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**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Annual Report**  
**January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016**

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SEEKING **NEW PATHS**

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### **In Memoriam**

Louise Shubert  
Sara Roeding  
Ferdinand Michaels  
Kelsey Ames  
Ann Standish  
Kenneth Bienfang  
Joan Schreiner  
Mary Brown  
Dorrene Entz  
Bob Briden  
Pat Shafer  
Helen Smith

### **Ministers**

The Congregation

### **Staff**

Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dan Voigt, Associate Pastor  
Neil Forsythe, Director of Music Ministries  
Scott Cose, Director of Youth Ministries  
Alisa Engelhardt, Director of Children's Ministries/Custodian  
Jodi Dieken, Office Manager  
Sally Boger, Church Secretary  
Becky Dietz, Financial Secretary  
Jordan Estep, Senior Custodian  
Judy Morris, Parish Nurse - Retired  
John Butler, Interim Parish Associate - Retired  
Andrea Magee, Director of Child Care  
Mabel Rempe, Director of Meisteringers  
Charissa Lambert, Director of Messengers & Mice Choirs  
Brenda Buseman, Choir Accompanist

# With Christ as our cornerstone we Believe, Become, Belong, Build

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## Senior Pastor

“We must hold tightly to the hope that we say is ours. After all, we can trust the one who made the agreement with us.” Hebrews 10:23 CEV

2016 has brought great joy and some challenges as we’ve journeyed together at Westminster. Below is a review of the happenings we’ve experienced. Even in the challenging days I am encouraged by the verse above as HOPE continues to be our gift as people of faith. May we be filled with gratitude and hope as we review 2016 and look forward to the blessings of 2017.

- Preached several sermon series including *Restart, Waiting for the Holy, From Ashes to Glory, God for Us, Seek Wise Council, The Early Church, Praying Where Jesus Prayed, Truth for Life, Promises-Promises* and *Christmas is Hope*.
- Continued the faithful work of our Vision/Implementation team which led to our celebration Sunday on September 11<sup>th</sup> in which we reported in worship on the progress of our Vision work and thanked the committee which worked in a devoted manner for over 3 years to study, plan and implement the many visions of our congregation.
- Our Lenten journey flowed from our vision with the theme 1+1+1 which focused on our goal of one hour in worship, one hour in study and one hour in service. On Wednesdays we had Lenten Noon services which included musical concerts followed by lunch together. The evenings brought vesper services with the theme *Sensing the Gospel*.
- A very blessed day was my installation as Head of Staff/Senior Pastor on March 6<sup>th</sup>. A joy to celebrate with all of you, my family and many colleagues including Dr. Bill Wilson, a great encourager to my professional journey.
- In April, the Elders approved the formation of a capital campaign team which was born out of our vision complete the dream task force. The capital campaign team began meeting in May and kicked off the campaign “Seeking New Paths” on Sept. 11. A video was created which included many of our members and also the projects included in the campaign. As we go to print with this annual report, we’ve raised \$923,375 towards our goal of \$1.4 million.
- In May I graduated with my doctorate from Central Theological Seminary in Kansas City. It was truly a whole church effort as the staff and congregation faithfully prayed me through the 3 years of study and final year of thesis completion. I also appreciate the endowment committee which generously funded my degree. Truly a gift I will never forget.
- June brought the opportunity for 25 of our North Central Iowa Pastors to travel to the Holy Land together as part of our Macedonia ministry experience. It was an amazing journey for me and it meant so much to reflect and pray together with my colleagues in ministry as we walked where Jesus walked. Special Thanks to Jim Guyer, Cathy Young and John Butler who covered the pastoral needs of Westminster while I was gone.
- I had the joy of working closely with the APNC meeting almost weekly through 2016 which led to the call of Pastor Dan Voigt. I’m so very grateful for the devoted work of the APNC committee which included Eric Johnson, Mickey Waschkat, Jennifer Lamb, Joan Craig, Steven Eilers, Carrie Heinzerling and Mike Sinram. Much of our hard work was done in the summer months which can

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be a challenge with schedules/vacations. It was amazing to see the work of the Holy Spirit as we all felt so strongly about the call extended to Dan. It was a joy to witness the unanimous call of Dan as our associate pastor on August 20<sup>th</sup> and then to welcome Dan on October 1<sup>st</sup> and celebrate his installation on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

- July brought our 13<sup>th</sup> annual swim party and also a women's retreat to Dubuque to the Shalom Retreat Center. It was glorious!
- In August I traveled to Sioux Falls with two of our faithful teachers, Cindy Harmon and Troyce Vich to explore the possibility of bringing the JOURNEY curriculum to our Christian Education programming. The CE team had met with Pam Edwards and Kendra Richmond as we considered this program. Both were tremendously helpful as their lives have been changed from this study. In September, sixteen of us began the journey in three different groups and we've already witnessed the joy of such faithful study and prayer together.
- Some other highlights included our cottage meetings over the autumn months in which members could meet Pastor Dan as well as hear about the Seeking New Paths campaign. Our stewardship drive focused on the theme Joy Like a Fountain and we distributed our Generosity devotionals which were a great help to many. Lastly we welcomed in 34 new members as we continue to widen our circle of membership.

Special thanks to our faithful staff, it was sad to say goodbye to our music director Neil Forsythe as we are more like a family than just a staff. We wish Neil all of God's good gifts as he moves to Colorado. I also am grateful for our Elders who give their support and prayers to all of our projects and goals. In addition, my heartfelt appreciation to lay pastor Dr. John Butler, who faithfully assisted our congregation with pastoral care needs and adult education leadership for 2 years. Lastly, I thank Bruce, Hannah and Hope as they encourage my heart with their positive HOPE and LOVE.

