



# WESTMINSTER REFORMED

★ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ★

## Congregational Report 2025

**Membership - Communicant: 19; Baptized: 5; Total: 24 (-4)**

**Average Worship Attendance - 25**

**Professions - New Converts: 0; Covenant Children: 0; Total: 0.**

**Baptisms - Adult: 0; Children: 0; Total: 0**

**Other Actions - Transfers (in): 0; Transfers (out): 4; Dismissals: 0**

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

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. We enjoy a full day of worship and fellowship with Sabbath School at 9:30, Morning Worship at 10:45, and Afternoon Worship at 2:30. We also continue to have a Wednesday evening prayer meeting that meets on Zoom. We enjoy an in-person prayer service during the quarterly communion season.

### Ordained Leadership

We thank the Lord that Rev. Joshua Smith continues to serve as our pastor. We also ordained and installed one new elder, Matt Stiegert, and one new deacon, Roman Macie, during 2024.

We met in constituted court 21 times during 2024. These meetings usually were conducted in person at the church. We also had two congregational meetings in February of 2023. The first was the regular business meeting, the second was for the election of new elders and deacons.

### 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 morning worship for meals together. Each Sunday we have carry-in dinners. People continue bringing casseroles, 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 4:00 pm. With groups often staying longer and having dinner at the manse.

## Education

Our educational ministries continue to thrive. We currently have one adult class that meets each Lord's Day morning. In January, Joshua taught a class on early church history. In May we started using the book "The Sum of Saving Knowledge," the study guide for this has been put together by Dr. Whitla, and we have been working on translating it into Spanish for the use by the Spanish speaking contingent in the church.

## Outreach

In 2024, we continued to do organized outreach activities. These have been held in a local park and downtown Libertyville. We also have been going door to door in the communities around the church, we continue to figure out the best way to utilize those events for outreach.

## 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. The major issue we had this year was the replacement of the front stairs and we had to have some major work done on the septic system. We made an appeal to the congregations in the presbytery for help with those unexpected bills and were very pleased with thankful for the response of some of the congregations to our appeal. Between those contributions and an anonymous gift, the projects were paid for which kept us from incurring any additional debt.

Please pray with us for additional families and individuals to join with us, we are healthy but small right now. We are praying for five new families to join with us.

## Finances

2024 ended reasonably well. Our general income fell short of our expenses for the year. However, with additional help from the churches in the presbytery and the receipt of a special gift we exceeded our budget. But our expenses for the year were also higher due to the additional maintenance costs. by around \$8,000. This is of course a challenge, but we do have a reserve which we were able to use to cover our expenses. We end the year with a surplus around what we ended last year with.

## Challenges

Our small numbers and not meeting budget are concerns. Outreach is a challenge, and we will be trying some more outreach activities when the weather breaks and people are outside again.

Like all local congregations, we are not without our trials, 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!

### 2025 End of Year Financials

Category	Budget	Actual	2025 Budget
<b>Income</b>			<b>\$78,050</b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$82,000	\$89,349	\$78,050
		(\$7,349)	
<b>Pastoral Support</b>			<b>\$43,100</b>
Pastor's Salary	\$34,400	\$34,400	\$34,400
Pension	\$6,750	\$9,812	\$6,700
Pastor's Expenses	\$1,000	\$87.10	\$500
Pastor's Administrative Expenses	\$1,200	-	-
Pastoral Development	\$500	-	\$500
Pastor's Book Allowance	\$1,000	\$476.36	\$1,000
		(\$74.04)	
<b>Church Ministry</b>			<b>\$4,400</b>
Christian Education	\$200	\$263.14	\$200
Fellowship Activities	\$500	-	\$200
Pastor's Ministry Expenses	-	\$223.30	\$300
Guest Ministry	\$3,000	\$3,639.53	\$3,000
Advertising	\$500	-	-
Conference	\$1,000	\$221.26	\$500
Other	-	\$455.04	\$200
		(\$509.38)	
<b>Administration</b>			<b>\$2,100</b>
Church Office Expenses	\$300	\$42.50	\$200
Other	\$100	-	\$100

