeting, Food Pantry Volunteer Holiday Luncheon, Church Holiday dinner, Richmond baby shower, DCFS Foster Parent Training, and the Congregational Luncheon/ Meeting.

February

- Getz schedules fire alarm/smoke detector inspections.
- Lifts of Illinois serviced Parish Hall lift on second floor door.
- Slab Jackers Construction out to make estimate for side walk leveling.
- Rob Bickelhaupt on site to quote repair work porticos.
- Foster-Jacobs Electric out to scope install food pantry outlet.
- Hitchcock Company on site to quote Glycol replacement in fire sprinkler system.
- Fellowship Hall setups/cleanups for MBRA meeting and DCFS Foster Parent Training.

March

- Getz reschedules inspection until April as elevator and fire/smoke alarm inspection must be done at the same time due to fire code regulations.
- Slab Jackers submit quote.
- Foster Jacobs Electrical is delayed with food pantry receptacle as they are backlogged due to employee loss.
- Solar project has been outsourced to Springfield Electric by Foster Jacob.
- American Water Backflow Testing by J C Dillon showed our back-flow valve to fail and need replacement.
- Fellowship hall setups/cleanups for MBRA Meeting and DCFS Foster Parent Training, and MBRA Candidate Forum.

Continued next page . . .

PROPERTIES CONTINUED . . .

April

- Foster Jacob Electric installed new outlet in food pantry.
- Cambridge Home Improvement submits quote to repair sliding doors on Fellowship Hall.
- J C Dillon repairs leaking toilet and faucet in fellowship hall.
- LJ's along with Steve, Caden, Dan, and John conduct spring clean up of grounds.
- Collecting items for Moss Avenue sale has begun.
- Fellowship hall setups/cleanups for MBRA Meeting, and DCFS Foster Parent Training, Polling Site, and American Wine Society.

May

- Successfully passed fire alarm and sprinkler inspections for both church and parish house.
- Successfully passed state mandated elevator inspection. Kone finds battery backup for elevator non functional. Will take measures.
- Alpha energy provides quote for preventive maintenance for both church and parish house.
- Portico repairs and painting completed.
- Mowing and weeding ongoing.

June

- Kone with Otis Elevator cannot get parts for our obsolete elevator battery backup system and provide quote for retrofit for our system.
- Successfully passed State mandated Parish House lift inspection.
- Successfully passed State mandated boiler inspections.
- Alpha Energy does preventive maintenance on all campus air conditioning units.
- Cambridge Home Improvement does work on Fellowship Hall sliding doors.
- Hitchcock clears sprinkler deficiencies with Peoria Fire Department Compliance Engine.
- Foster Jacob Electric replaces faulty photo cell and two security lights on fellowship hall exterior.
- Kreiling cleans gutters on church.
- Setups/cleanups for Moss Avenue sale, Bach Festival, MBRA Banquet, Foster Parent Training, and Penguin Project.

July

- Successfully installed and tested battery backup for church elevator.
- Nick Wronkiewicz submits bid for Fellowship Hall restroom roof leak repairs.
- Church van successfully passes IDOT inspection.
- Church bus will not start-- towed to Verklers—Found failed fuel pump and badly corroded fuel tank and supporting straps-- total \$7K.
- King Tree Specialist hired to deal with dead limbs.
- Chapel setup for Storytelling.
- Fellowship Hall setups/cleanups for DCFS Foster Parent Training, Penguin Project, Quest robotics.

Continued next page . . .

August/September

- Oberlander reprograms alarms to auto set at 11 PM to help mitigate false alarms.
- Election commissioner does site visit to Fellowship Hall.
- Determined an uninterruptible power supply needed to help maintain heating /cooling controls during a power outage such as the one experienced August 11. Loss of controls was what caused our mold problem in the past.
- Fellowship Hall/Church setups/cleanups for DCFS Foster Parent Training, Penguin Project, Quest robotics, Orfe Concert, AGO Summer Fest, IBEN (Guido Sanchez Portuguese), and Westminster Forward meetings.

