



Congregational Report 2022

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church

Westminster Session's Report to Presbytery

Dear Brothers and Fathers,

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.

Worship

We have been able to meet each Lord's Day for corporate worship, proclaiming the Word of God and sitting together (monthly) at the Table of our Lord. Rev. Brett Mahlen has served this year as our interim pastor. His credentials are with the OPC. Because he able to be here weekly, we have been able to develop a consistent program of worship and study.

Ordained Leadership

We met in constituted court 12 times during 2021. these meetings usually were conducted on Zoom. We also had two congregational meetings during 2021. One was the traditional spring meeting, and the other was a special meeting in November to discuss pastoral call direction. We are blessed to have a Session of three elders, including Rev. Wade Mann who serves as our provisional moderator by appointment of Presbytery, Bob Koch, and Brett Mahlen who serves as our interim pastor. Elder Jim Ritchhart has resigned and is now attending another church in Wisconsin. Bob is also the clerk for Session. Bob continues to have some health issues including a bout of COVID and some GI issues that have fortunately not been recurring.

Fellowship

Recognizing the church as the "communion of the saints," we gave a significant emphasis to fellowship. Beyond our Lord's Day worship, we sat down each Lord's Day after worship for meals. On the first Sunday of each month we had our monthly carry-in dinners, which are a bit more organized. The other weeks we call them a brown bag lunch, for people to bring food for themselves. However, people continue bringing casseroles, large salads and desserts to share. Many people drive long distances to attend Westminster and would like to eat a meal before they head home. This helps to accommodate them with an enjoyable time of fellowship. Thus, on average we are together each Lord's Day from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Currently the Facebook page is being updated regularly by the Zellers. This is helping to keep it fresh and relevant.

Education

Our educational ministries continue to thrive. We currently have one class that meets each Lord's Day morning: an adult class, which is currently working on apologetics, looking at lectures from R.C. Sproul and lately lectures from Greg Bahnsen.

With COVID comes new ways to do things. One of the things we started because of COVID was a Zoom prayer meeting. Because of the distance people have to travel, a weekly meeting has never been something we could do. However, we now have a Wednesday gathering on Zoom that is usually attended by two to six people.

We also have had Zoom Bible Study, going through New Testament Epistles and now through Joshua. The study has changed from a Zoom meeting to following lunch on Sundays twice a month.

Outreach

Outreach was hard enough before COVID, now in the time of COVID it seems that life has shut down. Festivals in communities have been cancelled. The number of people commuting to the city has declined greatly as the train station parking is open. We see very few visitors and most of those are from out of town. In the area of outreach, we continue to seek points of contact with our community. We have worked at social media and have distributed our brochures door to door. We need to continue to pray for wisdom on what we can do, with our limited numbers that would be effective and productive.

Property and Facilities

We are extremely thankful to God for the property we enjoy in Prairie View, Illinois. It provides us with a significant presence within the community. Both structures are sound and attractive, though not without maintenance challenges. For many years we have been blessed by the Presbytery Youth Ministry's "Fall Ministry Project". The young people who have come up to help us have completed various maintenance projects in exchange for housing and as much Chicago pizza as they can eat. In general, the facilities are in reasonable condition for a 100+ year old facility. A newish septic system and new furnaces and air conditioners for all the facilities have us in reasonable shape. In December our well gave out. It appears that the casing collapsed. After a serious attempt to recover the well, it was decided to abandon the current well and drill a new one. This project has continued now for 2 months and most likely another month as the weather has never been warm enough to finish the project. We recently have been utilizing a Messianic Jewish facility in Buffalo Grove as a place of gathering until our water is restored. This has been a great blessing as they have water. They allow us to use the facility as if it were our own, we continue having lunch and second hour there. This been a great blessing.

Membership

We end 2021 with 15 communicant members and 4 baptized members, for a total of 19. This is a decline of 5 from the previous year. The average attendance at worship is 18.



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We are a small congregation with a membership that is strongly committed to the church and its ministry. Most of the congregation drives 35 minutes to an hour to reach church each Lord's Day. We realize that the distance and occasional poor weather lessen our numerical fellowship, and the distance alone prevents a more active fellowship and ministry throughout the week.

Finances

2021 ended well. Our income exceeded projections and our expenses were less than planned. We ended with an increase in our savings. However, the new well will eat up that plus more.

Challenges

Like all local congregations, we are not without our challenges, by which God keeps us humble, prayerful, and conscious of our utter dependence upon Him.

Conclusion

These are our major challenges, 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.
2. That Jack Baumgardner be appointed as the interim moderator while Wade is on sabbatical during May through August.

