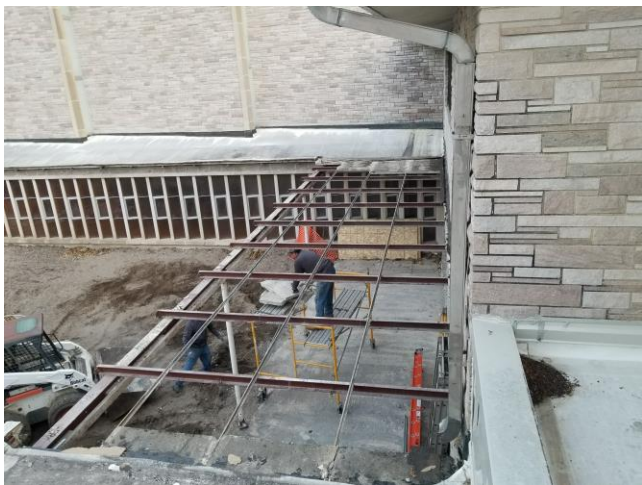


Westminster Presbyterian Church Annual Report January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

.....



Index

In Memoriam and Staff List 3

Annual Reports from Staff

Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Senior Pastor 4

Rev. Dan Voigt, Associate Pastor 5

Patrick Marchant, Director of Music Ministries 6

Scott Cose, Director of Youth Ministries 7

Alisa Engelhardt, Director of Children’s Ministries 8

Andrea Magee, Director of Child Care 9

Session Classes, Session Committee Chairs and Report from Session 9

Annual Reports

Christian Education Committee 10

Deacons 11

Endowment Committee 12

Finance Committee 13

Hospitality Committee 13

Membership and Outreach Committee 13

Mission Committee 14

Church Nominating Committee 16

Personnel Committee 16

Property Committee 17

Stewardship Sub-Committee 17

Worship and Music Committee 18

Presbyterian Women 19

Piecemakers 19

Sweet Hour of Prayer 20

Friendship Club 20

Men’s Bible Study 21

Women’s Bible Study 21

Sunday Supper 21



In Memoriam

Theo Cormaney
Berniece Peterson
Janet Pease
Kay (Lydia) Cunningham
K.L. Kober
Linda Dobbyn
Rose Moberly
Hugh Wurmle
Janet Fein
Robert Shubert
Doris Dietz
Verlee Hein
Jerry Pieters
Jack Bond
Francis Winter
Thelma Dick
Betty Hultman

Ministers

The Congregation

Staff

Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dan Voigt, Associate Pastor
Patrick Marchant, 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
Dr. Mariko Morita, Organist
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

Senior Pastor

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”

2 Peter 1:5-7

Our goal at Westminster has been to continue the long standing commitment to do good in this world with God as our foundation and the source of all our love for ourselves and each other. We certainly have challenges on the journey and yet we persevere with much hope. 2017 has been a year of transitions in our music department as well as transformation of our building. 2017 has also brought much excitement with new ministries and the deepening of others. Here are some highlights-

*Sermons each week based on the narrative lectionary. In 2017 we focused on the Gospel of Luke, the Prophets, and a summer series on Searching for Happiness.

*The Simple Church model which reduced the amount of meetings we had so we could have more time for personal study and time with family. We discovered that some committees needed to meet more so we made some changes for the calendar for 2018. Live and Learn!

*We spent much time surveying the congregation in regards to our commitment and ideas about music ministry at Westminster. The task force and subsequent search committee worked hard and brought a wonderful, talented and spirited new director to us in September, Patrick Marchant. Patrick has quickly given us great joy and laughter as he leads our musical groups and shares his talent with us all. I am excited to see how our music ministry will be enlivened and grow in the years ahead.

*A part of our vision plan was to create and sustain a music academy for our community. On September 11, we opened the doors to the Westminster Promise Academy of Music. In July, we hosted music mania in cooperation with the University of Northern Iowa and this camp helped to build momentum for the academy. It is so wonderful to meet the families and see the excitement of our students. We had 12 students in the fall and have 17 registered for 2018 semester. Special thanks to Carolyn Weichers as the chair of the team that made this academy happen!!

*Watching the Seeking Our Paths campaign come together has been a tremendous joy. We crossed over the million mark in April, just 8 months after launching our campaign. The Shirey Endowment Fund assisted us in adding \$300,000.00 to our efforts and with a reduction in the costs of the Welcome Center addition we could go forward and begin construction. Tremendous thanks to all on the committee who have worked so hard on these efforts. It was a wonderful Christmas gift to arrive on the morning of December 24 and see the stained glass window in the chancel and the sun flow through the windows to our cross in the sanctuary. We hope to open our new Welcome Center addition in March of 2018.

*We loved hosting many community groups and also a huge highlight was hosting the African Children's Choir in June, what a bright addition to our year.