October

- Roof repairs complete on Fellowship Hall restroom.
- Solar project is resourced to SimpleRay Solar as Springfield Electric is terribly backlogged. SimpleRay Solar unresponsive now try to use Sun Collectors.
- Foster Jacob Electric investigating dimmer system for sanctuary lighting that now uses LED technology that works differently.
- Received quote to replace glycol in our heating system from Alpha.
- Mark Hoerr Landscaping is given snow removal contract.
- Kings tree service completes dead limb removal. Fellowship Hall/Church usage DCFS Foster Parent training, MBRA, IBEN Echoing Air, Quest Robotics, and Westminster Forward Meetings.

November

- Sun Collectors on campus to determine suitability of solar project and make recommendation and to make a quote using any grants available.
- Foster Jacob gives quote on dimmer system—very expensive—will table this item for now.
- UPS system for heating and cooling installed.
- Alpha replaces glycol in heating system. Alpha replaces Boiler#3 inducer motor that failed.
- J C Dillon and Hitchcock to quote repairs to back flow prevention system.
- Security system fails—Oberlander working up a quote for system.
- Allied Security Professionals work on church main door lock mechanism.
- Oberlander does work on two Fellowship Hall smoke detectors.
- Hanging of the greens and tree setup.
- LJ's reschedules grounds cleanup for December.
- Fellowship Hall/Church setup/cleanups Peoria Friends of International Students, DCFS Foster Parent training, MBRA, and Westminster Forward Meetings.

December

- Hitchcock quote accepted for back flow system and parts are ordered. Hitchcock will conduct Peoria Fire Code Sprinkler Inspection when back flow system work is complete.
- Oberlander quote on security system is accepted.
- A new system call iPhone to be installed, parts are ordered.
- Church main door has an electric lock. Oberlander is checking out how to do a battery backup for this in the event of a power failure.
- New keypad installed for security at church main entrance.

PROPERTIES CONTINUED . . .

- Getz replaces failed smoke detector in church basement.
- German Bliss does IDOT inspections on church vehicles.
- LJ's does grounds cleanup.
- Hoerr Landscaping on campus for snow removal and salting.
- Church/Fellowship hall usage DCFS Foster Parent Training, MBRA, Westminster Forward Meetings, Nine Lessons & Carols, Church Christmas dinner, and Food Pantry Christmas Luncheon.

MISSION REPORT

Elizabeth Richmond - Missions Elder

A Return to Session

A passion for mission work

After six years off session, I have rejoined the session again as Mission Elder - a deep passion for me. During those six years, I did stay connected to the church mission by working with Jan Leonard and assisting with my continued commitment to WestMark, WICC and our foster family support. I look forward to moving Westminster into new mission service as we think of good uses of our buildings and look to match with our community passions.

WestMark Food Pantry

Running a food pantry and keeping everyone safe

WestMark continues to operate outside as we ask guests to stay in their car, drive around the Fellowship Hall and register outside, from a distance. There, we load pre-packed food directly into their trunk. I still miss the time talking with families that we serve as well as the time they had with their "food pantry friends" they had made while they waited, but we continue to be mindful of our exposure.

The total individuals we served in 2023 is 13,582 individuals from 3,596 families, up from last year in 2022 when we served 9,706 individuals from 2,417 households. That's a significant increase. I have certainly noticed the change in the cost of groceries in my own household. For families on a tight budget, it has been very hard. What they get from us really helps. They are grateful, and they tell us so. We are still so very important to the families that we serve.

This year has also brought many new volunteers to WestMark. The support from individuals in the neighborhood has brought new life and a renewed feeling of comradery to the food pantry.

Continued next page . . .

MISSIONS CONTINUED ...

