



Annual Report
Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church
Prairie View, IL

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. ³He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. ⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. ⁶The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalm 147:2-6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church continues to carry out an active, hopeful and joyful ministry in the north suburbs of Chicago. The RPCNA has maintained a witness to the Chicago area for over a century, and we trust that God will continue to use us to proclaim Christ and uphold the Reformed faith in this region. We are about the business of proclaiming the Gospel to a needy and wanting world. We first equip the saints and send them into the world. Our intention is to prepare our members of Westminster that they are ready to proclaim the Love of Christ.

Westminster-Prairie View has successfully weathered the COVID crisis and while not strong, has made it through a tough time. As you know we currently have no pastor, we also currently have one active elder. Wade Mann has worked diligently with us as our moderator. In addition, we have “borrowed” Brett Mahlon from the OPC to assist in weekly worship and pastoral care. 2020 was a challenging year for Westminster, we currently have very few members, most of whom travel great distances to be part of worship. In spite of this, we are a good solid and committed group, just small.

1. Prior to the COVID changes, we were meeting weekly for morning bible study and worship. every week we also had a fellowship lunch following the worship service. Often, we did not leave the building until midafternoon. for preaching we had several OPC ordained men students leading the service on a rotating schedule. this was set up by Steve, and Bob Koch kept it running with the help of Brett Mahlon,
2. In March everything changed. suddenly just like the rest of you, we needed to make some large changes. what we wound up doing was utilizing the morning worship from 2nd RPC. we then meet again about 15 minutes later on Zoom for discussion of the message and other items for around an hour. At 5:00 we had a Zoom Bible Study, and added a prayer time at 7:30 on Tuesday evenings again on zoom.
3. this continued until July when we started meeting at the building again. Bob put together a list of pastors who could fill the pulpit, which was different from the previous list as many of the people we had been using had received calls and were no longer available. One of the men of

the list was Brett Mahlon, and ordained OPC pastor whose ministry focus is on the Illinois State prison at Joliet, where he was discipling and teaching seminary level classes. Brett is currently attending RPTS where he is working on his D.Min. Brett unfortunately has not been allowed to have access to the prison system due to COVID, so his ministry there was at a stop. An agreement was made with him and Grace OPC who is employing him in this ministry. with this agreement Brett is working with us as a part time pastor. He is taking care of the preaching and worship service. he is also starting to do some community outreach efforts.

In summary: we now have pastoral care and follow up, and a regular weekly message, we are meeting at the building and usually have most of the members attending. we also are offering the service on Zoom and occasionally have some attending this way. The challenge is that with just a few members, there is not a lot that can get done, with all of the other responsibilities. One of the results of COVID has been challenges with education and family relations, which require more energy.

4. We have continued with in person morning worship. Pastor Mahlon has been preaching through the Nicene Creed. During this time, we have continued with the late afternoon Bible study and the Tuesday evening prayer time on Zoom. because many members travel a good distance to get to Westminster, there is usually an informal after service lunch.
5. We have communion on the first Sunday of the month. this practice was discontinued during the COVID shutdown but has started again when we began meeting in person. When we have communion, we have an official church lunch gathering. we try to practice social distancing as best we can.
6. Brett has also taken on the provision of pastoral care and calls the members from time to time and has meet with some of them personally. this has proven to be very helpful.
7. In 2021 we are starting to pass out a flyer to the neighborhoods around the church. our intention is for this to be a continuing effort.
8. In 2020, we have lost no members, and welcomed one new member. Since we have opened again in July, we have seen no visitors. Our current active membership stands at 16 with 5 Baptized members some of who are also attend regularly. The average weekly attendance is around 17.
9. Our financed have continued to be reasonable, especially while we were having the pulpit filled by weekly supply. there have been a few extra gifts from former members and members which has also helped.
10. The buildings we own are in reasonable shape for buildings that are over 100 years old. they have their quirks but work. right now the major project is to complete the acquisition of second avenue- a deserted street along side the church building. this came to a halt during COVID and is just getting started again.
11. The challenge as we look forward is that we stand to lose at least 4 additional members and one baptized member this year. without some new people coming into the congregation we are going to have challenges. Therefore outreach needs to be an important part of our activities in 2021.
12. As COVID seems to be declining, we will continue to evaluate what activities we want to be doing as a congregation. I believe that the changes we have made with having a zoom bible

study and prayer time will continue. we may start meeting at the church for these activites with Zoom or live feed being used in addition.

