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What We Believe

Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) was established to proclaim the whole counsel of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; these Scriptures serve as the basis and the standard for all preaching and teaching and as the only rule of faith and practice for its ministry. Westminster’s purpose is to preach the gospel and glorify God.

We strive to fulfill our purpose through the use of all our resources (tithes, property, gifts, and talents) to encourage, promote, and effect the following:

The holy and obedient worship of God
The administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
The discipleship of our members
The evangelizing of the lost
The defense of the Faith
The edification of Christians
The equipping of the saints for service
The commitment of our members to each other in mutual love, understanding, honesty, and the encouragement of members to a more Christ-like life

History

Westminster Presbyterian Church was organized in December of 1854 by a commission of the New York Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The first church service was held in February of 1855 in the City of Newburgh. The congregation called its first pastor, Reverend J.R. Thompson, in September of 1855.

Our current pastor, Reverend John L. Vance, is the 14th senior minister and has been serving since 1973.

WPC is a member of the New York State Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and was relocated from the City of Newburgh in 1977 to our current location in Rock Tavern, New York. Rock Tavern, a hamlet of Orange County, is located about 60 miles from downtown New York City and is in the heart of New York’s scenic Hudson Valley.
Worship Style

The congregation assembles each Sunday, seeking to worship God and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Reformed theology, the structure of liturgical worship, and the preaching of the Gospel are what draw people to Westminster Church.

The music of our church encompasses the classical style as well as traditional hymnody, accompanied by organ or piano. Occasionally, we will enhance our music presentation and add variety through the use of brass or strings. The church choir and vocal ensemble provide musical enhancement to the service as well. Hymn singing is the foundation of congregational participation in musical worship.

It is our practice to provide teaching and preaching, faithful to God’s Word, to help our people grow in their Christian faith and to bear much fruit.
Leadership

Senior Pastor | The Reverend John L. Vance

Assistant Pastor | The Reverend Mark D. Diedrich
(Primary responsibility is Pastor of Kingston mission church)

Session | John L. Vance
         Mark D. Diedrich
         Jay Croston
         Dan Elmendorf
         Richard Hammond
         Robert Maucher
         Michael Scaman
         Joseph Tombrello
         Robert Van Gent

Board of Deacons | Robert David
                  Szabolcs David
                  John Grammer
                  Tom Nixon
                  Curt Starr
                  Ed Weber

Committees & Teams

Worship Committee
Christian Education Committee
Finance Committee
Evangelism Team
Missions Team
Fellowship Team
Property Team
Programs

**Angel Tree** | A national program associated with Prison Fellowship. It provides for “the delivery of Christmas gifts and Christ-centered programs” to the children of prison inmates.

**Operation Christmas Child** | A child-focused program under Samaritan’s Purse. The children receive a gift containing school supplies, toys, hygiene items and Gospel materials.

**Small Groups** | Bible study groups hosted and led by members of WPC. Non-members are welcome and invited to join.

**Soup Kitchen** | Once a month WPC volunteers help staff this local ministry located in the City of Newburgh.

**Vacation Bible School** | A one-week summer program offered to the children of WPC and the local community.

**Monthly Fellowship Luncheon** | On the second Sunday of each month, families bring and share their home-cooked meals following Sunday School.

**Men’s Breakfast** | One Saturday morning a month men gather for breakfast, prepared in the church kitchen, for a time for teaching and fellowship.

**Women’s Bible Study** | A group of Women assemble both during the week and during the Sunday School hour to study God’s word.
Women in the Church

The Westminster Church Women's Ministry exists to bring glory to God by helping women grow in their personal knowledge of Christ, equipping them for ministry, and providing opportunities for building meaningful relationships with other women. We seek to support our Pastor and Session in their God-given roles as leaders and shepherds as we co-labor with them for the welfare of the church.

The Westminster Women's Ministry meets regularly and is structured under four ministry teams: Evangelism/Discipleship, Care, Hospitality and Fellowship. Each of the four ministry teams has developed a unique vision, mission and goals based on Biblical mandates and directives.

Membership

WPC currently has 189 communicant members on the rolls.

Active weekly attendance is on average 115 people, which includes 60% adult members, 25% children and 15% visitors and non-members.

Age Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages of Active Communicant Members</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Non-member</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20s</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>30s</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>40s</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>50s</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>60s</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70s</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>80s</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90s</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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</table>
2013 And Beyond

In anticipation of Westminster calling a new pastor, the Session deemed it wise to offer a plan for the next several years. We further anticipate the new pastor will want to have an immediate voice in some of the planning for the future to incorporate something of his vision, his gifts, and his interests. The following is a brief summary.