Numbers:

2023 MONTH	Individuals Served	Number of Families	2023 MONTH	Individuals Served	Number of Families
JAN (not open first Monday of the month)	728	216	JULY (closed July 3)	1284	328
FEB	899	243	AUG	1389	373
MAR	840	225	SEP (closed Labor Day)	984	271
APR	925	281	OCT	1613	430
MAY (closed Memorial Day)	1383	311	NOV	1267	356
JUNE	1138	280	DEC (closed Christmas Day)	1132	282
TOTAL Individuals Served			13,582		
TOTAL Families Served			3,596		

Budgeted Missions	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
General Assembly	\$626	\$2,125
Synod	0	250
Presbytery of Great Rivers	0	2,625
Friendship House	250	250
Center for Prevention of Abuse	150	250
Westminster Infant Care Center (WICC)	200	5000
Boys and Girls Clubs	100	0
Southside Mission	250	0
Dream Center	375	0
Neighborhood House	375	0
Crittenton Centers	250	0
Vanderau Handicap Fund	0	0
Westmark Food Pantry	400	100
Discretionary/New Projects Fund (2022 – WICC, Presbyterian Disaster Relief for hurricane relief and Ukraine disaster assistance)	2,200	10,000
Total	\$5,176	\$20,600

Continued next page ...

Westminster Infant Care Center

Not like any other daycare in town

WICC has a report submitted by daycare director Val Sager, whose leadership we could not do without. I want to add that WICC fills a place where no other daycare could meet the needs. The first example that comes to mind is all the care and concern by the daycare and members of the congregation for little Alfredo - the little one that had open heart surgery. That little one would not be able to go to a large daycare center with all his health and medical issues. Our WICC staff got the necessary training to care for him. This provided great relief to his mom and his grandparent. Our care also allowed the grandparent to work, which is necessary for their family finances. The second incident I can think of that makes us so different is a baby enrolled this fall who came to daycare with what the teen mom and grandmother thought was just a cold. Quick reactions from the WICC staff and consultation with the WICC nurse probably saved this child's life. The baby was immediately admitted to the hospital with a severe case of RSV. Both teen mom and Grandma were so grateful for the quick reaction of staff. Many times, teens and their families are under so much stress. It is the care and compassion that WICC offers that makes us different from other daycares.

Foster Family Supports

Care and compassion for those who take care of our most vulnerable children can make all the difference.

Each month, Westminster hosts a foster family support group - Circle of Support. This group is open to all area foster parents and relative caregivers. It is a warm and inviting group. They share a pot luck meal and then have guided small group discussion focusing around the skills needed to raise children that have experienced trauma and abuse. The sense this group provides to caregivers of not being alone and having others to support and care about them, makes this very difficult job possible.

Westminster was also able to do some fun support this year. In honor of foster parent appreciation month, Westminster cosponsored a family bowling night at the Christian Center. All ten lanes were rented out and dinner was provided for families to come have a good time. It is always great to see smiles on the faces of children that have endured difficult times. Also heart filling is seeing children make friends that are also in foster care, helping them realize they are not the only one.

We provided fall treat and activity bags to foster families, encouraging family interaction and building connected relationships. Westminster also assisted with individual cases, when needed, buying clothes for children and youth new to foster care, school supplies and Christmas gifts.

Quest Academy Robotic Club

The next great inventor

If you are around in the after school times in the fellowship building, you can frequently hear the voices and sometimes cheers of success from the youth from Quest. These students spend their "free time" working hard to understand the science behind robotics and successfully applying that knowledge in building real machines that function. With any luck, maybe we will have been the place where the next great inventor got their start.

WESTMINSTER INFANT CARE CENTER (WICC)

Valerie Sager, director

WICC had five children attending Westminster Infant Care Center as 2023 began. We had two infants with physical special needs which did present us with the necessity of hiring a part time person to help out. One of our special needs infants, Alfredo, underwent open heart surgery in March and the surgery was a success. Thank you to the church and all who helped support the family with the Alfredo meal train donations.

WICC is required by DCFS licensing to do Radon testing every three years and this was completed in April. The results were favorable and we passed the testing.

Our DCFS licensing representative conducted our annual inspection in April and she was very pleased with everything and stated that "WICC is the epitome of what a childcare center should be".