May you all know great HOPE as you continue your journey of faith!

Pastor Tricia

### **Associate Pastor**

Wow! The last three months of 2016 have been such a flurry of activity that it often feels like the dust still needs to settle. Then again, I supposed it never really does.

To touch briefly on my first three months here, I have mostly enjoyed getting to meet all of you - even getting to know a few - and learning a lot about the ministries and history of Westminster. I hope, in the year to come, our acquaintance will deepen into friendship and our ministry will grow stronger and reach further.

On that note: much deserved praise goes to committees of which I am a part for helping me find my way here: Deacons, Mission, Membership and Outreach, Christian Education, Nominating, and Capital Campaign. Each is full of wonderful people, and are doing so much good ministry that it has been fun to sit and listen to what God is up to here at Westminster.

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I also have been humbled to lead the Wednesday night and Monday morning men's study groups. Each is full of men with deep faith and it's a joy to be there.

Of course, it would be foolish of me not to mention the great staff. What a fun place I get to work at every day?! Especially, thanks to Tricia for guiding me and us all along. Hopefully, I'm starting to lighten her load with worship leadership, pastoral care, meetings, and various ministry projects.

Looking ahead, I'm particularly excited to begin putting my mark on the adult Christian Education classes, Jacob's Well service, forming small groups for all, providing young adult and family ministry options, and earning that title of being your pastor.

Thanks to you all for the support and encouragement I've received in this time of transition. It is a great place to be. Thanks for the invite.

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)*

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dan

### **Director of Music Ministries**

2016 was a banner year for the music ministry of our church. We have made much music, hosted several guests and produced many programs. Here are some of the highlights:

- Vocal and instrumental song leadership for all regular Sunday and special services: Each Sunday our music program has provided leadership for congregational singing employing our organ and choir and/or a cantor for the 9am service, and our Praise Team for the 11:15 service. I have been thrilled with the quality of our Chancel Choir, our soloists, our Praise Team, and (of course) the magnificent pipe organ our church has been blessed with.
- Special music for all regular Sunday and special Services: Because of the amazing level of commitment and enthusiasm our congregation has for music in worship, the music program has been able to provide a wide variety of musical offerings throughout 2016. The ensembles involved are the Chancel Choir, Praise Team, LightShine, Messenger Choir (Charissa Lambert, director), Church Mice (Charissa Lambert, director), Meisteringers (Mabel Rempe, director), and the Westminster Chimes. These groups are in addition to the myriad of excellent soloists and instrumentalists we have been graced with throughout 2016.
- Lenten Wednesday concert series: Each Wednesday in the Lenten season of 2016 our church hosted a brief concert given by a variety of talented local musicians, followed by a delicious lunch. Everyone seemed to very much enjoy these concerts, and they were reasonably well attended.

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- On 5/15 our fabulous LightShine choir put on a spring musical entitled, “Soul on Fire”. The youth themselves chose the music. They did a great job, and the congregation was blessed by this experience.
- BBQ & Blessings: This past summer we once again offered a midweek worship opportunity accompanied by a great meal. The worship consisted of scripture, congregational singing, and a sermonette, and the meal was always delicious.
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving service: On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving our church hosted the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. This service also included our children’s choir.
- Cocoa & Carols: In early December we had our annual “Cocoa & Carols” celebration. This fun event was marked by the musical participation of almost all of our musical groups, wonderful Christmas treats, and the inimitable emcee styling of Kendal Crawford. This was a wonderful event and a great time was had by all.
- Bell Festival: On the 3rd Sunday of advent we held our annual bell festival, where the Meisteringers and the Westminster Chimes supplied all the music for our 9am service. All the bells played beautifully, and we are very fortunate to have such an excellent director in Mabel Rempe.
- Christmas Cantata: On December 18th our Chancel Choir presented a beautiful Christmas cantata with orchestra entitled “Night of The Father’s Love”. This was very moving, a lot of fun, and was well received.
- Messenger Christmas musical: At the 5pm Christmas Eve service our Messenger choir, under the direction of Charissa Lambert, presented a musical entitled, “Beneath a Shining Star”. This piece was a children’s musical based on the story of Christmas. The choir members had a great time putting it together and it was well received by the congregation.

2016 was a great year for Westminster Presbyterian Church’s music ministry. I’m very grateful for the 4-plus years of music ministry with you and already miss you. I appreciate your prayers and love.

In His Service,  
Neil Forsythe

### **Director of Youth Ministries**

This past year has been one full of so many blessings. Our youth continue to be a very strong and active presence within Westminster Presbyterian Church. These young people have displayed so many times their dedication to their church and their faith.

*“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Hebrews 13:7*

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Our youth program continues to be blessed by the leaders in their lives. On Wednesday evenings, Susan Larsen co-leads our junior high group, Dee Jordan co-leads the senior highs and Jennifer Lamb is our adult leader in our game room.

On Sunday mornings, Susie Lund co-teaches our confirmation group and Bruce Jacobs teaches our senior highs. As in any ministry, it is not done by one person so I want to share my never-ending thanks to these amazing adults who help make our youth program a healthy and vibrant one.

Also, my thanks to all the parents who have volunteered for our day trips and lock-ins over the past year, each of you were such a huge help to make these events a success.