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

* We had honest conversations about our financial challenges and stepped up through the Fulfilling Our Hopes efforts. This effort helped us to finish *in the black* for 2017. Let us continue to trust God, live with less and experience the wonder of generosity as we go forward.

A personal highlight for this Mama Pastor was the abundant support for our family as Hannah graduated from High school in May. This congregation has been so vital in helping us to raise our children and it was a true joy to see so many of you come to her open house. We are so grateful!!

I must thank our tremendous staff who loves working together; we laugh much, shed tears when we struggle and celebrate the privilege of serving Christ together.

I could list many more highlights, but you will see much more as you read the following pages.

God is so faithful, may we respond and sing together, *Great is thy Faithfulness!!!!!!!*

With Great Hope,
Pastor Tricia

Associate Pastor

After my first full year here, it still feels like I am just starting to call this place home and you my church family. Let me start by saying it has been a joy to be called your associate pastor and I thank you for welcoming me and my family into this community. As I look back on the year, I have enjoyed time in fellowship with the Young Adult Fusion Group and my Over 60 crew, as well as teaching in the Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, Wednesday Night Men's Group, Small Groups and starting a Journey Class. Teaching Financial Peace University was also a new challenge for me and I look forward to having that class taught often in the future. I was also blessed this year to be able to preach at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for the worshiping communities on Kimball. What a neat event!

This summer was highlighted by a July filled travel. I was fortunate to be a camp pastor at the Lakeshore Center on Okoboji, spent a week on the North Shore of Lake Superior on the Westminster Destination Trip and attended Synod School at Buena Vista in Storm Lake, IA. Each event proved to be quite formative. I was reminded how invaluable an asset to our Presbytery the camp is and how crucial their ministry can be to faith development. During the Destination Trip I was blessed by building memories with those able to go, and at Synod School, the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA was our convocation speaker and had many inspiring and motivating words to share about the future of the church and our denomination. Synod School is also a proud week for me as I serve the Synod on the committee that puts the event on. I would and I will encourage any members able to go to join me next summer!

To round out my Continuing Education, I spent a few days somewhere in Wisconsin (I'm not telling) receiving Spiritual Direction from a mentor I've had since ordination. I was also able to spend time practicing spiritual exercises and studying. It was a great boost before the end of the year.

This year our Staff was most notably marked by the absence and then presence of the music director position. After saying goodbye to Neil Forsythe, Charissa Lambert and I took on leading the second service team. Although music is a great joy of mine, it is great to have Patrick here! Not only is he a talented

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

musician that has challenged us all, he is also a great coworker in the office. What a joy it is to come into work and be able to spend your time with people you call friends. It's truly a gift from God through you. Thank you for allowing us all to work in such a great environment.

In the next year, I look forward to the Men's Retreat in February, establishing an Adult Mission Trip, teaching more Adult Education Classes, and of course, continuing to get to know all of you.

My other activities can be read about in the Deacon, Christian Education, and Mission Reports.

I look forward to the year ahead together and to continue to earn the title of being your Pastor.

Grace and Peace to you.

Pastor Dan

Director of Music Ministries

Bruce Rempe and Charissa Lambert, along with help from Dan Voigt and Blair Voigt, worked as interim directors for the first part of the year (into September) in the absence of a full time music director. During this time, musical activities continued with grandeur. The Chancel Choir growing under the direction of Bruce Rempe, the Worship Team working with Charissa Lambert and Dan Voigt, and LightShine blossoming through their Spring Musical with the careful leadership and planning of Blair Voigt.

Events to Highlight in the Fall of 2017:

- Our newest ensemble, Unity Choir, has proven to be quite successful bringing together the musicians across our other ensembles. We have seen a great mix of participants from the Chancel Choir, Praise Team, LightShine Choir, and Messenger Choir. Additionally, members of the congregation who do not currently participate in a "full-time" ensemble have enjoyed joining us for our "short-term" commitment rehearsals and singing in worship.
- The Chancel Choir participated in the ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service held at Zion Ev. Lutheran Church this year. We had about 10 Westminster members sing with the combined choir.
- Large changes were made to the Cocoa & Carols event held on December 3, 2017. This year's performance was held in the sanctuary with cookies & cocoa to follow in the Shared Life Center. The event included performances from Westminster's ensembles, narrations to bridge the transitions, and a special performance from Union High School's Carolers who sang in the event.
- The Meisteringers, under the direction of Mabel Rempe, traveled on December 3, 2017 to share our music ministry with the congregation at First Presbyterian Church in Jesup. This was a wonderful opportunity for our churches to come together in worship. The following Sunday, December 10, 2017, Westminster was graced with the annual Bell Festival in which the Meisteringers and Westminster Chimes participated in worship and provided all of the service music.