The WICC board had our annual fundraiser in June at the Moss Avenue Day Sale. This is the board's biggest opportunity to raise funds to use as start-up monies to begin our academic year. Thanks to all who donated items, their time to work, price, arrange, and sell. Buildings Manager, Steve Sager and Caden Richmond were important to the success of the sale. Together they did the heavy lifting, set up, picking up sale items and taking down to return things to normal.

In August the USDA food program auditor came and visited for a day and went through the record keeping for the last three years plus the current year. An audit is a requirement to be part of the USDA food program. All records were found to be in compliance.

In September, Helping Hands Resale Shoppe supported WICC as one of their recipients for mission money support.

In November, Marilyn Luman spearheaded the Make it Take it Fall Bazaar for WICC. Thank you to the wonderful ladies that assisted Marilyn and for those who contributed items for the bazaar!

WICC acknowledges those that generously support us through their private donations and also the Caterpillar Matching Grant, Eugenia Olson memorials, and Northminster Presbyterian Church with mission funding and donations of items for the daycare center. We also gratefully acknowledge the in-kind support of WICC by the Westminster Presbyterian Church by supplying building space, utilities, van usage and insurance. WICC is partially funded by the State of Illinois child care subsidy program and other grant sources but cannot operate without the logistic support of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and its members. We also thank Ramsay and Associates for providing outstanding accounting services for us.

Thank you for allowing WICC to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Our work is God's work and our hands are praying, healing, blessing, strong, and creating hands. Most of all our hands are loving hands to touch a hurting world. It has been my pleasure to be a part of God's established work at Westminster Infant Care Center.

Continued next page . . .

The WICC Staff includes:

Valerie Sager	Director	Nisa Roberts	Teacher assistant
Pat Flynn	Van driver	Jan Nau R.N.	Volunteer nurse

WICC Board Members

Elizabeth Richmond	President & WPC Member
Jan Nau R.N.	Vice President & Registered Nurse
Tracy Danzer	Treasurer & Ramsay Office Manager and Enrolled Agent
Jennie Smith	Secretary & PPS Teacher
Janet Baker	Board & WPC Member
Alice Nash	Board & WPC Member
Stan Hangen	Board & Family Core/ Manual High School
Candis Barber	Board & Higher Education Navigator Child Care Connection

FINANCE

Larry Hicks, Chair

I would like to thank the church treasurers, Dick Helfrich and Alice Nash for their tireless work to properly process and maintain the financial resources of the church. During this year, our long-time financial secretary Denise Wirth left the position and the Session agreed to engage Ramsay and Associates to maintain the books with assists from Dick and Alice as well as the church office staff. During the transition, Alice helped me learn the financial ropes and Denise Wirth helped me understand the software and filing system. We met once or twice a week for several months to get it all understood. I'm very thankful for the support Alice, Dick and Denise Wirth provided the church this year. We are lucky to have them on our side.

The church continues to be dependent on the WDF to cover its annual expenses. This year's (2023) drawdown of the WDF was \$24,000 less than what was budgeted. In 2023 the WDF, again amounted to 62% of our revenue. In 2022, it was also 62% as compared to 47% in 2021. The 2024 budget projects the WDF will be about 80% of the total receipts.

For 2024 there have been 19 pledges in the amount of \$52,680. The pledged dollar amount is roughly \$50,000 less than the pledged amount in 2023. There were 30 pledges received in 2023. Yet 2023 church receipts were \$124,000 which is about \$30,000 under pledged income. While some do not pledge, there is continued support of Westminster and its missions. If you have not made a pledge commitment for 2024 it is not too late to do so.

The Session continues to look at ways to reduce expenses or increase revenues while continuing to properly maintain our facilities. Due to efficient management and a mild winter the

Continued next page . . .

FINANCE CONTINUED . . .

church was able to end the 2023 year \$20,000 under budget. As always, the session will continue to look at cost reductions without compromising who we are and what Westminster is about.

