



WESTMINSTER REFORMED

★ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ★

Congregational Report 2024

- 1) Membership - Communicant: 21; Baptized: 5; Total: 26.
- 2) Average Worship Attendance - 24.
- 3) Professions - New Converts: 0; Covenant Children: 0; Total: 0.
- 4) Baptisms - Adult: 0; Children: 0; Total: 0.
- 5) Other Actions - Transfers (in): 9; Transfers (out): 0; Dismissals: 4.

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church continues to carry out an active, hopeful and joyful ministry in the northwest 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 the members of Westminster that they be ready to proclaim the love of Christ.

Membership

In 2023, we received several new members from an independent Reformed congregation that had been conducting Spanish services in the same manner as our worship. Their pastor Frank Fernandez suffered a stroke, and it was decided to close that congregation. About half of the group began attending WRPC in January 2023, and 8 of them have joined in communicant membership. This group of 10 adults has been a great blessing to the congregation and motivated us in making some changes in our church. We now translate the services into Spanish and have added the singing of a psalm from the Spanish psalter to our worship services. They are an enthusiastic group and have made a significant addition to the church. We are also thankful for the addition of Alice Odom via transfer from the Sparta RPC congregation. She has been a great blessing to us in many ways.

Worship

We have been able to meet each Lord's Day for corporate worship, proclaiming the Word of God and sitting together (quarterly) at the Table of our Lord. This year is the first full year in which Pastor Joshua Smith has been with us. In May 2023 we began to hold two services each Lord's Day, morning and afternoon. In 2023 we completed an expository series through Philippians which began in 2022, a topical series on Worship, an expository series through Jonah, and began an expository series through 1 Timothy and a topical series entitled "Counter-Cultural Christianity."

Ordained Leadership

We met in constituted court 19 times during 2023. These meetings usually were conducted on Zoom. We also had one congregational meeting during 2023. This was the traditional spring meeting. It is our prayer that those who are elected to the offices of elder and deacon on February 18, 2024 will stand

for ordination very soon. We are thankful Jehovah continues to cause us to increase and continues to bless us by raising up men for leadership in His Church.

Fellowship

Recognizing the Church as the “communion of the saints,” we give significant emphasis to fellowship. We have fellowship meals each Lord’s Day between our morning and afternoon services. Pastor Joshua also opens his home each Lord’s Day evening after the afternoon service for any who wish to spend more time in fellowship. Most weeks saints are spending time with one another from 9:30am until 10pm. There have also been many opportunities to get together as brethren and play games and enjoy a meal together outside of the Lord’s Day. It is our prayer the Lord will continue to knit us closer with one another.

Education

For Sabbath School we completed the Understanding Biblical Doctrine workbook, as well as conducted a new members class. This teaching hour is normally attended by 10-12 people.

We also continue with our Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings. This prayer meeting is normally attended by 8-10 people. We also have added a Wednesday night prayer service to our communion seasons for the year 2024.

Outreach

Outreach and evangelism has been a primary focus of Westminster. We do an organized outreach/ evangelism event each month, with some months having two. This is usually done by going to a local park or town center and passing out Gospel tracts and invitations to worship while Pastor Joshua does open-air preaching. We have also conducted door-to-door outreach in several of the local neighborhoods.

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. We are in need of having the front steps repaired/replaced in the near future. Please pray that the Lord would provide the means to do this project.

Finances

2023 ended reasonably well. Our income fell short of our expenses by around \$12,000. The reason for this was we received the bill for the well work done in 2022 during the summer of 2023. This \$18,000 bill was a big hit for us, but if it had not been for that we would have ended with a \$6,000 surplus.

Challenges

Our small numbers and not meeting budget are concerns. Outreach is a challenge, but we remain faithful that the Lord will work through us to advance His kingdom here in this place.

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!

2023 End of Year Financials

Category	Budget	Actual	2024 Budget
Income			\$82,000
Tithes & Offerings	\$82,000	\$73,132.05	\$82,000
		(\$8,867.95)	
Pastoral Support			\$46,600
Pastor's Salary	\$32,400	\$32,400	\$32,400
Pension	\$4,500	-	\$4,500
Pastor's Expenses	\$6,200	\$171.73	\$6,200
Pastoral Development	\$500	\$755	\$500
Pastor's Book Allowance	\$1,000	\$245.45	\$1,000
		(\$11,028.32)	
Church Ministry			\$4,700
Christian Education	\$200	\$64.24	\$600
Fellowship Activities	\$500	-	\$1,000
Pastor's Ministry Expenses	-	\$134.34	-
Guest Ministry	\$2,500	\$3,800.88	\$500
Conference	\$1,000	-	\$1,000
Youth Ministry	\$500	-	\$500
		(\$498.25)	
Administration			\$900
Church Office Expenses	\$300	\$59.65	\$500
Other	\$100	\$71.45	-
Worker's Comp Insurance	-	\$442.43	\$400
		(\$173.53)	
Denomination			\$2,640

Category	Budget	Actual	2024 Budget
Presbytery Assessments	\$1,000	\$564.37	\$1,000
Synod Assessments	\$1,140	\$1,132	\$1,200
Presby & Synod Delegates	-	-	\$500
RPM&M	\$500	-	\$500
		(\$943.63)	
Church Building			\$21,550
Mortgage	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Insurance	\$4,000	\$4,723.25	\$4,000
Cleaning	\$250	-	\$250
Maintenance	\$2,000	\$2,261.61	\$2,000
Security	\$1,200	\$50	\$1,200
Internet	\$2,250	\$854.49	\$1,000
Utilities	\$5,350	\$5,662	\$5,350
Church Equipment	\$500	-	\$500
		(885.51)	
Parsonage			\$5,600
Maintenance	\$1,200	\$17,807.60	\$1,200
Utilities	\$3,200	\$3,537.07	\$3,200
Improvements	\$1,200	-	\$1,200
		(\$15,734.67)	
Net Difference		(\$11,420.44)	