

Voice of Westminster



January 2026

Transitions

Transitions are just a normal part of life; some are much more challenging than others. The beginning of a New Year is one of the transitions that is celebrated most in our culture. It is a time of celebrating what has transpired in the old year, and analyzing which values, habits, and traditions one wants to bring into the New Year, and which ones are best left behind.

This year's transition marks a somewhat more dramatic change for me than the normal passing of another year. For the first time in nearly 40 years, there will no longer be a regular drive to a location of pastoral ministry. Ministry will certainly continue, but will take on a new dimension. I want to wish all of you the very best as you move into 2026, and welcome a new pastor to help you transition to your next season of ministry. Thanks again, for *all* of your support and encouragement (in so many diverse ways) throughout my time as pastor at Westminster, and the memorable retirement send off you gave!

The following are ethical guidelines to help provide the best foundation for a fruitful year ahead!

Pastor Roger

Separation Ethics:

When Pastor and Congregation say Good-bye

The separation ethics described below seek to promote;

1. Effective leadership
2. Congregational health and stability
3. The growth of both former and new pastors, along with members, in dealing with the pain, problems, and possibilities of separation. The ability of the session and congregation to move positively and effectively toward the future

Definition: *A former pastor is one who no longer serves as pastor, associate pastor, co pastor, or in any temporary pastoral relationship in a congregation. A new pastor is one who currently serves as pastor, associate pastor, co-pastor, or in any temporary pastoral relationship in a congregation.*

The Former Pastor

The former pastor, whether his/her residence is close or distant, must guard against perpetuating close ties with the former congregation. It is incumbent upon the former pastor to ascertain that parishioners know that her/his relationship with the congregation will come to an end. The former pastor should publicly announce that he/she will no longer be available for pastoral services following the stated date of termination.

Thereafter, the former pastor shall fulfill that announced intention by declining all requests from members of the congregation for such services. In special situations, a former pastor may be called upon for services upon the invitation of the new pastor and the approval of the session. The former pastor would not ordinarily conduct services but rather would assist the new pastor at his/her direction.

If the former pastor maintains residence in the community, she/he should seek a church home in another parish. The former pastor should not be a part of the worshiping or fellowship life of the congregation except upon the initiative and invitation of the new pastor. If such an invitation is extended, it should not occur until the next installed pastor has had an opportunity to establish relationships within the congregation. When a church is without pastoral leadership (no installed or temporary pastor or Commissioned Ruling elder), a former pastor may perform pastoral duties (baptisms, weddings, funerals, or hospital visitations) only at the request of the session and with the concurrence of the COM Moderator. This relationship should immediately cease if it is in any way causing conflict within the body.

The former pastor should not be involved, in any way, in the selection process of the new pastor nor become engaged in conversations with church members or church staff which offer opinions or criticism about the life of the congregation or the performance of the new pastor.

The former pastor should help prepare the remaining staff for the impending separation, encouraging them to receive and welcome the new pastor, and making clear that she/he will not be available for counsel or advise regarding the life and ministry of the congregation. Former pastors who are elected pastor emeritus are reminded that this is an honorary title and carries no job responsibilities or privileges unless they are approved by the session.

Former pastors are still under the obligation of the presbyteries (or denomination's) sexual misconduct guidelines.