Our groups remain very active with our junior highs averaging 30 and senior highs averaging 35 each Wednesday night. Sunday mornings our confirmation class averaged 30 junior highs and our senior high Sunday school has an attendance of 15.

*“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”* 1 Timothy 4:12

In May, we celebrated the confirmation of 14 eighth graders and received them into the church and the graduation of 9 of our senior highs.

The Friday night dances are always a great hit and wonderful outreach to our middle schools of the Cedar Valley. We averaged 275 junior highs attending these dances. I want to thank all who have volunteered to chaperone these dances. It is you who make them possible!

We had a number of activities in 2016 and I'd like to highlight a few of them:

- All night-ski trip to Sundown Mountain.
- Junior high trip to Green Lake, WI for Great Escape.
- Senior highs attended camp in Montreat, N.C.
- Our annual “Fear Factor Lock-in”
- Caroling to our shut-ins at Christmas
- Our youth helped serve and cleaned up after several brunch/dinners.
- Assembled Samaritan Purse boxes and care packages for the Sunday Night Supper guests.

Our youth are very talented, gifted and accepting of each other and all that we do. Their continued participation and presence on Sunday mornings and special services has been a joy for us all.

Our congregation has also ministered to children outside of the church walls through serving as a Partner in Education with Kingsley Elementary. We were pen pals and gave birthday gifts to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. We helped with their spring, “Back to School Night”, adopted a family at Christmas, and hosted the teacher’s holiday luncheon. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class sent us many cards of thanks, brought the staff cupcakes and came caroling to the Monday adult Bible study classes.

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We all we look forward to the coming year with hope, peace and a faith that grows with each day.

Peace,  
Scott Cose

### **Director of Children's Ministries**

We had many Children's Events this year. All went well and I look forward to continuing to improve on them and make them better in the future.

The Easter Joy Celebration was on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Many families attended, and the kids enjoyed doing crafts, games, getting their picture taken with the Easter Bunny, and going on an Easter Egg Hunt.

This year, our church paired with BOTH Camp Wyoming, in Wyoming, IA, and Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, in Milford, IA, and provided our children with the opportunity to attend either camp over the summer.

VBS was June 20-24<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "Cave Quest", an over-the-top underground adventure! The kids explored the rock solid foundation of Jesus' love through incredible Bible-learning experiences. The kids discovered how to see evidence of God in everyday life. Ninety three children attended, and together with the Sunday School children, they raised \$1400 for the mission project. Their money went to Haiti, to help pay for teachers' salaries at a new and thriving school.

We kicked off our Discovery Night Wednesday evening programming year on September 7<sup>th</sup> with the theme of "PULSE: If you have a PULSE, you have a PURPOSE". We are averaging about 25 preschool children and 35 elementary children on Wednesday nights.

Fall Fest was on October 9<sup>th</sup>. This was our second year doing this event at Heartland Farms. There were about 85 people in attendance, the weather was warm and mild, and a great time was had by all.

The Westminster Hands in Service (H.I.S.) Puppet Ministry began practicing in October. They have been holding practices on Sundays at 12:15, after second service is over. They had the opportunity to perform each of the Sundays in Advent to help with the lighting of the Advent Candles.

The Parent's Night Out event was on November 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 10 kids in attendance, along with many youth and adult volunteers who led the activities.

We had our Bible Presentation Sunday on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Nine 3 and 4 year olds and five 1<sup>st</sup> graders came forward to receive their Bibles.

On Sundays, we average about 11 preschool children and 21 elementary children in our Sunday School classes.

Between both Wednesdays and Sundays, we have about 39 adults who teach or volunteer with the children's programming.

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Westminster is blessed by its children's ministry programming, and the children's ministry is blessed by the caring members here at Westminster. I thank God for our kids, their families, and all our wonderful volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Engelhardt

### **Director of Child Care**

We have 7 workers including one director. There is always a leader present to take charge of the children and supervise the workers. In general, we provide at least 2 to 3 people in the nursery every time it is available, for safety reasons. We have implemented a system of identity, using name tags and sign in sheets, so the children are returned safely to the person who dropped them off.

There are 2 rooms available for use, one for babies and toddlers and one for preschool children. The nursery provides care for children kindergarten age and younger, with exceptions when needed. We understand there are some circumstances when the nursery and staff need to be utilized by other children. We are able to provide childcare for any church activity. We are proud of our facility and of our staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Magee

### **Session**

#### **Class of 2016**

Sherice Ortman (Y6) CE  
Cathie Miehe (Y3) MO  
Jennifer Lamb (Y6) Nom  
Kristie Brown (Y2) Fin  
Gary Iversen (Y6) P  
Jeff Northey (Y6) Prop  
Jo Grapp (Y4) MO

#### **Class of 2017**

Bruce Rempe (Y2) WM  
Kerri Powell (Y2) P  
Mary Lisa Mueller (Y2) M  
William Kay (Y5) N  
Jennifer Kuhn (Y3) P  
Shelly Smith (Y5) CE  
Marv DeWaard (Y5) M

#### **Class of 2018**

Lori Johnson (Y4) CE  
Jo Broadston (Y1) WM  
Joe Vich (Y4) MO  
Cindy Harmon (Y4) CE  
Mickey Waschkat (Y1) P  
Dean Thede (Y1) Prop  
Matt Loesche (Y1) Fin