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church 2022 Budget Planner

Category	2020 Budget	2021 Actual Expenditures	2021budget	Difference	2022 Budget
100-INCOME	\$70,000.00	\$76,751.16	\$70,000.00	-\$6,751.16	\$78,000.00
101 - Tithes and Offerings	\$70,000.00	\$76,751.16	\$70,000.00	-\$6,751.16	
102 Other Income					
200 - PASTORAL SUPPORT	\$24,450.00	\$35,803.72	\$40,800.00	\$4,996.28	\$40,000.00
201 - Pastor's Salary	\$21,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
204 - Pension		\$ -	\$ -		
205 - Other Expenses	\$2,250.00	\$ -	\$ -		
206 - Health Reimbursement Account		\$ -	\$ -		
207 - Interim Pastor's Salary	\$1,200.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,400.00	\$400.00	\$35,000.00
208 - Interim Pastor's Expenses		\$3,803.72	\$8,400.00	\$4,596.28	\$5,000.00
300-CHURCH MINISTRY	\$17,980.00	\$2,591.00	\$5,600.00	\$3,009.00	\$7,200.00
301 - Christian Education-- (CE Matl's & Resale)	\$600.00	\$180.00	\$600.00	\$420.00	\$200.00
302 - Fellowship Activities	\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$1,000.00		\$500.00
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses:Mileage	\$500.00	\$ -	\$ -		
303 - Pastor's Ministry Expenses:Other		\$ -	\$ -		
304 - Guest Ministry	\$2,880.00	\$1,911.00	\$2,000.00	\$89.00	\$2,500.00
304 - Guest Ministry:Honorarium	\$11,000.00	\$800.00	\$ -		\$1,000.00
304 - Guest Ministry:Travel Expenses		\$1,111.00	\$ -		\$1,500.00
305 - Mercy Ministry		\$ -	\$ -		
306 - Advertising		\$ -	\$ -		
308 - Conference		\$ -	\$ -		\$1,000.00
309 - Youth Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00

310 - Missions		\$	-	\$500.00		
		\$	-			
400-CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	\$900.00		\$91.55	\$300.00	\$208.45	\$400.00
401 - Church Office Expenses	\$300.00			\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
402- Bank Charge			\$12.00		-\$12.00	
403 - Other			\$79.55	\$0.00	-\$79.55	\$100.00
406 - Worker's Comp Insurance	\$600.00	\$	-	\$0.00		
				\$		
500-DENOMINATION	\$3,100.00		\$1,659.79	\$3,600.00	\$1,940.21	\$2,640.00
501 - Presbytery Assessments	\$1,400.00		\$519.79	\$1,400.00	\$880.21	\$1,000.00
502 - Synod Assessments	\$1,200.00		\$1,140.00	\$1,200.00	\$60.00	\$1,140.00
503 - Presby & Synod Delegate	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
504 - RPM&M	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
600-CHURCH BUILDING	\$22,350.00		\$18,852.76	\$20,400.00	\$1,547.24	\$20,850.00
601 - Mortgage	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
602 - Insurance	\$3,000.00		\$3,737.50	\$3,800.00	\$62.50	\$3,800.00
603 - Cleaning	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
604 - Maintenance (Ch)	\$5,000.00		\$842.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,658.00	\$1,500.00
605 - Security - Fire Alarm	\$1,200.00		\$1,391.00	\$1,200.00	-\$191.00	\$1,200.00
606 - Internet & Phone (Comcast)	\$2,000.00		\$2,200.07	\$2,200.00	-\$0.07	\$2,250.00
607 - Utilities (Ch)	\$4,150.00		\$4,070.47	\$3,950.00	-\$120.47	\$5,350.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Electric - ComEd (Ch)	\$1,400.00		\$1,513.80	\$1,300.00	-\$213.80	\$1,500.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Gas - North Shore (Ch)	\$1,200.00		\$1,076.62	\$1,100.00	\$23.38	\$1,500.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Septic			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Trash	\$350.00		\$400.05	\$350.00	-\$50.05	\$400.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well			\$1,080.00	\$1,200.00	\$120.00	\$1,200.00
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well:Maintenance Contract			\$1,080.00	\$0.00	-\$1,080.00	
607 - Utilities (Ch):Water - Well:Salt_Chlorine_R	\$1,200.00		\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
608 - Improvements (Ch)			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
609 - Other		v		\$0.00	\$0.00	
610 - Church Equipment	\$500.00		\$220.00	\$500.00	\$280.00	\$500.00
		\$	-			

700-PARSONAGE	\$6,800.00		\$4,860.58	\$3,800.00	-\$1,060.58	\$6,900.00
704 - Maintenance (Par)	\$200.00		\$1,820.00	\$200.00	-\$1,620.00	\$1,200.00
707 - Utilities (Par)	\$3,300.00		\$2,965.58	\$3,000.00	\$34.42	\$3,200.00
707 - Utilities (Par):Electric - ComEd (Par)	\$2,300.00		\$1,819.70	\$2,000.00	\$180.30	\$2,000.00
707 - Utilities (Par):Gas - North Shore (Par)	\$1,000.00		\$1,145.88	\$1,000.00	-\$145.88	\$1,200.00
708 - Improvements (Par)				\$600.00	\$600.00	\$2,500.00
			\$	-		
910 - MERCY FUND			\$0.00	\$0.00		
910 - Mercy Fund: Income	\$	-		\$0.00		
910 - Mercy Fund: Expenses		\$0.00	\$			
950- Special Projects	\$	-	\$			
	\$	-	\$		\$	-
Net Difference:	-\$5,580.00	\$	-	\$	\$	-
	\$	-	\$		\$	-
Total	\$75,580.00		\$63,859.40	\$74,500.00	\$10,640.60	\$77,990.00

GLG-IMT note: the other budget sheets can be accessed via the Excel file on the website:

https://glgpresbytery.org/uploads/2022-spring/Westminster_2022_Budget.xlsx