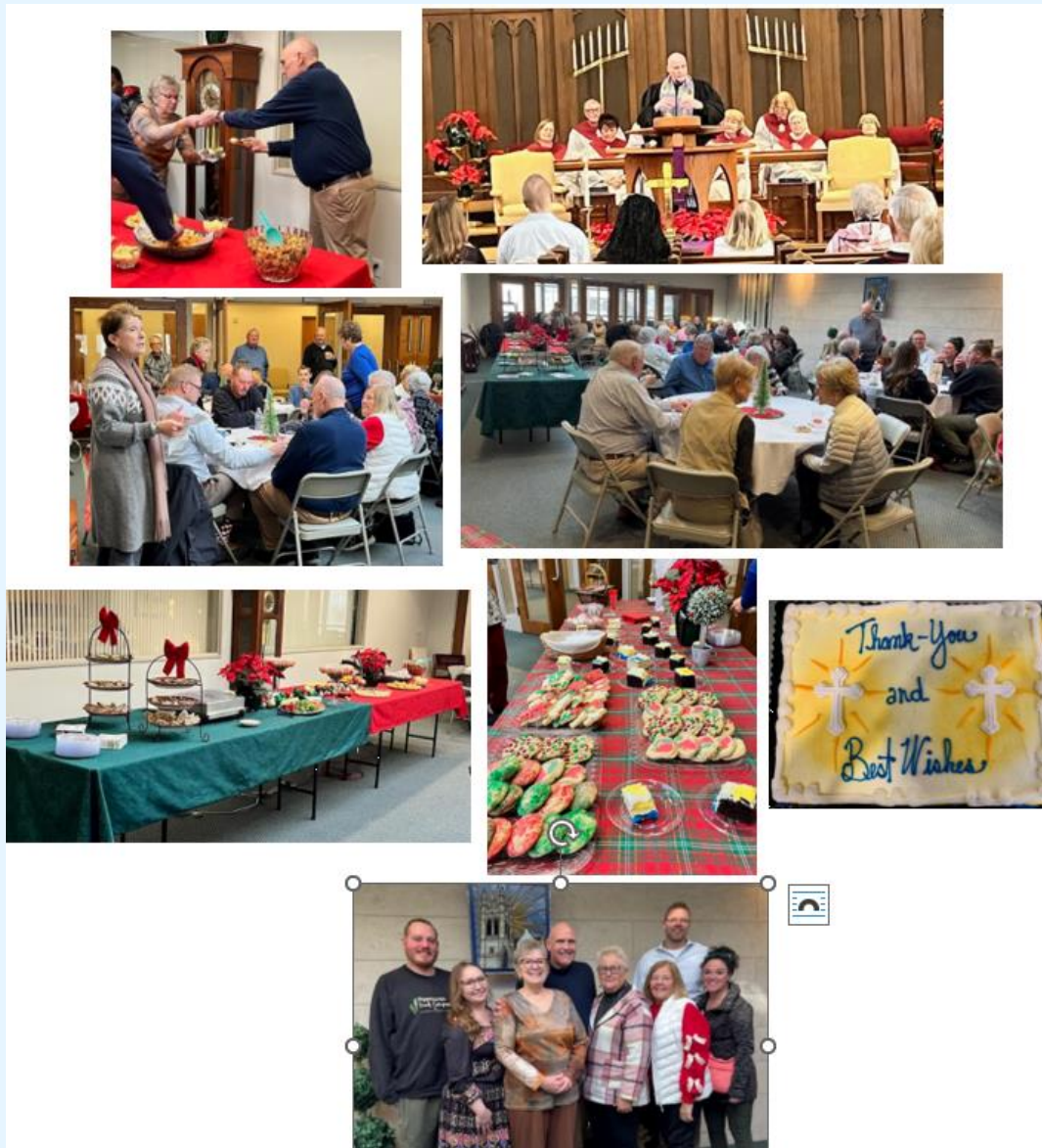
The Session

The session can assist the former pastor in interpreting the meaning of the end of a pastoral relationship to the congregation. It is appropriate for the session to arrange for an occasion when the congregation and former pastor may formally say good-bye. The session will want to be sensitive to the feeling of loss experienced by members of the congregation while demonstrating through its actions the meaning of the end of the pastoral relationship. The session can help the members by encouraging them to see this as an opportunity for growth and change. This can be a time of listening to individuals and groups as well as a time for examining the present and future life and ministry of the church. The session should grant the use of the sanctuary for baptisms, weddings or funerals in which the former pastor is to preside only at the invitation of the new pastor. The session should refrain from being critical of their former pastor or of other church members to the new pastor. Members of the Congregation Members of the congregation should remember that no matter how much they are attached to their former pastor, that person is no longer their pastor. Any desire on the part of members to have the former pastor participate in congregational life or services should be discussed not with the former pastor, but with the new pastor.

Members should not call on the former pastor for any pastoral services without first conferring with the new pastor. Any invitations to share in such services should be made by the new pastor. This does not mean that friendships must come to an end. Members of the congregations and former pastors alike should realize that there is a difference between pastoral ties and personal friendships.

The New Pastor

The new pastor can do much to prevent difficulties arising because of the presence of the former pastor. The new pastor should remember that the ties that bind the members of a congregation to a former pastor have been forged through the unique experience of the pastorate. The new pastor should recognize that the congregation's affection for the former pastor as an individual does not prevent the development of bonds with the new pastor. Further, the new pastor should refrain from any criticism of the former pastor. Conclusion Because the pastoral relationship is very important, often deeply personal, and, in some cases, life-saving to people in the congregation, the dissolution of any pastoral relationship can become a highly charged emotional event.



CHRISTMAS GATHERING/PASTOR ROGER RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On December 14 after the Sunday service the members of Westminster came together to celebrate the Christmas season and have a farewell celebration for Pastor Roger. The event was attended by many and enjoyed by all. The food, fellowship and love was abundant in the Atrium. Above are several pictures from the joyous occasion. Pastor Roger's last service was Christmas Eve. We pray for many blessings for Pastor and Jill as they enter into a new season in their life. Below is a note from Pastor Roger.

DEEP GRATITUDE: Pastor Roger and Jill wish to share their heartfelt thanksgiving for the amazing retirement reception hosted last Sunday by Westminster: for all those who helped in the design (including set-up and clean up), decorating, and delicious food prepared of the reception itself, plus the numerous cards, gifts, and kind, encouraging words expressed. It all combined for a very memorable occasion!