### **Session Committee Chairpersons – 2016**

Christian Education – Shelly Smith  
Membership and Outreach – Cathie Miehe  
Finance – Kristie Brown  
Endowment – Mark Yarwood  
Worship and Music – Bruce Rempe  
Mission – Marv DeWaard  
Personnel – Gary Iversen  
Property – Dean Thede  
Nominating – Jennifer Lamb

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**Report from Session** - Total members as of December 31, 2015 – 704

## **Additions**

Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith – 6

Certificate of Transfer – 10

Others - 18

## **Deletions**

Certificate - 5

Death – 11

Total active members as of December 31, 2016 – 722

## **Christian Education**

- 14 of our youth were confirmed, largest class in recent years.
- 9 of our youth were recognized on Graduation Sunday, May 15.
- Cave Quest Vacation Bible School taught 93 elementary youth about God's love with 20 youth helpers and 30 adult volunteers. This included outreach to non-members in the neighborhood.
- Senior High summer trip to Montreat, NC. We partnered with Cedar Heights Presb. Church, Cedar Falls and 25 youth and 4 adults made this trip.
- 25 Junior High's and 4 adults attended Great Escape in Wisconsin while learning through worship, study, activities and more.
- Adult Sunday School and Wednesday classes offered StrengthFinders classes and multiple classes throughout the year including Bible Study, Covenants of the Bible, Band of Brothers, Centering Prayer, Women of Westminster.
- We began Journey groups for our adult members. This is 21 weeks of deep study and inspiration.
- Strong Partner in Education relationship with Kingsley Elementary including pen pals to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders, monthly birthday recognitions, use of facility and involvement in school celebrations. We offer a Christmas lunch for the Kingsley staff and we have an end of year luncheon for all who participated in the Pen Pal program.
- Discovery Night programming offered to children and adults including a nutritious weekly meal.
- Organized and implemented successful multi-generational events including Easter Joy, All Church Swim Party, Kick Off Sunday, Fall Festival and Cocoa & Carols.
- At Christmas time members of the church and the CE committee adopted several families and provided gifts for them.
- Many thanks to the Christian Ed Committee and members at large who helped make all of these events possible for our congregation and for the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Cose

## **Deacons**

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12

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It has been a great joy to work with our 18 Deacons over the first 10 months of 2016. It was with mixed feelings that I ended my time of leading our deacons as Pastor Dan took over in October. I know Dan will be so blessed as he ministers with these compassionate and caring souls who look over our congregation. I must also thank our beloved parish nurse Judy Morris who finished 13 years of service to our congregation in July. Judy has blessed us with her leadership as she inspired so many acts of kindness and has kept us healthy over the years. She will continue as the lead for our prayer shawl ministry as our very talented women continue to knit and crochet away. We'll now have a health team which will include nurses, Joan Craig, Lois Sinram and Julie Ritland who will assist Pastor Dan with the care of our new babies, blood pressure checks and visits.

Pastor Dan, our church secretary Sally and I continue to meet every Monday morning to review the pastoral care needs of our congregation. This is a sacred time as we pray and plan together to insure that our members are remembered. Below are some other highlights of 2016:

Deacons provide a welcoming presence in the welcome center every Sunday.

- The Deacons assisted with the Lenten luncheons and also served as readers for the Maundy Thursday service in the Shared Life Center.
- Support our monthly prayer shawl group to provide precious shawls which have been blessed and then given to those in need of care/encouragement.
- We love to “bond” and this happens at least twice a year with our summer picnic (this year at the home of Mike Hoffman) and our Christmas party (this year at the home of Ryan Malecek).
- Deliver Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias to our special care friends... each Deacon is assigned 1-2 people to check in with monthly.
- Assisted with serving BBQ and Blessings meals for six weeks in the summer. This year we had one night designated in which we brought our special care friends to BBQ and BLESSINGS.
- Supported 5 graduates with gift cards who were in the foster care system as an open house celebration was held at Hawkeye Community College in May.
- Were the chefs for the Sunday Supper Community Meal at First Presbyterian on Father's Day so the scheduled chefs could have a night off. It was a HOT night!
- Provided winter clothing items for area school children with our G-LOVE tree.
- Sent Christmas cards to individuals/families who have moved out of the area.
- Continued a mentoring program for our new members of the congregation in which Deacons are matched with individuals/families to assist with engagement in the programs/ministries of the church. This is part of the Vision plan.
- Spent much time and energy planning for our Live Nativity for December 18. We had animals reserved, a manger ready to be constructed and our youth chosen for this special event which would coincide with our chancel choir cantata. However, it was -20 wind chill so we had to compromise and had an indoor scene with our youth. Hopefully for Christmas 2017 we can try again!
- We also considered hosting an event for those who care for Alzheimer's patients with a featured speaker. We had some challenges with our plan, but will continue to pursue this dream in 2017. Our deacons walked in the Memory Walk in October which was the makeup date as the September flooding created problems for the walk. We were able to support the Memory Walk with over \$1200.00.

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As we say goodbye to 2016 we also celebrate the faithful service of three of our Deacons who have completed their terms; Jackie Jensen, Ruth Weigle and Kent Zingg.

Let us be inspired by our Deacon's devotion as we continue to serve our Lord,  
Pastor Tricia

### **Endowment Committee**

Westminster Endowment Foundation members during 2016 – Mark Yarwood, Chair, Harrison Cass, Jerry Clauson, Bob Buckley, Julie Ritland, Kathy Schreiner, Joe Vich, and Pastor Tricia Jacobs.