Conclusion

There are major challenges in our future, but this report began with a reference to Westminster as an active, hopeful and joyful ministry, and that certainly bears repeating. Our witness to Christ is clear, our fellowship is deep, and our expectation for the blessing of God is high. We face uncertainties but know that Christ is King and Head of His church and that He bears all power and authority. We pray that He will stir us by His Spirit, prosper us in His grace, and use us in a mighty way for His kingdom and glory. Please support and pray for us to this end. Thank you!

Recommendations

1. That Presbytery appoint Wade Mann to continue as interim moderator for Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church.

To the Congregation of Westminster RPCNA,

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Savior who takes away our sins by His blood and righteousness!

It has been my delight to preach the gospel at Westminster monthly since pastor Rhoda took the call to Terre Haute and since September of 2020, to be your interim pastor; I am amazed that five months have already gone by so quickly. I am grateful for our agreement because I am not able to enter the prison and this is a difficult time for Westminster to call a pastor. The Coronavirus regulations have changed our lives. In the meantime I rejoice how the Lord has brought us together at this time.

In September, when I began with you, I sought to visit each family unit that was willing to meet with me before it got cold. It was great to get to know everyone better. I hope to visit everyone again when the weather gets nicer. In the meantime, I am seeking to have brief conversations by phone or text message. It is important to keep in touch.

It is my joy to preach through the Nicene Creed on Lord's Day mornings. I believe the Creed is very rich and our Westminster Standards are really a further explanation of the Nicene Creed. After this I may preach through the 10 Commandments and then the Lord's Prayer if the Lord gives me enough time with you. The Creed, the 10 Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer are very important for our faith because they help us understand what the Bible says we should believe, how we should live, and how we should pray.

I enjoy praying through the directory weekly and it is easier to pray for you the more I know about each of you and the more I know about important things going on in life. Thank you for that privilege. It is good to see some faces on Tuesday nights at the prayer and fellowship meeting.

We have begun to do a bit of evangelism by dropping off flyers at the houses of Westminster's neighbors. We hope to invite many more households to Westminster. We must pray that the Lord would send more people from Prairie View to Westminster. Evangelism is important but it tends to have very few people come to church as a result; still, we must be faithful in inviting as many people as we can and praying that God would draw souls to Westminster. Also, in my experience, if we are faithful in evangelism, sometimes God seems to send other people whom we have not evangelized and this seems ironic to us but His ways are higher than our ways. I plan to lead that by leaving flyers and eventually knocking on doors when it seems the neighbors will feel comfortable enough to engage with us.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord will do among us in time to come.