Looking to 2024, the Session has secured a Bridge Pastor, Tim Mitchell, to provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care as we continue to discern a path to the future for Westminster. We have also added the many talents of our Organist and Choirmaster, Dr. Polly Brecht to oversee our music program and our Iben series events. These changes bring new opportunities and have a financial impact also. The Session will continue to use our resources to obtain the best value for our community and the congregation.

BUDGET - Fiscal Year 2023 & 2024

	2023		2024
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
Church Receipts	\$ 128,741	\$ 160,900	\$ 65,700
Westminster Development Fund	\$ 217,951	\$ 241,084	\$ 350,150
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 346,692	\$ 401,984	\$ 415,850

	2023		2024
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
EXPENSES			
Compensation	\$ 155,998	\$ 151,332	\$ 163,560
Administration	\$ 27,402	\$ 29,400	\$ 35,650
Missions	\$ 5,176	\$ 31,800	\$ 20,600
Christian Education	\$ 277	\$ 300	\$ 300
Worship	\$ 24,225	\$ 19,350	\$ 17,350
Properties	\$ 138,678	\$ 147,548	\$ 154,000
Per Capita & Member Related	\$ 9,764	\$ 7,140	\$ 10,850
Gretchen R. Iben Fund	\$ 13,461	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 374,981	\$ 399,370	\$ 414,810

Continued next page . . .

WPC BALANCE SHEET - DECEMBER 2023

ASSETS	CURRENT BALANCE
Cash	
Checking - Morton Community Bank	13,343
Petty Cash	45.06
Hometown Community Banks	1199.57
CEFCU Savings Account	5
Total Cash	\$14,593
Westminster Development Fund	
Fidelity Investment (less GIS & K)	1,195,369
Fidelity/Food Pantry - (GIS & K)	56,404
Other WDF: Moss Bradley Rev. Fund	1,000
Total Westminster Development Fund	\$1,252,773
Total Assets	
	\$1,267,366
LIABILITIES	
Designated Gifts	
Denom. & Other Designated	3000
Other Designated	
Food Pantry & Marian Hardin Garden	-3,979
Westminster Infant Care Center	400
Public Relations/Advertising	2,776
Total Other Designated	(\$803)
Total Denom. & Other Designated	\$2,197
Total Designated Gifts	\$2,197

Continued next page ...

RESTRICTED GIFTS

Choir Camp Fees	455
Iben Support	4,979
Peoria Bach Festival	3,635
Special Gift - Paraments	918.48
Local Benevolence Fund	725
Clark-Jones Retirement Gift	-1325
Loren Bailey Memorial Garden	3,788
Gift Account - Giving Tree	220
DCFS Foster Care	932
Total Restricted Gifts	14,328

DEFERRED REVENUE

2023 Prepaid Pledges	20,328
----------------------	--------

Operating Fund Equity

Prior Period Adjustments	12,229
Westminster Development Fund	1,262,773

Total Operating Fund Equity **1,275,002**

Total Deferred Revenue **1,382,060**

Total Liabilities **1,402,623**

Fund Principle - Excess Cash Rec'd

Total Fund Balance	-61,131
Excess Cash Received	42,947

Total Fund Principle - -18,184

 Excess Cash Rec'd and Excess Cash Received

Total Liabilities, Fund Principle - 1,384,439

 Excess Cash Rec'd, & Restricted Funds

Continued next page . . .

LIABILITIES

Designated Gifts

Denom. & Other Designated

Other Designated

Food Pantry & Marian Hardin Garden	6,896
Westminster Infant Care Center	-100
Public Relations/Advertising	2,776
Total Other Designated	\$9,572
Total Denom. & Other Designated	\$9,572
Total Designated Gifts	\$9,572

RESTRICTED GIFTS

Iben Support	1,931
Peoria Bach Festival	1,450
Special Gift - Paraments	918
Local Benevolence Fund	725
Loren Bailey Memorial Garden	3,788
Gift Account - Giving Tree	347
DCFS Foster Care	1,831
Total Restricted Gifts	10,990

DEFERRED REVENUE

2023 Prepaid Pledges	9,000
----------------------	-------

Operating Fund Equity

Prior Period Adjustments	12,229
Westminster Development Fund	1,360,831
Total Operating Fund Equity	1,373,060
Total Deferred Revenue	1,382,060
Total Liabilities	1,402,623

Fund Principle - Excess Cash Rec'd

Total Fund Balance	-18,294
Excess Cash Received	-28,289

Total Fund Principle -

Excess Cash Rec'd and Excess Cash Received	-46,584
--	---------

Total Liabilities, Fund Principle -

Excess Cash Rec'd, & Restricted Funds	1,267,482
---------------------------------------	-----------

Continued next page . . .