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

- On Sunday December 17th the Chancel Choir performed a 15 minute selection from their Christmas cantata “On This Shining Night” in the 9am worship service. That evening, a full performance was held at 6:30pm featuring the choir along with narrations and a chamber orchestra. The performance included several members of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls community along with students from the University of Northern Iowa’s School of Music in both the choir and the orchestra.
- The Messenger’s Christmas musical, “Starry Night, Noisy Night” directed by Charissa Lambert, was held on Christmas Eve at the 5pm worship service. This year the Church Mice were also included singing two of the musical selections with the Messenger Choir. The musical was enjoyed by the many people present in the congregation, its uplifting spirit and quirky nature made it an excellent addition to the worship service with so many young families attending.

I have been so grateful for my first 4 months at Westminster, and I can’t wait to see what 2018 brings for the music department.

Yours in Christ,
Patrick Marchant

Director of Youth Ministries

Our youth continue to enlighten us with their gifts and willing hearts. They have showed this in our worship services and through their service in many ways!

Their programs are blessed by many of you and in particular Susan Larsen, Jennifer Lamb, Dee Jordan and Susie Lund. They are such a strong influence in our youth’s lives, and our programs are forever stronger because of their gifts to youth ministry.

Susan Larsen co-leads the junior highs, Dee Jordan co-leads the senior highs, Jennifer Lamb leads our game room and Susie Lund co-leads Sunday morning confirmation classes.

I would like to share a few of our highlights in 2017:

- We confirmed 8 youth into the church and celebrated 8 graduating seniors
- The youth hosted a March Gala fundraiser
- 32 junior highs and 4 adults attended Great Escape summer camp
- 12 youth and 2 adults traveled to Puerto Rico for their summer mission trip
- 20 junior highs went to Great Oaks group building retreat
- They packed meals at the FMSC and assembled care packages for our college and military folks
- Our youth visited a number of our members as we caroled to them in December
- Confirmands helped with the Easter Breakfast, Stewardship breakfast and the Christmas brunch

Our Friday night dances continue to go strong and will be celebrating 50 years of community service! These dances are made possible by the members of Westminster and their willing hearts to chaperone and serve! Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry to the middle schools of the Cedar Valley.

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

Westminster continues a very strong relationship with Kingsley Elementary School as their Partners in Education.

- We hosted a Christmas brunch for their staff
- Birthday bags are given to the 4th graders each month
- Our members are pen pals to the 4th graders and at the end of the year we had a lunch where the pen pals were able to meet one another.

The youth continue to be a strong presence at Westminster Church and I want to thank our members for their outpouring of love and support in all that we do!

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Cose

Director of Children's Ministries

We had a lot of events for families and children this year. This church continues to grow and thrive, and that growth is reflected in the events and opportunities that we are able to offer to our church families.

The Easter Joy Celebration was on April 15th. The families that attended enjoyed a light breakfast, doing crafts, getting their picture taken with the Easter Bunny, going on an Easter Egg Hunt, and interacting with other church families.

VBS was June 12th-16th. The theme was "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose!" There were over 100 kids in attendance this year. They went on a wildly creative, inventive, interactive adventure and discovered how our loving God made each of us. This year, our Mission Project benefited the Diyar Academy, which seeks to develop the potential of Palestinian children and youth. The VBS children raised \$1200, which we sent to Palestine, to be used for purchasing soccer balls and new sports equipment.

We kicked off our Discovery Night Wednesday evening programming year on August 30th with a church-wide Tie-Dye Party. This year, we are experimenting with a different Wednesday night format. In an effort to COME TOGETHER, on the first Wednesday of each month we are offering a short family-friendly worship service in the Sanctuary full of skits and songs and a short reflection. Following worship, there is a group activity where all are welcome. Some of the activities we have done together are Reverse Trick or Treating, Thank You Cards, a Scavenger Hunt, and a Carnival. It is a lot of fun and all are encouraged to participate. We are averaging about 25 preschool and kindergarten children and 35 elementary children on Wednesday nights.

Fall Fest was on Saturday, September 30th. This year we tried a new day of the week and a new location for this event. Don and Gail Miller did us the honor of hosting this event at their beautiful farm. In addition to the meal, which featured smoked pork made by Mike Hoffman, we got to enjoy hayrack rides behind a tractor, a giant swing set, volleyball, basketball, croquet, roasting S'mores over the fire pit, and exploring all the flowerbeds and walking paths. There were about 80 people in attendance. The weather was warm and mild, and a great time was had by all.

The Parent's Night Out event was on November 11th. There were 10 kids in attendance, along with several youth and adult volunteers who led the activities.

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

We had our Bible Presentation Sunday on November 12th. We presented Bibles to five 3 year olds and ten 3rd graders.

On Sundays, we average about 10 preschool and kindergarten children and 30 elementary children in our Sunday School classes.

There are about 30 adult volunteers who help the children's programming run so smoothly.