Music
The Session believes that up to the present we have been able to offer in the church and the community a robust music program that has allowed for both broad participation of members and friends and for a standard of excellence. Our objective is to strive to maintain excellence in our musical offerings. We also believe we can broaden our program without sacrificing quality, even for the main worship service.

- One immediate goal that could be addressed in the coming year is to proceed quickly with the plan to refurbish and expand the church organ.

Evangelism
The key for a successful evangelism program depends largely on a well-organized, small groups program managed by well-trained and devoted leadership. Small groups are essential to the growth of the church.

- One proposal is for the Session to create a part-time ordained staff position (Assistant Pastor) that would oversee small groups, promotions, advertisement, local outreach, forums, and assist/fill in for the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor would provide supervision for this position.

- Consideration must be given to updating the website, making it more interactive and informative.

- In the Spring of 2013, WPC will host its first ever Evangelism Seminar, focusing on equipping and encouraging our members in discipleship and sharing their faith.
Missions
The mission support in Westminster is rather high for the size of its congregation and budget. In the short term, any proposed increases to the missions’ budget should be considered with this in mind. We do not want to overextend our people or siphon off resources needed for local outreach.

- Encourage participation in short-term missions that have the opportunity to have an impact and that are cost-effective relative to the effort.

Fellowship
Fellowship is essential to the growth of the Christian and of the church. We need always to maintain fellowship opportunities for men, women, and children. Various proposals have been made, including the following:

- Continue the current schedule for the men’s breakfast and church luncheons.
- Divide our youth group into two distinct groups, senior (15+) and junior (11-14). Include activities and programs appropriate to each.
- Publish an online newsletter that can be accessed by members and outsiders.

Church Planting
Over the next one to two years, the Session should re-evaluate its help to the Kingston mission church and then decide if it would be better to focus its attention on a more promising area.

- About 10 years ago, WPC established a satellite mission church in Kingston, NY. The Assistant Pastor’s primary responsibility is minister of the Kingston mission church.
- Set up a sub-committee to explore and evaluate church planting. The committee could include members from the Board of Deacons, the Kingston Mission, and WPC.
**Pulpit Vacancy**

After serving Westminster for several decades and being of retirement age, Pastor John L. Vance and his wife Marlene are moving back to his home state of West Virginia. From there both will seek new opportunities. Marlene has had a career in elder care administration and has served Westminster as church organist and pianist. Pastor Vance will seek ministry opportunities, either to start or serve another church or, as he also has done in the past, teach in college or seminary. Pastor Vance has a terminal degree in Philosophy and Religion.

**Pastor Job Description**

Position: Senior Pastor

Westminster Church seeks a Senior Pastor who loves God, loves God’s people, and cares deeply for his congregation. We seek an ordained minister with a Master of Divinity degree; he should understand and appreciate the history and theology of the Reformed faith, know our Standards, and value traditional Reformed worship. He should have full-time pastoral experience in one location for at least five years.

In the position of Senior Pastor, Westminster seeks a man who oversees the preparation of worship and leads as minister of Word and Sacrament in public worship Sunday morning and evening. Knowing that the Word of God is living and active and the bread of life, the Senior Pastor will with authority read, expound, and preach the Word of God. He will give serious attention to prayer and preparation for the preaching of God’s Word for the edification of the Church. His preaching is to be Gospel-centered, exegetical, and expositional.

We seek a man who, as a Shepherd, will watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge. We seek a servant of God who will visit the sick, counsel the troubled, and seek out the wayward. He should see to it that our covenant children are catechized and prepared for communicant membership. He should be able to offer pre-marital counseling and officiate at weddings. He must know how to comfort the grieving and officiate at funerals. He should pray with and for the people and be willing to do the work of an evangelist. We seek a Pastor who watches his life and doctrine closely and will be an example of the Gospel. We seek a man to teach and disciple us in the eternal truths of God’s Word so that we are equipped as ambassadors to testify to our faith, do what is good, advance the Kingdom of God, and follow the Great Commission of our wonderful Lord and Shepherd Jesus Christ.
Westminster seeks a Pastor who will work with the Session jointly in government, spiritual oversight, and the interests of the church. He is to work with the Session and church leaders to develop vision and mission statements. As Moderator of the Session, the Pastor should possess a clear understanding of his authority and role in relation to the Session and the Board of Deacons and provide instruction for church officers. The Senior Pastor and Session share the administrative responsibility of our church. As a particular church in the PCA, we expect our Pastor to be a member of the New York State Presbytery and to participate in its meetings, duties, and ministry.