Endowment Funds are kept in Trust and are professionally managed by the trust departments of Community Bank & Trust and Lincoln Savings Bank. Investments are in keeping with a philosophy of supporting current needs but with an eye towards growing the investments in the long-term to insure increasing level of support over many years to come.

Committee Approved Expenditures for 2016-

#### GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

- Amperage Fund Raising/Capital Campaign
- Coffee Maker/Lower level Kitchen
- Music Academy (pending)
- Candle Holders for events in Sanctuary
- Associate Pastor Moving Expenses

#### SHIREY FUND/COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST

- Feed My Starving Children
- Visitation Pastor Funding for 2016 Operating Budget

#### MEMORIAL FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

Memorials were contributed to the church from the following families and friends of –

- Kelsey Ames
- Robert Briden
- Louise Shubert
- Pat Shafer
- Joan Schreiner
- Helen Smith
- Dorrene Entz

#### FERN GRAY FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

- Student Loans from the Fern Gray Fund are now considered Student Grants. Therefore, there is no interest charged with the grants.

If you would like information about any of the Endowment Funds, please contact Becky Dietz in the church office or one of the members of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Dietz

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### **Finance Committee**

2016 was a transitional year as we continued the year discerning who the next Associate Pastor would be. Unfortunately, pledges were down from the previous year. That was partially offset by the reduction of salary from the vacant Head of Staff/Associate Pastor position. In addition, the staff and committees were fiscally responsible and cut expenses wherever possible. By year-end, revenues did not exceed expenses and this was a disappointment to us.

In addition to monthly monitoring of the financial reports the committee also:

- Assisted with review of year-end financial position and need to ask congregation for extra year-end gifts.
- Prepared reports for the Messenger Newsletter
- Assisted with the 2017 Stewardship Campaign
- Developed the Operational Budget for 2016 in conjunction with Committee Chairs and staff. Presented asking budget to Session for their approval.
- Recognized that pledges for 2017 may not allow for 2017 Operational Budget. Will lead the effort to find a solution to this challenge.
- We will be welcoming two new members in 2017, Karen Siler and Margo Grimm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristie Brown, Chair of Finance Committee

### **Hospitality Committee**

This is the team that provides the fun food events for our congregation and works hard to insure a wonderful time for all. This involves menu planning, ticket selling, shopping, cooking, serving and of course beloved clean up.

For 2016 we hosted the chili/soup cook-off in January, assisted the Membership and Outreach committee with the Celebration Picnic which was held in September and finished off the year with the festive Christmas brunch on December 18.

This team is open to anyone who loves to cook and provide hospitality. The group includes Brenda Northey, John and Jeanne Speas, Steven Eilers, Pam Dowie, Dee Jordan and new members Chris Kennedy, Karen Siler and Matt Engelhardt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Jacobs

### **Membership and Outreach Committee**

2016 Highlights:

- Sent members and area residents Easter and Advent/Christmas direct mail postcards highlighting worship opportunities and upcoming events.
- Used radio and print to promote worship opportunities and involvement at Westminster.

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- Delivered gifts of bread and materials about our church to those who visit Westminster.
- Kept a stockpile of homemade food to provide for members who are ill or caring for a shut-in.
- Assisted with New Member Dinners in May and October.
- Continued to sell the Pictorial Church Directories and began an update photo/info sheet of the new members.
- Assisted and provided bars and cookies for the Fall Kick-Off.
- Assisted serving supper before BBQ & Blessings worship on Wednesday nights in the summer.
- Held a golf tournament in July that coordinated with the Summer Swim Picnic Event.
- Held a reception for members and guests after the 6 pm Cantata Concert in December.
- Served lunch and provided desserts for the 6 Lenten Lunches.
- Updated the Website to be more compliant and user friendly. Added Seeking New Paths video to website.
- Provided Text Messaging for snow closings and important announcements.
- Held a Football Tailgate Event in October with a large screen TV and great tailgate food.
- Implemented from the Vision Committee goals—"From the Heart" sharing monthly at worship and a start of a mentoring program/TeamMates with Kingsley Elementary Partners-in-Education. With the discontinuation with TeamMates, evolved into participation into the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathie Mieke, Chair

### **Mission Committee**

Mission Statement: To share Christ with people and to fulfill the needs of people locally and worldwide.

Committee Members in 2016 were: Marv DeWaard - Chair, Marilyn DeKoster, Mary Lisa Mueller, Daryl Riensche, Judy Kester, Dan Hills, Beth Zingg, Lois Marsch and Angie Andrews.

Westminster supports missions thru giving 10% of the pledged budget. The Mission Committee supports missions both local and worldwide as follows:

- Filling the basic needs of the poor: Cedar Valley Food Bank, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Feed My Starving Children, Habitat for Humanity, Soles for Souls, Bihembe Project, Koats for Kids, Self Help International and Love Inc.
- Disaster Recovery: The Mission Committee uses a Presbytery Mission and Ministry grant to repair local homes and to finance materials for ramps to make homes handicap accessible. We also used a grant to help a church member to learn how to read. We use Discretionary funds to help families recover from short term financial problems.
- Abuse Prevention: House of Hope, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Family and Children's Council.
- Theological education: Dubuque Seminary and the Protestant University of the Congo.
- We give missionary Support to the General Assembly, the Synod, and the Presbytery of Northeast Iowa of the PCUSA.