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 (with a newer child) 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 2017

Bruce Rempe (Y3) WM
Kerri Powell (Y3) P
Mary Lisa Mueller (Y3) M
William Kay (Y6) CE
Jennifer Kuhn (Y4) P
Shelly Smith (Y6) N
Marv DeWaard (Y6) Prop

Class of 2018

Lori Johnson (Y5) CE
Jo Broadston (Y2) WM
Joe Vich (Y5) MO
Cindy Harmon (Y5) CE
Mickey Waschkat (Y2) P
Dean Thede (Y2) Prop
Matt Loesche (Y2) Fin

Class of 2019

Judy Kester (Y1) M
Cathie Mieke (Y4) MO
John Speas (Y1) N
Kristie Brown (Y3) Fin
Carrie Heinzerling (Y1) CE
Charlie Lott (Y1) P
Karen Siler (Y1) Fin

Session Committee Chairpersons – 2017

Christian Education – Lori Johnson
Membership and Outreach – Cathie Mieke
Finance – Kristie Brown
Endowment – Harrison Cass

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

Worship and Music – Jo Broadston
Mission – Mary Lisa Mueller
Personnel – Kerri Powell
Property – Dean Thede
Nominating – John Speas
Stewardship – Matt Loesche

Report from Session - Total members as of December 31, 2016 – 722

Additions

Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith – 7
Certificate of Transfer – 4
Others - 10

Deletions

Certificate - 4
Death – 15
Moved from MEMBER status to INACTIVE - 192
Total active members as of December 31, 2017 – 532

Christian Education

Adult Education

Sunday Morning

It has been another good year of strong classes. A real highlight for me has been asking our own church members to teach classes on areas of their own expertise in our Building up the Body of Christ series. Eric Johnson got us started on wills and advanced directives, Paul Grarup chipped in during the summer on funerals and advanced planning, and Donna Hoffman rounded up the year on a class on politics. Many thanks are due to them for sharing with us.

We also were very blessed to have some interfaith classes taught again this year. Erin Maidan from the Sons of Jacob Synagogue and Dema Kazkaz taught on Abraham in January, and Dema returned over the summer with some guests to give an intro to Islam course. I am very proud to serve a church where we can do such things and welcome these other faiths as guests.

Other Sunday Morning classes included a prayer class organized by Bonnie Davis with guests Juli Rowell and Mary Martin Lane, *The Meaning of Salvation* by John Butler, a sermon talk back class taught facilitated by your pastors, a Reformation Class taught by Dr. Charlotte Wells from UNI, a stewardship class called, *A Purposeful Life* and a class on women in the Acts of the Apostles by Pastor Tricia. Rev. Dr. David Feltman joined for a class on Hope, and Pastor Dan was more than happy to fill in with classes on Epiphany, an overview of Luke-Acts, Parenting and Spirituality, and an Advent Class called *Interrupted by Hope*.

The Journey

In 2017 we saw the finishing of our first year and beginning of the second of our intensive discipleship course, *The Journey*. We shortened the course from 21 to 15 weeks for the 2 new classes that started this year and we began our first group on year two of the three year curriculum. We now have a total of 19 people in the classes and it is great to see the growth from those involved.

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

Financial Peace University

In the Spring, Pastor Dan facilitated a 10 week class on finances using Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. We had a dozen people courageous enough to take a hard look at how they are spending their money and make a better effort at budgeting with a purpose. This class serves as an important reminder that we are called not only to be faithful with offerings but with all of our finances. I look forward to having this class taught often.

Small Groups

During lent smalls groups were again offered at Westminster. Fifty people in all participated in a 6 week study called, *Body & Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism*. In the fall, another study was offered called, *Way of Life*, based on Brian McLaren's Book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*. Either due to little interest in this study or the timing, we only had few sign up and the fall session did not take flight (pun intended). There were, however, still plenty of Adult Education offerings with Sunday School, Monday Morning Bible Study, Wednesday Night Groups, and the Journey.

Band of Brothers

The Wednesday Night Men's group continues to faithfully gather. In the Spring they looked at Fundamentalism and a study on Non-violence in Christianity called, *Jesus, Bombs, and Ice Cream* by Shane Claibourne. This Fall, Ryan Greve has taken over leading the group and has used a study on the Trinity based on Richard Rohr's book, *The Divine Dance*. They also continue to serve a community breakfast on the first Saturday of the month along with other members of Westminster.

The Destination Trip

This year we took our bi-annual Destination Trip to the North Shore of Lake Superior. While we hoped for a stronger turn out, a great time was had by all. How can you not, when you are at a beautiful location, with great people and have great food. We started and ended each day with a meal and devotion time, and had adventures each day (including hiking, swimming, golf, shopping, bike riding, lighthouse looking, plenty of sightseeing). Needless to say we all slept good at night. Many thanks is due to Bruce Rempe, Bruce Jacobs, Mike Hoffman, Rick Gorman, Ryan Malecek and Shelly Smith for planning and preparing for the event. Hope you can join us in two years or, maybe on a closer-to-home trip in the summer of 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dan Voigt

Deacons

The Deacons continued their work in another faithful year of caring for those members of our congregation on the Special Care List. These folks have hearts of gold and it is a great joy to see them do their work.