WDF - WESTMINSTER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Larry Hicks, Chair

Memorials are always credited to the WDF development fund. The purpose of memorials is to remember those who were connected to Westminster as part of our worship community.

In 2023 Westminster received memorial gifts for:

Byron DeHaan	Jeannie Olson
Marilyn Huebach	Wyan Stockdell
Joanne Gibson	Lesley Matzusak

The Session and finance committee have worked hard to sustain the fund while maintaining the campus, programs and missions of Westminster. The session is focused on managing expenses but it is also why our current pledges and giving are so important. It will help to lessen the dependence on the WDF to fund our operations and help it to grow and thus secure the future of our Worship community.

At the beginning of 2023 the valuation of the WDF was \$1,359,831. During 2023, \$225,600 was transferred from the fund. But because of memorials (there were no bequests in 2023), dividends, capital gains and other income, as well as asset appreciation in the market value of the WDF fund was \$1,261,773. This is a net decrease of \$98,059 from the start of the year.

From a historical perspective, during the 3 years prior to 2022, transfers from the WDF have been about \$660,000 but the during the same period the WDF actually increased by nearly \$150,000. However, that has not been the case in 2022. Income to the fund was about \$30,000 but that was overshadowed by withdrawals and decline in market value, in the amounts of \$304,385 and \$93,868 respectively.

What is remarkable is that while nearly \$1,000,000 has been withdrawn from the Westminster Development Fund over the past four years, the WDF still has a balance of \$1,359,831! The goal of the finance committee has been to manage the account so that WDF contributes as much as needed to sustain the financial needs of the church. The finance committee including my predecessors, Gary Leonard and Jeanie Olson, have done an admirable job in the administration of the WDF. Most importantly, today it is we who are fortunate to have had individuals whose strong faith in Westminster prompted them to gift the fund.

Continued next page . . .

WDF - FIDELITY ACCOUNT - DECEMBER 2023

Total Market Value of WDF as of January 1	\$1,359,831
Total Gifts, Memorials and Bequests	-
Income from Dividends, Interest & Capital Gain Dist.	24,167
Change in Mkt. Value	103,374
Total Transfers from Fund (YTD)	(225,600)
Total Market Value as of December 31	\$1,261,773

Assets Held

Fidelity Balanced Fund (FBALX)	\$777,472
Fidelity - Common Stocks (XOM, COP, JNJ, DUK, GLW, GIS, K)	480,622
Money Mkt. -- Fidelity	3,679
Other Assets	
Total Assets	\$1,261,773

Designated Gifts

Gretchen R. Iben Memorial	\$203,391
Eisele Music Fund	\$24,254
Burks Memorial Youth	\$18,029
Eisele Operating Fund	\$29,356
Brandt Memorial Music	\$1,302
Theological Education Fund	\$6,168
Fitzgerald Memorial Mission	\$16,518
Ruth Fedders Operating Fund	\$100,980
Paul & Doris Dirkse Mission	\$39,640
Vanderau Memorial Handicap Fund	\$21,776
Rosalie & John H (Booty) Eisele Fund	\$184,551

Total Designated Gifts	\$645,964
-------------------------------	------------------

West/Mark Food Pantry - (Bill & Marian Hardin) (joint mission) (Kellogg & General Mills)	\$56,404
--	-----------------

FORWARD UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM SARAH TUNALL, our Westminster Forward consultant:

The history of Westminster Presbyterian is rich with a legacy that has impacted generations. This history has set a solid foundation for creative thinking and building on the legacy in ways that could continue to transform the Moss-Bradley Neighborhood and the greater Peoria region.