As we look to 2013 and beyond, we welcome and anticipate what God will do through our new Pastor using his unique ministry perspective, gifts, and talents. We appreciate what God has accomplished in Westminster and look forward to where our new Pastor will lead Westminster as the great Head and King of the Church continues to build His church in this area.
### CHURCH PROFILE FORM, PART III — CONGREGATIONAL PRIORITIES

The congregation places priorities for their minister on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Low Priority</th>
<th>High Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. WORSHIP LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pastor and Session work to develop a rich worship life, educating the congregation for meaningful participation.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(The word of God is preached with urgency and conviction, bringing it to bear on the changing needs of individuals, the community, and the world. High priority of pastor's time placed on sermon preparation.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pastor shares members' struggles regarding the Christian faith, with opportunity provided for individuals and groups to reflect on beliefs, concerns, doubts regarding Christian understanding of the spiritual dimensions of life.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. CONGREGATIONAL VISITATION</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Church officers and pastor develop and carry out a systematic plan for visitation of the entire congregation with special attention to prospective members and those with special needs.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. HOSPITAL OR EMERGENCY VISITATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Those in hospitals or emergency situations are regularly visited; network developed to keep pastor and others informed of crisis situations; needs of ill or bereaved are met.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Emphasis placed in developing fellowship, helping members to know one another; groups encouraged which give members the opportunity to love and support one another.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. COUNSELING SERVICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>(A counseling program initiated for assisting those in and outside the Church; appropriate referrals made when needed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. EVANGELISM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Pastor and congregation share faith in Christ as personal Savior in total lifestyle; seek to lead others within and outside the Church to accept Jesus Christ; congregation is informed, trained, helped to establish effective evangelism programs for the church.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. ENCOURAGING THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Creative ideas and directions developed together with the Session; many persons with appropriate skills stimulated to become involved in services.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. MISSION BEYOND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Awareness of the Church's worldwide mission and opportunities for corporate and individual involvement; specific projects identified; persons challenged to support, study and/or visit mission programs on six continents.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
12. DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM
Session and pastor identify the educational needs of persons of all ages
and backgrounds, developing programs to meet needs; church
education supported; educational goals are congruent with the
total mission of the Church.)

13. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY
(Pastor accepts an active teaching role, interpreting and teaching
the Scriptures, theological concepts, history of the Church and
current events; provides instruction for Church Officers; educational
leaders, confirmands and new members.)

14. INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND ACTIVITIES
(Concern for identifying social problems in the community; work done
with groups seeking solutions. Time and skills committed to
community groups. Information and encouragement provided
which enable members to become informed and involved.)

15. ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES
(Involvement with other congregations and the denominations in the
community in presenting a united Christian witness in the
community.)

16. CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION
(Two-way communication encouraged, information gathered and
shared that will assist problem solving and decision making; varying
opinions elicited and all encouraged to listen to opposing points of
view.)

17. ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP
(Pastor accepts appropriate administrative responsibilities, in climate of
delegated tasks and shared leadership; volunteers and professional staff
encouraged to use their ideas and skills. Work done on developing
accountability.)

18. STEWARDSHIP AND COMMITMENT PROGRAMS
(Session and pastor develop a planned stewardship education
program to communicate the financial needs of the local church and
mission beyond the local church; congregation challenged to
commitment to Church's work.)

19. EVALUATION OF PROGRAM AND STAFF
(Systematic procedures used to evaluate programs and staff
performance in accord with goals and objectives. Others trained to
use these skills. Regular assessment and evaluation.)

20. CONGREGATIONAL AND DENOMINATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (Value
placed on balance between local church and Assembly responsibilities.
Congregation and Session know and are involved in the work of the
denomination.)

21. DIACONAL MINISTRIES
(Ministering to the needs of those inside and outside of the Church.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Slightly Strong</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Slightly Weak</th>
<th>Weak</th>
<th>Very Weak</th>
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<td>College &amp; Career Ministry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Pulpit Committee Members
Sabi David | Dan Elmendorf | Patricia Kay | Bob Maucher
Betty Rossetter | Ed Schrader | Curt Starr | Lori Steinberger
Linda Lou Sully

Please send correspondence to:
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Washingtonville, NY 10992
wpcnomcomm@gmail.com