In addition to the care they provide they also helped serve at the Lenten Lunches, Sunday Supper, BBQ & Blessings, the Seder Meal and New Member Dinners. Other activities included gifts to 5 local foster kids upon graduation from High School, participation in Relay for Life event, donation to the Alzheimer's Association, and setting up the G-love tree to receive donations of hats and gloves. Thanks to leadership of Troyce Vich and Linda Lott they also held 12 hour prayer vigils in January and September. Also of note is Lois Sinram's effort to have nurses take blood pressures once a month on Sunday mornings.

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

Looking on into 2018 the Deacons will be undergoing some changes as they will add most of the activities of the Membership and Outreach Committee to their plate. While these groups have shared some responsibilities, this will also mean some new events and challenges for the Deacons.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dan Voigt

Endowment Committee

Westminster Endowment Foundation members during the year 2017 were–

Harrison Cass, Chair, Bob Buckley, Jerry Clauson, Paul Grarup, Patricia Jacobs, Kathy Schreiner, Julie Ritland and Mickey Waschkat.

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 the 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 2017

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

- Music Academy
- Knapp Media (website update)
- Kiosk for New Welcome Center (1st year startup expenses)

SHIREY FUND/COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST

- Feed My Starving Children
- Visitation Pastor funding for 2017 Operating Budget
- Gift to Capital Campaign

MEMORIAL FUND/LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

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

- Jack Bond
- Kay Cunningham
- Verlee Hein
- Rose Moberly
- Jan Pease
- Berniece Peterson
- Jerry Pieters
- KL Kober
- Bob Shubert
- Francis Winter
- Hugh Wurmle

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, Financial Secretary

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

Finance Committee

2017 began with a full pastoral staff, however, there was a vacancy in the Music Director position. Unfortunately, pledges were down from the previous year. In January, the congregation was challenged with “Fulfilling Our Hopes” to cover the budgetary gap, with generous returns. In addition, the staff and committees were fiscally responsible and cut expenses wherever possible. By year-end, revenues did exceed expenses. We thank the congregation for continued generosity.

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, keeping the congregation updated with monthly budget summaries.
- Assisted with the 2018 Stewardship Campaign
- Developed the Operational Budget for 2017 in conjunction with Committee Chairs and staff. Presented asking budget to Session for their approval. Will work on the same for 2018.
- Recognized that pledges for 2018 may not allow for 2018 Operational Budget. Will lead the effort to find a solution to this challenge.
- Thank you to Rich Brandhorst for his service on Finance Committee, through 2017.
- We will be welcoming one new member in 2018, Peg Kugler.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristie Brown, Chair of Finance Committee

Hospitality Committee

This small, but mighty group helps throughout the year to ensure we have great food and fun events.

In January, we had a great Chili-Soup Cook off with amazing efforts and such a gracious spirit in the Shared Life Center.

The committee assisted with Seder Meal in April, our Kick off picnic in September and also with our Christmas Brunch in December as we had an abundance of pancakes with Chris’ cakes!!

Thanks to the following for all their help: Brenda Northey, John and Jeanne Speas, Steven Eilers, Pam Dowie, Dee Jordan, Chris Kennedy, Karen Siler and Matt Engelhardt.

Happy Fellowship!
Pastor Tricia

Membership and Outreach Committee

- 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.
- 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.

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

- Assisted with New Member Dinners in June and November.
- Assisted and provided bars and cookies for the Fall Kick-Off.
- Assisted serving supper before Barbeque & 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 evening Cantata Concert in December.
- Served lunch for the 6 Lenten Lunches.
- Staff working with web designer to update website.
- Staff can send text messages for snow closings and important announcements.
- Held a Football Tailgate Event in October with a large screen TV and great tailgate food.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathie Miehe, Chair

Mission Committee

Each year, Westminster supports mission efforts through contributing 10% of our pledged budget. Our Mission Committee supports both local and worldwide needs. One of this year's priorities was to take a close look at our areas of support, weigh out if the needs continued to be priorities for our current congregation's direction, and to identify ways that we could develop more extensive relationships in some of these areas – through both monetary and hands-on support. We recognize that relationship building takes time, yet it can also offer energizing opportunities for Christian service.

Committee members in 2017 were: Mary Lisa Mueller, Kendal Crawford, Marilyn DeKoster, Dan Hills, Judy Kester, Mike Lewis, Daryl Riensche, Angie Tieskotter, and Beth Zingg. Pastor Dan served as our staff liaison.