Strengths observed during worship and voiced during conversations with members of WPC were:

- service to the surrounding area through **mission**,
- **fellowship and care** for one another,
- previous **pastors**,
- emphasis on **music programs**.

Areas of **growth** voiced in conversation and observed in worship were:

- current pastoral **leadership void**,
- **variety in Sunday worship** opportunities,
- **burn out** rates amongst members,
- need for **more people** in the congregation.

These strengths and challenges can be stepping stones to moving into the future God has for the church.

The vision process over the past 7 months has included discussion around viability of worship, potential leadership options, future goals, and where the church wants to be in 10 years. Session and Westminster Forward agree that the goal of WPC is to remain a viable worshipping community. Leadership conversations continue to evolve.

In order to remain viable and grow in stability, living into the identity God has established with the community thus far, the following four goals have been created:

1. Create stability in number of people in worship (average 60-80)
2. Maintain and grow social justice initiatives
3. Financial stability
4. Develop community for empty nesters & older adults

It is a joy to journey with you as we look where God has led the church thus far and pray for clarity of what God has ahead.

Blessings and peace,
Sarah Tunall

Continued next page . . .

A MESSAGE FROM LARRY HICKS

Over the last several months, the Westminster Forward group in collaboration with the Session have worked tirelessly to develop a path forward for Westminster. Among the considerations are what can we achieve with the resources, time, and talents we have, what should our staffing configuration look like, what should our congregational membership look like and how do we get from here to there. This effort, yet unfinished, has been a difficult task and taken many hours of time, thought and discussion.

During this time, we have sorted through many options, pursued many dead ends and arrived at a few good choices. We are confident in our direction and would like to share our goals.

- Create stability in people (number in worship)
- Grow and maintain social justice initiatives
- Seek financial stability
- Develop community for “empty nesters” and older adults

Over the coming months we will be working to describe a 5 to 10 year vision for Westminster and developing plans to make that vision a reality. If you feel motivated to help us flesh out the vision and plan to achieve it, we would be happy to have your help. It will take all of us to make the vision a reality and secure the future of Westminster. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help achieve our goals for your church. Just let one of the committee or Session members know of your willingness and we will help you get involved. Thank you.

I would like to thank the committee members, Dennis and Julie Herridge, Dan Callahan, Mary Dill, Matthew Winkler and Peggy Bragg for their ongoing service to both the church and the community. In addition, the Session has taken a strong role in the discussions and deliberations. They too, deserve our thanks and support and we enter a new phase of our efforts. The current Session is Jim Burham, Larry Hicks, Elizabeth Richmond, Peggy Bragg, John Jackson and Kim Mitchell. Please join me in thanking them all for their help, guidance, and support.

Finally, I would like to thank Sarah Tunall for her leadership, thoughts, experience, and prayers in helping us through this time of transition, change and discernment. Our work is not yet done but we are making great progress toward defining a long term, stable and vibrant future for Westminster.

Larry Hicks
Westminster Forward and Session

PASTOR'S REPORT (Part Two)

Last year was a busy period for Westminster, the first half of the year was mostly normal. Then, in June, our pastor for the last nine years retired and moved away, and our organist and choir director moved with her, leaving us with a large leadership void. Happily, we were blessed to meet Polly Brecht who, most capably, picked up the organist and choir director role and brought new insight and energy to the position. Westminster was also fortunate to have the services of Chip Roland and Alan Willadsen providing worship leadership to get us through the first few weeks after Pastor Denise retired. Matthew Winkler also stepped up to lead worship for a week when Alan and Chip were unavailable. We thank them for their help and support throughout the transition. As time went on, we were able to get into a rhythm with Chip and Tim Mitchell serving alternate worship services and providing pastoral care, as needed, for the Westminster community.