Worker's Comp Insurance	-	\$1800.18	\$1,800
		(\$1,442.68)	
<b>Denomination</b>			<b>\$2,650</b>
Presbytery Assessments	\$331.15	\$350	\$350
Synod Assessments	\$1,250	\$1,598	\$1,600
Presby & Synod Delegates	-	694.98	\$700
		(\$1,061.83)	
<b>Church Building</b>			<b>\$22,400</b>
Mortgage	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Insurance	\$5,000	\$3,944.25	\$4,000
Cleaning	\$250	-	\$100
Maintenance	\$2,500	\$14,075	\$4,000
Security	\$1,200	\$984	\$1,000
Internet	\$1,000	\$960	\$1,000
Utilities	\$5,800	\$5,176.19	\$5,500
Improvements	\$1,000	\$362.29	-
Other	\$300	-	\$300
Church Equipment	\$500	-	\$500
		(\$7,951.73)	
<b>Parsonage</b>			<b>\$5,000</b>
Maintenance	\$1,200	\$2,940	\$1,000
Utilities	\$3,500	\$3,500.24	\$4,000
Improvements	\$1,200	-	-
		(\$540.24)	
<b>Mercy Income</b>		\$1,800	
<b>Net Difference</b>		<b>(\$745.21)</b>	

**Assets/Debts**

<b>Start of Year Cash Balance</b>	Chase Bank Checking 2415	\$36,842.78
<b>End of Year Cash Balance</b>	Chase Bank Checking 2415	\$37,482.13
<b>Debt Owed</b>	Synod Loan	\$8,744.08

**REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SUGGESTED INTERNAL REVIEW GUIDELINES  
FOR CONGREGATIONS AND MISSION CHURCHES  
AS REQUIRED BY SYNOD**

**Purpose:** The purpose of an internal review is to ascertain the reliability and accuracy of financial statements prepared and records maintained by the congregational treasurer. It is also intended to provide constructive suggestions toward improvement of procedures, record keeping and reporting.

**Who should perform the review:** The congregation should appoint a review committee, preferably comprised of 2 to 3 independent people. These people should preferably be unrelated to the treasurer.

**Frequency:** A review should be performed annually and a copy of the committee report should be sent to the presbytery clerk.

**Procedures:**

- ✓ 1. All financial records for the year should be gathered. This should include bank statements, cancelled checks, deposit slips, paid bills and treasurer's books.
- ✓ 2. Two months picked at random in the cash receipts and cash disbursements journals should be footed and cross-footed (added down and across). A few of these totals should then be traced into the general ledger (if one is maintained).
- ✓ 3. Trace the ending bank balance of two different months to the appropriate bank reconciliation. The bank reconciliation should be footed and agree to the books.
- ✓ 4. Select two checks from each month and trace to the source document (i.e. invoice, employment agreement, congregational minutes, deacon board minutes, etc.). Check the amount of the check to the source document and review for proper endorsement.
- ✓ 5. Trace the amounts on the year-end financial statements to the general ledger or other workpapers summarizing the monthly activity.
- ✓ 6. Determine that the cash balance at the beginning of the year plus receipts minus disbursements equals the ending reconciled cash balance.

- ✓ 7. Verify the existence of assets other than cash in checking (i.e. stock certificates, savings accounts, brokerage accounts, etc.). Review the earnings from investments to the amount of the assets for reasonableness.
- ✓ 8. Trace balances of notes payables and other liabilities to supporting documents.
- ✓ 9. Compare the income and expenses of the current year to those of the prior year for any significant fluctuations.
- ✓ 10. Review procedures for counting and handling of funds. This should be done by someone other than the treasurer.

We have examined the financial records of the WRPC Congregation and have found the following:

       1. No problems or questions were noted.

✓ 2. The following error(s) or problem(s) were found and were resolved as follows:

<u>Finding</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
CHECK PAYMENT NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT BECAUSE BANK RECORDING ERROR	CORRECTED IN CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET REPORT

Congregation WESTMINSTER RPC Date 2/8/25

Review Committee Members:

JOSHUA SMITH    ROMAN MACIE    BRIAN GAMEZ

Please send two copies of this report to your Clerk of Session to be submitted to your presbytery clerk along with your congregational reports.