Listed below are highlights of how our funds were invested and the relationship opportunities that have begun or are in the process of being investigated further:

Supporting the Basic Needs of the Poor

- Sunday Suppers cost little, but make a great impact as we collaborate with our local Presbyterian churches to provide a free meal at First Presbyterian Church each Sunday evening. Numbers are growing. Comfort in serving and socializing with our guests is increasing. The monthly Community Breakfasts meet a similar need at our church.
- Westminster has funded and hosted Feed My Starving Children for many years. School kids are bussed in to pack meals. Many churches and community groups contribute. This year, we brought in some fresh energy as our Westminster groups were encouraged to find a night to pitch in with their peers as packing teams.
- The Food Bank, Salvation Army, and Meals on Wheels continue to receive our annual support to assist in year round community needs.

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

Local Missions

- Each month, one of our committee members meets with two persons who are in need of one-time critical support. Love Inc. screens and sends us the referrals. In addition to offering coverage for utility bills and so on, we also take the time to visit with the individuals and pray with them.
- We financially support identified families who want to build their first family homes through Habitat for Humanity. Our ladies also work side-by-side with the future home owners to build the homes. This year we were fortunate to meet one of the homeowners and also worked with several individuals who were building another home. The men did not speak English, but we found our common motivation to build together rose above the language barrier. Additionally, the Piecemakers make a quilt for each of the families.

Worldwide Missions

- Self-Help International teaches women to start their own businesses in Nicaragua. Through this empowerment, women are able to be self-sufficient in supporting their families and provide needed resources for their communities.
- The Honduras efforts continue and have expanded. We are setting aside funds for another mission trip to assist the orphanage and community. This December, congregation members were invited to support these children and families by filling fabric bags (created by the Piecemakers), with personal care items and additional gifts for many children.

Westminster Missions

- The 37th Annual Christmas Day Dinner was a great success. Over 500 meals were provided to the guests at our church and were taken to homebound individuals. This year, we were also able to assist with transportation through bussing that was supported by M & M grant funds. Westminster members and local volunteers team up to make this a truly special gift to our community.
- Youth scholarships supported many of our teens in their mission trip. We look forward to offering an adult stateside mission trip next year.

Missionary Support

- Westminster continues to support Duane and Kelly Diener (Guatemala), Roger Hederstedt (Asia), and Dan McNerney (Europe). Through the years, we have kept up with the efforts of these missionaries and know that their efforts continue to make a difference.

Discretionary Fund Investments

- We are fortunate to be able to set aside a portion of our budget for needs that are identified during the year. In 2017, hurricane relief efforts were a recognized priority.
- Several newly identified support areas include the Boys and Girls Club, and the Jesse Cosby Center.

The Mission Committee would like to thank our congregation for their ongoing generous support and assistance with all of our projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lisa Mueller

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

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 an engaged group of members actively serving on each committee.

Early in the year we formed a search committee for our Director of Music Ministries resulting in the addition of Patrick Marchant to our staff. We met numerous times from October to December to fill openings for terms beginning in January 2018.

Linda Lott will return for a 2nd (3) year term and five new Deacons have been nominated: Elaine Ames, Blair Voigt, Mark Yarwood, Don Shafer and Matt Haines.

Kerri Powell will be returning for a 2nd (3) year term and Marie Hills and Bruce Jacobs have been nominated for Elders for 2018. This slate of Elders fulfills the Sessions directive that the Session number be set at seventeen Elders.

Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee were: Cindy Thede, Wally Dietz, Trisha Crawford, John Speas (Elder), Peg Kugler, Shelly Smith (Elder), Shirley Van Wyngarden (Deacon). Pastor Jacobs and Pastor Voigt also met with our committee.

I encourage everyone to be an active and engaged member of our Church.

“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,
John Speas

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee during 2017 consisted of Dr. Patricia Jacobs, Head of Staff; Session members – Kerri Powell (Chair), Jennifer Kuhn, Charlie Lott and Mickey Waschkat; Congregational Members – Gary Iversen, Jessica Nauholz, Harrison Cass and Jodi Fabrizio (Secretary). The end of 2017 saw Gary and Jennifer complete their service on the Committee. Their dedication and commitment to the Personnel Committee over their terms is greatly appreciated.

The Committee worked with the Ad Hoc Committee formed by Session in December 2016 to review the needs of the congregation in regards to the music ministries. The job description for the Director of Music Ministries was rewritten in preparation for the search to fill that open position. We were pleased to hire Dr. Mariko Morita as our Organist in 2017. Members of Personnel also served on the Search Committee for the Director of Music Ministries. We brought 3 candidates in for in-depth interviews. We welcomed Patrick Marchant as Director of Music Ministries in September.

In 2017, we gratefully thanked Bruce Rempe and Charissa Lambert for their service as Interim Choir Director and Interim Praise Team Director/Administrator respectively. We also recognized Roger Davis upon his retirement as our AV Sound Tech Coordinator.

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

Personnel has recommended several updates to the Operations Manual to Session in 2017 that were approved. The Sick Leave policy was updated to add care for dependents. We have also begun offering a Health Insurance option and a Retirement Plan option for our non-clergy employees to opt into.