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- Missionaries supported directly: Duane and Kelly Diener (Guatemala), Roger and Julie Hederstedt (Asia), Andy and Katheryn Iversen (Auckland), Points on the Wheel (Haiti) and Dan McNerney (Europe).
- Spiritual growth and salvation: Quakerdale, and the Jesus Video project. We also provide matching grants for the Alzheimer's Walk and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.
- Congregational participation events: Personal care items donated to the local food bank, baby shower for the Stork's Nest, Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes, From the Heart Christmas gifts for CASA children, building ramps for local handicapped persons, Christmas Dinner, Community Breakfast, and Feed My Starving Children food packing.
- We are using mission funds to develop a relationship with the village of Dinese, Haiti through Points on the Wheel We have also supported a palm oil processing business in Ghana owned and operated solely by women.
- We faithfully support Sunday Supper and Saturday Community Men's Breakfast. Here is the year-end report from this past year:

### **2016 Sunday Supper Year End Report**

Monthly meals served and weather conditions:

January 10 – 75 (1°)

January 17 – 48 (-4°)

January 24 – 75 (29°)

January 31 – 100 (39°)

**Total – 298 Average – 75**

February 7 – 85 (Super Bowl Sunday, 40°, light snow)

February 14 – 59 (Valentine's Day, 19°, 2.6" snow)

February 21 – 80 (42°)

February 28 – 86 (53°)

**Total – 310 Average – 78**

March 6 – 95 (60°)

March 13 – 82 (Daylight Savings Time weekend, 53°, rain)

March 20 – 136 (44°, trace of snow)

March 27 (Easter Sunday, no Sunday Supper)

**Total – 313 Average – 104**

April 3 – 127 (79°)

April 10 – 100 (63°, light rain)

April 17 – 135 (79°)

April 24 – 113 (78°, light rain)

**Total – 475 Average – 119**

May 1 – 125 (49°, rain)

May 8 (Spring Concert at Waterloo First, no Sunday Supper)

May 15 – 98 (65°)

May 22 – 145 (83°)

May 29 – 120 (Memorial Day weekend, 82°)

**Total – 488 Average – 122**

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June 5 – 120 (85°)

June 12 – 120 (85°, light rain)

June 19 – 90 (Father's Day, 89°)

June 26 – 140 (87°, rain)

**Total – 470 Average – 118**

July 3 – 100 (holiday weekend, another food event at Riverloop, 76°)

July 10 – 85 (78°)

July 17 – 118 (Pastor Amy's installation, pizza was served in Lincoln Park, 84°)

July 24 – 150 (87°)

July 31 – 135 (83°)

**Total – 588 Average – 118**

August 7 – 110 (Irish Fest in Lincoln Park, 80°)

August 14 – 135 (84°)

August 21 – 130 (74°)

August 28 – 140 (86°)

**Total – 515 Average – 129**

September 4 – 117 (Labor Day weekend, 80°)

September 11 – 135 (77°)

September 18 – 125 (84°)

September 25 – 120 (flooding downtown, 72°, rain)

**Total – 497 Average – 124**

October 2 – 120 (76°)

October 9 – 140 (67°)

October 16 – 110 (76°)

October 23 – 150 (70°)

October 30 – 160 (56°)

**Total – 680 Average – 136**

November 6 – 150 (68°)

November 13 – 140 (61°)

November 20 – 140 (37°)

November 27 – 155 (Thanksgiving weekend, 47°, rain)

**Total – 585 Average – 146**

December 4 – 110 (34°, snow)

December 11 – 125 (30°, snow)

December 18 – 100 (-3°)

December 25 (Christmas Day, no Sunday Supper)

**Total – 335 Average – 112**

**TOTAL – 5,554 meals served in 2016**

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We thank the congregation for the ongoing generous support and assistance with all of our projects. Thanks to the members of the Mission Committee for the time and talents you dedicate to the committee, our church, our community and our world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marv DeWaard

### **Church Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding active members of the congregation to serve on standing Committees, to serve as Deacons and to serve Elders. Our goal is to maintain a diverse group of members actively serving on each committee.

We met in May to find people to serve on a Capital Campaign Committee. We met numerous times from October to December to fill openings for terms beginning in January 2017.

Three people will be returning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> (3) year term as Deacons and three new people have been nominated for Deacons for 2017.

Two people will be returning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> (3) year term as Elders and five new people have been nominated for Elders for 2017.

Members of the 2016 Nominating Committee were: Cindy Thede, Wally Dietz, Trisha Crawford, John Speas, Peg Kugler, Shirley Magalsky, Jennifer Lamb (Elder), William Kay (Elder), Shirley Van Wyngarden (Deacon) Pastor Jacobs and Pastor Voigt also met with our committee.

I encourage everyone to get involved in a committee - the rewards are priceless!

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10

In Christ,  
Jennifer Lamb

### **Personnel Committee**

Personnel was fortunate to experience another relatively uneventful year during 2016. We did see the installation of Dr. Patricia Jacobs in March of 2016 and the addition to our staff later in the year of Associate Pastor Dan Voigt after an extensive search by the APNC. Although both were major events, both were also planned ones. Our Head of Staff moved from an interim role into a permanent one and the process of assimilating a new associate into the life of the church has begun. We anticipate much needed assistance to Pastor Tricia as well as many opportunities for expansion and growth of Westminster’s ministries as we head into 2017.

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The Personnel Committee during 2016 consisted of Dr. Patricia Jacobs, Head of Staff; Session members - Gary Iversen (Chair), Kerri Powell (Secretary), Jennifer Kuhn and Mickey Waschkat; Congregational Members - Ray Walton, Jeff Sales, Charlie Lott, Harrison Cass and Jodi Fabrizio. The end of 2016 saw Ray and Jeff complete six (6) years of service on the Committee. Their dedication and commitment to the Personnel Committee over their terms was greatly appreciated.