As we move into 2024, the Reverend Timothy Mitchell has agreed to be our regular pastor, serving in a part-time position as Bridge Pastor. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to introduce yourself to Tim at your earliest convenience. The new leadership team with Tim and Polly, in cooperation with the Session and the office staff, will provide needed stability and open new opportunities for Westminster in the coming year. I look forward to the coming year as we move into the next phase of our shared pilgrimage into the future of Westminster.

I hope the journey through the latter half of 2023 was not too rocky for all of you as we continued to prepare a path to the future for Westminster. I appreciate all your help, support, mentorship and prayers. Thank you.

Larry Hicks
Pulpit Supply Coordinator
(in lieu of pastor)



PASTOR TIM MITCHELL grew up on a farm in a small unincorporated area in southeastern Ohio known as Ava, Ohio. The current population is 63. He has fond memories of growing up with his 5 siblings. He was the first born and his parents had 4 boys in 8 years. His parents also adopted two others—one girl and one boy. His mom cared for "so many foster kids and they were treated the same as the rest". Some of his favorite childhood memories were fishing with his siblings on a couple of farm ponds and horseback riding. His maternal grandfather was the only grandparent he knew as the others had already passed away before his birth. He cherished this man and was drawn to him due to his "love and compassion for his grandchildren". He enjoyed picking berries and working in the garden with him.

His parents were "very active" in the church where he was raised from the time he was 5 or 6. His father was a leader/church elder and his mom taught Sunday School "for years". Tim described his parents as "very Godly folks". They were involved in church activities Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesdays after school. He credits growing up in this church as the reason he was drawn to the ministry.

Tim met his wife, Kathy, at the Clinical Pastoral Education Program held in Bloomington. They have a blended family of her two sons and his two daughters, who are all about the same age. His daughters are both nurses. One works at OSF in Peoria in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the other one is a Nurse Practitioner in an ICU in California.

Tim enjoys woodworking and his "masterpiece" was the hardwood floors he installed in the living room, dining room, and hallway of his home. He also enjoys home remodeling, and his most challenging project was replacing siding and windows on his house.

His favorite food is lobster, and his favorite dessert is "anything apple", such as apple pie. He has many favorite books, but a recent favorite is *Molokai*, a book about a leper colony in Hawaii. His favorite vacation spot is "any beach", but one outstanding one is Molokai in Hawaii.

Finally, his "secret sauce" is his sense of humor, and he thinks others would describe him as "empathetic". We are delighted to have him in our midst and as our pastor!

Written by Kim Mitchell, Elder



ASH WEDNESDAY

Reflective service of prayer, repentance, worship, communion, and imposition of ashes to mark the beginning of Lent.

7 PM | February 14, 2024



PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024

Communion Worship Service

10 a.m.

**Please note that there will not be a
Maundy Thursday or a Good Friday service this year.**

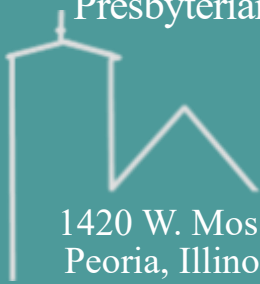
EASTER SUNDAY | RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

March 31, 2024

Celebration Worship Service with communion

10 a.m..

WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church



1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606

309.673.8501

wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

www.westminsterpeoria.org



JOIN US SUNDAYS

10 AM Traditional Worship

IN-person or ON-line

YOU are always welcomed here!



ELDERS

John Jackson, Properties, Class of 2024
James Burnham, Clerk of Session, Class of 2024
Larry Hicks, Personnel, Class of 2025
Kim Mitchell, Member Care, Class of 2025
Elizabeth Richmond, Missions/Outreach, Class of 2026
Peggy Bragg, Christian Education, Class of 2026
Open, Church Life
Open, Finance

DEACONS

Janet Baker, Class of 2024
Susan Leighty, Class of 2024
Alice Nash, Class of 2025
Edna Nugent, Class of 2025
Abbie Alexander, Class of 2026
Wendy Bowles, Class of 2026
Phyllis Rafferty, Class of 2026
Jean Schlesinger, Class of 2026
Sue Burnham, Moderator, Class of 2025