Your servant for Christ's sake,

Pastor Brett Mahlen

WRPC Budget Report
1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019

Category	2019 Budget	2020 Budget Revised	2020 Actuals	2021 Budget
		-		
100-INCOME	\$ 87,000.00	70,000.00	65,801.17	70,000.00
101 - Tithes and Offerings	\$ 87,000.00	70,000.00	53,001.17	70,000.00
102 Other Income		-	12,800.00	
		-		
200-PASTORAL SUPPORT	\$ 48,400.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	40,800.00
201 - Pastor's Salary	\$ 41,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
203 - Medical Insurance		-		
204 - Pension	\$ 4,500.00			
205 - Other Expenses	\$ 500.00	-		
206 Health Reimbursement Account	\$ 2,400.00	-		
207 - Interim Pastor's Salary				32,400.00
208 - Interim Pastor Expenses				8,400.00
		-		
300-CHURCH MINISTRY	\$ 7,650.00	17,850.00	4,646.57	6,600.00
301 - Christian Education-- (CE Matl's & Resale)	\$ 600.00	600.00	180.00	600.00
302 - Fellowship Activities	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	1,000.00		
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses:Mileage (Interim)		2,000.00		
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses:Other		-		
304 - Guest Ministry	\$ 500.00	11,000.00	4,466.57	2,000.00
304 - Guest Ministry:Honorarium		11,000.00		250.00
304 - Guest Ministry:Travel Expenses				750.00
305 - Mercy Ministry	\$ 250.00	250.00		
306 - Advertising	\$ 500.00	500.00		
308 - Conference	\$ -	-		1,000.00
309 - Youth Ministry	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00		500.00
310 - Missions	\$ 500.00	500.00		500.00
311 - Milwaukee RCM	\$ 300.00	-		
		-		
400-CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	\$ 900.00	300.00		300.00
401 - Church Office Expenses	\$ 500.00	300.00		300.00
403 - Other	\$ -	-		
406 - Worker's Comp Insurance	\$ 400.00			
		-		
500-DENOMINATION	\$ 3,010.00	3,600.00	3,141.15	3,600.00
501 - Presbytery Assessments	\$ 810.00	1,400.00	965.22	1,400.00
502 - Synod Assessments	\$ 1,200.00	1,200.00	2,175.93	1,200.00
503 - Presby & Synod Delegate	\$ 500.00	500.00		500.00
504 - RPM&M	\$ 500.00	500.00		500.00
		-		
600-CHURCH BUILDING	\$ 21,900.00	22,350.00	17,830.14	20,400.00
601 - Mortgage	\$ 6,000.00	6,000.00	6,500.00	6,000.00
602 - Insurance	\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00	3,748.60	3,800.00
603 - Cleaning	\$ 1,000.00	500.00	-	250.00
604 - Maintenance (Ch)	\$ 2,500.00	5,000.00	870.00	2,500.00
605 - Security - Fire Alarm	\$ 1,000.00	1,200.00	984.00	1,200.00
606 - Internet & Phone (Comcast)	\$ 1,900.00	2,000.00	2,161.13	2,200.00
607 - Utilities (Ch)	\$ 5,000.00	4,150.00	3,566.41	3,950.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Electric - ComEd (Ch)		1,400.00	1,124.19	1,300.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Gas - North Shore (Ch)		1,200.00	992.05	1,100.00

WRPC Budget Report
1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019

Category	2019 Budget	2020 Budget Revised	2020 Actuals	2021 Budget
607 - Utilities (Ch):Septic		-		
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Trash		350.00	312.00	350.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Bottled		-		
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well		-		
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well:Maintenance Contract		-		
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well:Salt_Chlorine_Repairs		1,200.00	1,138.17	1,200.00
608 - Improvements (Ch)	\$ 1,000.00	-		
609 - Other		-		
610 - Church Equipment	\$ 500.00	500.00		500.00
		-		
700-PARSONAGE	5,600.00	6,800.00	5,070.92	6,500.00
704 - Maintenance (Par)	\$ 700.00	200.00		200.00
707 - Utilities (Par)	\$ 3,700.00	3,300.00	2,535.46	3,300.00
707 - Utilities (Par):Electric - ComEd (Par)		2,300.00	1,654.60	2,000.00
707 - Utilities (Par):Gas - North Shore (Par)		1,000.00	880.86	1,000.00
708 - Improvements (Par)	\$ 1,200.00	-		
		-		
910 - MERCY FUND		-	170.00	
910 - Mercy Fund: Income		-		
910 - Mercy Fund: Expenses		-		
		-		
950- Special Projects		-	3,102.31	
		-		
Net Difference:	\$ (460.00)	9,100.00		
		-		
		-		
Total	\$ 87,460.00	60,900.00		78,200.00