The Committee reviewed and amended the Associate Pastor Job Description early in the year in anticipation of the APNC search, conducted the normal staff evaluations, and worked on budget issues and planning for both 2016 and 2017. Undoubtedly, the most challenging task faced by Personnel arose in early November when Neil Forsythe submitted his resignation as Director of Music Ministries effective at the end of the year. Neil's decision to join his family in Colorado left a relatively short window to make plans for 2017 and beyond. After deliberating options, Personnel determined that the best course for Westminster would be to recommend to Session that Neil's responsibilities be filled by interim staff as the Session created an Ad Hoc Committee to review the entire music program and staffing patterns. As staffing has changed over the past years in the music area, the Director of Music position has become quite extensive in responsibility; Personnel believed that the Job Description had surpassed the ability of one person to adequately perform it all. Session approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee at its December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Interim positions created and staffed for 2017 (pending completion of the Ad Hoc Committee's work and its report back to Session) were:

- Choir Director – Bruce Remppe
- Contemporary Service Worship Leader – Charissa Lambert
- Administrative Assistant for Music - Charissa Lambert
- LightShine Choir – Blair Voigt
- Children's Bell Choir – open at the time this Personnel Report was prepared
- Organist – Mariko Morita

It goes without saying that we are blessed at Westminster with a tremendous and dedicated staff at all levels. We encourage you all to regularly express your appreciation to them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Iversen

### **Property Committee**

The Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the Building and Grounds of the Church property. Our budget has line items for utility bills, maintenance contracts, snow and lawn care, kitchen and janitorial supplies, insurance, new equipment and equipment repair and maintenance of the Church van. We also set aside money annually for major repair costs of the Church building. The Committee members take turns by month unlocking the Church on Sundays.

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Members of the property committee in 2016 were: Melvin Gardner, Pam Dowie, Dean Thede, Steve Grimm, Cody Alberts, Craig Ritland, Georgene Arthur, Jeff Northey, Mark Kennedy, Rick Gorman and Jackie Walton.

In early 2016 a large part of our budget was spent on snow removal and salting in the parking lots. We continued having water issues in the Social Hall. We fixed the leaks under the floor in the kitchen but we still had water leaking in the southwest corner of the Social Hall. It was decided this water was coming from the exterior. Midwest basement systems installed a drainage system with a sump pump. This fixed the problem. Unfortunately this project depleted the major maintenance fund.

We contracted a lawn care company to control our weeds and to fertilize. Fallen branches were removed periodically throughout the year. The property committee spent one fall Friday trimming shrubs and branches.

The property Committee oversaw the completion of the new bell choir room. Also new stair treads, flooring, railings and painting in the east stairwell. These projects were completed using leftover capital campaign funds.

Mark Kennedy, Georgene Arthur, Jeff Northey and Cody Alberts will be leaving the committee. I want to thank everyone who has served their respective terms on the committee. Their willingness to give to our church is very gratifying. New members starting this year will be Marv DeWaard and Juanita Rowell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Thede, Chair of Property Committee

### **Stewardship Sub-Committee**

In 2016, Westminster held a stewardship challenge immediately following a successful capital campaign. Our “Joy like a Fountain” stewardship program kicked off in October with a 21 day challenge of devotions. We heard some testimonials from some of our Westminster family members about how God has brought joy to their lives. Through these testimonials, we heard how God’s work has impacted our Westminster community directly.

As we wrap up our annual stewardship program you, as a congregation, have made pledges totaling \$631,000 which is slightly higher than last year’s pace. Session will be reviewing this year’s operating budget and discerning the next steps.

Respectively Submitted,  
Matt Loesche, Stewardship Chair

### **Worship and Music Committee**

The 2016 ministry year began under the direction of Rev. Tricia Jacobs, Head of Staff, and Neil Forsythe, Music Director. During the year, other music staff positions were held by Mabel Rempe-Meisteringers Director; Neil Forsythe-LightShine and Westminster Chimes Director, Charissa Lambert-Messenger Director, and Charissa Lambert, Church Mice Director. Brenda Buseman, Mabel Rempe and Heidi

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Muszynsky (thru May and then Ginger Herndon started in the fall), provided piano accompaniment for the choirs.

- Two worship services were held each Sunday, with a traditional service at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and a contemporary service titled “Jacob’s Well” at 11:15 a.m. in the Shared Life Center.
- Lectio Divina service was held each Sunday at 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel
- During the summer months, a midweek opportunity for fellowship with dinner and a worship service, “BBQ and Blessings”, was held on Wednesdays.
- Worship services were also held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Tuesday with neighborhood churches and Christmas Eve we offered 3 services at 5 pm, 7 pm and 11 pm.
- Centering Prayers worship was held Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening, and Thursday morning.
- During the program year, traditional worship service included regular participation from the Chancel Choir, in addition to monthly participation by the Meisteringers (adult bell choir), the Westminster Chimes (youth bell choir), LightShine Choir (Jr. and Sr. High youth), the Messenger Choir (grade school youth), the Church Mice (preschool age children), and/or other vocal or instrumentalists solos. During the summer months, special instrumentalists and vocalists provided special music during worship.
- The Praise Team led worship for the Jacob’s Well service, along with occasional participation by other choirs.
- Westminster is one of the few churches in the area that offers a graded music program. This continues to attract families to Westminster and provides youth of all ages valuable learning and worship opportunities.
- During Lent, a Wednesday noon music concert series was provided by Neil Forsythe and other area musicians, followed by a soup luncheon.
- Communion was offered on the first Sunday of every month. Communion by intinction is served at both Sunday worship services, prior to each Session meeting, and at other worship services. Communion by traditional means is provided to anyone wishing or needing to be served in their seat.
- The Chancel Guild, under the direction of this committee, provided beautiful seasonal and holiday decorations for the worship spaces and welcome area.
- Ann Northey, Kendal Crawford, and Margo Grimm concluded their faithful and meaningful service to this committee.