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,
Kerri Powell

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.

Members of the property committee in 2017 were: Melvin Gardner, Pam Dowie, Dean Thede, Steve Grimm, Juanita Rowell, Craig Ritland, Marv DeWaard, Rick Gorman and Jackie Walton.

In 2017 the committee had room 216 upgraded with new paint and carpet. The committee also had the cracks in the parking lot refilled.

We contracted a lawn care company to control our weeds and to fertilize. Fallen branches were removed periodically throughout the year. Property Committee volunteers and Jordan did our lawn mowing.

A large part of the Property Committee's focus in 2017 was overseeing the design, bidding, and construction of our Complete the Dream campaign projects. As 2017 ends, one set of stained glass windows has been installed. Construction has been ongoing on our new Welcome Center. Air conditioning units have been put in place. A new LED message sign was installed. The Shared Life Center has a new laser projector. The rest of our project will be started in 2018.

Marv DeWaard, Jackie Walton, and Melvin Gardner 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 Cody Alberts, Bruce Jacobs, and Dan Hills.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Thede, Chair of Property Committee

Stewardship Sub-Committee

In 2017, Westminster kicked off the stewardship challenge with this year's theme being "Bearing Fruit for Jesus". Over the course of the stewardship challenge we asked the congregation to consider what it means to be chosen to bear fruit for Jesus. During the three week challenge we heard about the Fruitful use of Time, Talents and Money. We concluded our stewardship challenge on October 22nd with a celebratory brunch together.

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

As we wrap up our annual stewardship program you, as a congregation, have made pledges totaling \$590,290 which is slightly behind 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

This was a year of significant changes for worship and music at Westminster. The year started with the departure of Neil Forsythe as music director. This resulted in:

- Naming interim worship leaders including Bruce Rempe (Chancel Choir), Charissa Lambert (music administrator, contemporary praise band, directing Messengers and Mice), and Blair Voigt (LightShine).
- Hiring of Mariko Morita as permanent organist.
- Surveying Westminster members regarding our music program and the direction the program needs to take.
- Formation of a committee comprised of Worship and Music members and Personnel members to determine current needs for staffing the music department.
- Formation of a committee to interview and recommend hiring of a new music director.
- Hiring of Patrick Marchant as the new Director of Music.

Westminster continued to have weekly services at 9 (traditional) and 11:15 (contemporary) with music provided by the Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Meisteringers, LightShine, Messengers, Mice and Westminster Chimes. Music was also provided by soloists, especially during the summer months. In addition, we continue to be blessed by the talents of Pastor Tricia Jacobs, Pastor Dan Voigt, Mabel Rempe (Meisteringers director), and accompanists Brenda Buseman and Ginger Herndon.

Many special programs were continued this year. These included:

- the Lenten lunch program (typical attendance about 40 people)
- BBQ and Blessings
- Lenten activities including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services and a Seder meal
- VBS music
- Participation in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service with Pastor Dan preaching.
- Cocoa and Carols, which was continued but with a more formal performance structure
- Choir Christmas cantata
- Christmas Eve services
- Monthly communion using the intinction method

In addition, new programs were added. These included:

- Winterfest concert involving all Westminster music groups with proceeds to fund Green Lake scholarships.
- Discovery Night service once monthly from 6 to 6:20 pm
- Concert by the African Children's Choir

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

- Music Mania camp
- The Music Academy
- Restarting the Westminster Chimes group
- The Unity Choir which incorporates both traditional and praise music and which sings when there is only one service on Sunday (approximately 6 times a year)

Other items of note for this year included:

- review of the contemporary music service which resulted in changes to the praise team, seating arrangements, and equipment (including a new sounding board, new LCD projector, and new microphones)
- Seasonal decorating of the church by the Chancel Guild led by Sarah Hellman and Steven Eilers.
- Assisting with finding new ushers
- Replacement of communion plates due to breakage (thanks to Larry Skeries)

Special thanks is offered to Bruce Rempe, Sarah Hellman, and Charissa Lambert as they conclude their service on this committee at the end of 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Broadston

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.

Piecemakers meet weekly to quilt and sew clothing for children. These items are donated to the Red Cross and other local and foreign missions. Alisa Engelhardt is the 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 within Presbyterian Women. The group meets Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The Piecemakers specialize in making quilts, both full and twin size. We find joy in giving away the quilts we have made to local organizations. In 2017, the Piecemakers gave 24 quilts to the Red Cross; 18 quilts to

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

AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential), an organization that supports and empowers foster children in Iowa; and 9 quilts to Habitat for Humanity, to be given away to new homeowners after their houses are completed. The Piecemakers also donated 2 quilts to the Youth Gala in March, which were auctioned off to raise money for the youth to go on trips.