ANGEL TREE GIFT CARDS

Pastor Roger and Office Mgr., Lisa, delivered the Angel Tree gift cards to Foundation 2 on Tuesday, December 16. The administrator who accepted the gift cards on behalf of Foundation 2 told us how meaningful such a gift is to them. She said God does some amazing work at the Foundation and that she feels so blessed to have ended up being there to help these teens. Please keep these teens and Foundation 2 in your prayers this season.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE So much is going on at this time of year that we do not want to overlook the yeoman's work that our Office Manager, Lisa Freeman, has performed on behalf of this congregation. Lisa has gone far, far beyond the call of duty filling roles that are not part of her duties. She has performed many tasks for Roger and has handled many property issues, both not part of her job description. She has managed much of the building's use which is not in her job description. In essence she has kept Westminster running in so many ways. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to her for ALL her work. Thank you, Lisa, for your care of Westminster. the Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Westminster celebrated the birth of Jesus with a special service on Christmas Eve. Many members and their families came together for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a service where scripture and carols unfold the Christmas story. This traditional service of scripture and song really sets the Christmas mood with carols and readings. The Eastside Brass Quartet, Westminster's Chancel Choir, Pastor Marcy Roundtree and Veronica Ndungu delighted us with music. Diamond and Dynasty Roundtree graced us with a beautiful liturgical dance. We hope everyone enjoyed the service and had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year! (Don't forget to set those new year resolutions)



COMBINED SERVICE WITH WPC, B.O.L, EGPC, & NATURAL SWEDISH CHURCH

Sunday, December 21, 2025 10am brought together four congregations that all call the facility at 1285 3 rd Av. SE in Cedar Rapids, IA “home.” Using the same building as the base for their ministries, though, is not the key binding element. Beacon of Light (Pastors Dedic and Marcy Roundtree), The Evangelical Global Pentecostal Church (Pastor Theo Havugimana), The Swedish Pentecostal Church (Pastor Shartier Ntanyungu), and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Pastor Roger Grandia), gathered to celebrate the oneness they had in their Savior, Jesus Christ, the Word which became flesh to bring Light and Life to all mankind (John 1).

They celebrated being FAMILY in Christ, noting the words of Paul in Galatians 3:26-28: “ 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” As Pastor Theo (who also served as interpreter from English into Kinyarwanda) expressed “These pictures reflect Godly oneness and love. Shalom!”



Calendar: Special Events

- Jan. 1** - Office Closed / Happy New Year
Jan. 4 - Communion Sunday / Pastor Randy's first service as Interim pastor at WPC
Jan. 5 - Deacons Meet
Jan. 7 - Men's Breakfast resumes 7:30am
Jan. 7 - Choir Practice resumes 7pm
Jan. 11 - Chorale Returns to WPC for practices
Jan. 12 - Property Committee Meets - 1pm
Jan. 12 - Mission Committee Meets - 2:30pm
Jan. 19 - Finance Meets 4:30pm
Jan. 20 - Session Meets 6:30pm
Jan. 25 -WPC Annual Meeting 11am

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will be every Tuesday from 2:30 - 5 p.m. at Westminster.

Access the updated WPC calendar at crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

(Some Groups may be meeting in different locations)

Sundays

- Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 9am - Theater
 Westminster Worship 10am - Sanctuary
 Beacon of Light 11:30am - Chapel
 EGPC 11:30pm - Old Dining
 Chorale Midwest 3:00pm - Choir Rm. & Lg. Parlor
 NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium

Mondays

- Bridge 11 a.m.-4pm - FLC
 Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7pm - Atrium

This Month's Birthdays

Ken Ngombwa	January 1
Antoinette M.	January 4
Karol Cooper	January 10
Sherry Cornish	January 10
Signe Henderson	January 11
Leanne Leeper	January 15
Dureti Ali	January 15
Ann Buckheister	January 19
Jack Haney	January 28
Valerie Neubauer	January 30
Tim Winegarden	January 30
Jan Kupka	January 31



This Month's Anniversaries

Tamene Gelashe & Shuna Tosa	January 5
Jim & Louie Fine	January 26

ATTENTION - If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the specific month please contact the office so we can get your information updated.

Liturgist Schedule for August

Tuesdays

L&F Pantry 2:30 - 5pm - Downstairs
Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 7:30 am - Atrium
Prayer Shawl Ministry - 1 & 3 Wednesdays
9:30 am - Small Parlor
WPC Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm - Choir Room

Thursdays

NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium
Beacon of Light Life Groups 6pm - Chapel

Fridays

Office Closed

Saturdays

Office Closed
EGPC 10 am to 3 pm - Old Dining
Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 10am to 4pm
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11am - Atrium

January 4 - Heather Wagner
January 11 - Val Neubauer
January 18 - David Basler
January 25 - Jan Walton

Greeters

1st Sunday - Jim Fine
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
3rd Sunday -
4th Sunday - Neubauers
5th Sunday -

If you would like to greet any Sunday please in the foyer between 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Everyone is encouraged to greet anytime.



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