### **Presbyterian Women**

Presbyterian Women meet twice yearly in May and November for lunch, a short program, devotions, a reading from the Mission Yearbook, and announcements. We participate in the Presbytery Presbyterian Women’s Spring and Fall gatherings. Our giving is mission oriented.

We have one circle which currently meets monthly (except for January, July, and August) for Bible study and fellowship. We collect “tea money” which is gifted for a worthy cause.

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Piecemakers meet weekly to quilt and sew clothing for children. These items are donated to the Red Cross and other local and foreign missions. Our coordinator, Pat Shafer passed away on October 24, 2016. Alisa Engelhardt has agreed to be the new coordinator of sewing.

We are also responsible for preparing funeral dinners. We are privileged to have a few men who help with the dishwashing chores.

All women in the church are invited to join us in any of these activities. We welcome any who are interested in being involved in serving the Lord in this manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Butler, Moderator

### **Piecemakers (World Service Sewing Ladies)**

Piecemakers is a sewing group under the Presbyterian Women organization. The group meets Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00, with an all-important break for coffee, treats, and fellowship from about 10:00-11:00.

The Piecemakers specialize in quilts, both full and twin size. They also love to make children's clothing, such as T-shirts, shorts, and underwear. And sometimes the group is called on to do some mending of choir robes, bell cushions, or the pastor's robe or stole. The Piecemakers find joy in giving away the items they have made to local organizations. In 2016, the Piecemakers gave 19 quilts to the Red Cross, 15 baby quilts to Alternatives Pregnancy Center on Ansborough Avenue, and 17 baby quilts to the hospital. This year, the Piecemakers paired with a new organization, AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential), an organization that supports and empowers foster children in Iowa. The Piecemakers are proud to say they donated 39 twin sized quilts to AMP in 2016. The group also sends quilts with groups from the church that go on mission trips, for them to give to the families they meet and minister to.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Engelhardt

### **Sweet Hour of Prayer**

Faithful members meet weekly with the pastors for prayer time. We pray for concerns from Sunday Prayer Request cards, the cares and concerns list of our Westminster family, the activities from the church calendar and for our staff and members. We give thanks and praise for answered prayers as we recognize God's hand on the life of our congregation. Please come join us in Pastor Tricia's office on Mondays at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Troyce Vich

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### **Friendship Club**

Friendship Club meets for a potluck supper on the first Thursday of February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December.

Some of the programs this past year were Jocelyn Green, author of “Civil War Women”, Tricia Jacobs and Scott Cose on the Honduras Trip taken by some of our church members, Carly Pollock on Myths of Hospice, Cleo Farris on Human Trafficking, Stacy Hesse, a Waterloo police officer, on Protecting our Children, Joe Vich on Cruising the Mississippi and the Union Carolers from Union High School from LaPorte City.

We have about 40 people at each meeting. We would love to have you join us whenever you can.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Riensche

### **Women’s Bible Study Group**

At 9 a.m. on Mondays, all women -- including those not members at Westminster -- are invited to gather around our table in Room 216 for an hour as we work our way through New Testament. We are currently studying Luke and will then move on to Acts before turning to the gospel of John. This in-depth study lends itself to those who come weekly, as well as those who can drop in from time to time. The group is caring, congenial, and committed to more deeply living out our Christian faith. Our lively dialogue and discussion give women the opportunity to better understand the Bible. The study will meet weekly through February 13 (with the exception of Jan 30), then resume the weekly schedule on April 10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Cathy Young

### **Men’s Bible Study Group**

The class meets at 9 a.m. most Mondays with between 15-20 men present.

Bibles are passed out to some, while other students bring their own books.

Prior to class and often during the course of study the men enjoy the sharing of sweet food. A few create their offering for the week, while others purchase their gift at the store. Each member is assigned the week’s sweet, which guarantees a few jeers in good natured food.

Prayers are raised on behalf of those ill or who have lost a friend or spouse.

The discussion for the class centered around a special book of the New Testament. Studying the Book of Revelation created a major challenge to the men as the symbolism the author wrote to illustrate his points weren’t always clearly understood.

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In the latter portion of the year study of famous couples in the Bible highlighted the evolving culture of the “then” and “now” difference in this culture. Differences in perception of a woman’s role in Biblical periods and the roles of women in today’s culture enabled the men to gain greater insights into men and women relationships. Hopefully!

The class enjoyed their personal growth, as well as support for their classmates unique thoughts. Growth was evident in their awareness that not everything in the Bible was clearer than their own lives. The advantage of learning to listen to their classmates in some way changed personal thoughts. Or cemented one’s own thoughts.

New members enrolled in the latter period of the class. Their presence was encouraging to the long time members. The class is opened to all men, regardless of Biblical knowledge. A major purpose of the class is Biblical learning and fellowship.

Rev. Dan Voigt and John Butler served as facilitators.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Butler