This group also loves to make children's clothing, such as T-shirts, shorts, underwear, and dresses. We sent clothing items with the youth who went to Puerto Rico on a Mission Trip in the summer of 2017. The Piecemakers are proud to say that we were able to send 40 knit T-shirts, 43 pairs of shorts, 38 dresses, and 60 pairs of panties to the region of Ponce in Puerto Rico. These clothing items got handed out to the children in Belhica during a neighborhood party that the youth hosted while ministering there.

This year, the Piecemakers worked on a special Mission Project. We sewed together 100 tote bags that the members of the church filled with items and sent to the orphanage in Honduras that Westminster supports. It is a great joy to know that the items we create here at Westminster are blessing those around the world.

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 join us in Pastor Tricia's office on Mondays at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted by,
Troyce Vich

Friendship Club

Friendship Club meets the first Thursday of each month, except January, July and August. Our meetings begin with a potluck dinner followed by a speaker for the evening. This year we had an excellent group of speakers. Let me share with you some of them. What's new at the Waterloo Library by Stephen Nielson, Bob Neimeyer from the Grout Museum, Mental Illness by Iowa Author, Virginia Pillars, Our own Steve Ehlers who is a Master Gardener gave good tips on gardening, Again our own Joe Vich talked about being a Red Cross volunteer and working this last fall with victims of Harvey and Irma. European Christmas Traditions was an excellent program for December. Keegan Berkicht and 2 volunteer dogs from Retrieving Freedom was very interesting, as was Victor Collins who spoke to us about Honey Bees. My favorite was Saving the Monarch Butterflies by Sondra Cabell from Fontona Park. We learned how to tell a male from a female butterfly and also we banded the butterflies that we set loose. Did you know that Monarch butterflies winter in southern Mexico? You never know what you might learn at Friendship Club. We are always looking for new members; no age limits. We invite all of you to come and check us out in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Riensche

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

Monday Morning Bible Study

It has been a good year of candid reflection on scripture and an honest look at the faith we share. These men are very dedicated and only take a break when Pastor Dan is gone – and often not even then. We started 2017 by finishing our study on couples in the Bible. Then from lent through June we followed the daily readings for the Narrative Lectionary we used in Sunday worship (Luke – Acts). In July, Charlie Lott led 4 weeks on Philippians and we finished the summer and went into the fall looking at various kinds of Psalms. We finished off the year remembering the 500th Anniversary of Luther posting his 95th Theses by taking a looking at the lives and theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin. This group continues to be a great way to start the work week, and we are always open to having new people join us. All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dan

Women's Bible Study Group

From 9:00 to 10 am on Mondays, all women -- including those not members at Westminster -- are invited to gather around our table in Room 216 as we work our way through New Testament. We've finished the Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – and are currently studying 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 starting on April 9, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Cathy Young

Sunday Supper

The Presbyterian Churches of the Cedar Valley (Cedar Falls First, Cedar Heights Community, Unity, Waterloo First, and Westminster) began a unified ministry called “Sunday Supper” in January 2016. The Sunday Suppers have proven to be much more than just a nutritious weekly meal. Our guests also enjoy fellowship with each other and our volunteers, as well as pastoral care, in a welcoming and comfortable environment.

We have exceptional chefs, and their skills, along with our partnership with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, enable us to provide delicious meals while staying within a manageable budget.

Meals served (4 Sundays per month, unless otherwise indicated):

January – 376	July – 658 (5 Sundays)
February – 375	August – 581
March – 458	September – 540
April – 569	October – 873 (5 Sundays)
May – 474	November – 474
June – 485	December – 398 (3 Sundays)

TOTAL – 6,261 meals served in 2017 (an increase of 707 meals from 2016)

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

Chefs:

Jan Schwab and Lynda Cose
Pastor Dave Kivett
Dee Jordan
Lesley Johnson

Volunteer Leaders:

Sally Davis (also serves as Treasurer)
Jan Schwab
Pastors on a rotating basis
Kari O. Narey

Pastors:

Brad Braley	Tricia Jacobs	Dave Kivett
Dave Feltman	Johnny Janssen	Dan Voigt
Pat Gadelmann	Christine Kaplunas	Amy Wiles

Special Volunteers:

Jan and Don Schwab, as well as Lynda and Craig Cose, have been instrumental in organizing the pantry, grocery shopping, inventory control, equipment and supply purchases, troubleshooting, and many other tasks too numerous to name.

Judy and Skip Mulock were regular volunteers who helped immensely with the weekly blessing, cleanup, locking up the church, and overall nurturing of guests and volunteers.

John Wiles volunteered his time and talents from September through November to lead the Sunday Supper Singers. An average of 3 to 10 participants enjoyed singing and fellowship. Because it was difficult to maintain consistent attendance, the group disbanded.

This ministry provides a significant service to the Cedar Valley community, and we are very thankful to all our volunteers. We have been blessed with many helping hands, and Sunday Suppers are successful because of every one of you.

With blessings and gratitude,
The Sunday Supper Team