

Voice of Westminster



August 2026

In past months, I have summarized the five focus points of interim ministry: heritage, mission, connections, leadership and future. This month I want to expand on the "future" focus point by sharing an interim ministry timeline that unfolds in four stages.

First, I have asked Session to appoint two elders to conduct a performance review of the interim pastor's past seven months of ministry. John Swanson and Jan Kosowski volunteered to do this.

Second, a report of this review will go to Session and Personnel. Personnel will then meet to discuss the current interim contract. They will make a recommendation to the August Session meeting as to whether the contract should be renewed for another year (2027). The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and Vitality (COMV) will also have to approve this action at its next meeting.

Third, in the first half of 2027 the Session will select a Mission Study plan and implement it. The focal point of this study is asking, "What are the needs of our community and congregation, and what qualities are essential in our next pastor to help us collectively address those needs?"

Fourth, the information gained from the Mission Study will be incorporated into the congregation's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The congregation will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) whose first task will be to write the MDP, get it approved by Session and COMV, and then post it on the PCUSA's Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website. The CLC will "match" pastoral candidates whose profiles fit Westminster. Candidates may also self-refer their personal profiles. The second half of 2027 will involve the PNC doing this initial work.

The Presbytery's COMV will appoint a liaison to help guide Westminster in 2027. The interim pastor can assist with stage three but is NOT to be involved at all in stage four, apart from joining the congregation in prayer for God's blessing on the process.

Pastor Randy



JULY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 21. Some of the discussion and actions taken include the following.

Elders shared their thoughts after reading chapter 3, "The Nimble Small Church," in Allen Stanton's book, *The Gift of Small*. His basic thesis is that the primary path to change in the small church is found in informal "relational networks." Members of a small congregation more freely express themselves and ideas get hashed out in the parking lot, in the hallway, or over coffee. This is a good thing and often leads to responsive and timely action. Of course, important work still happens in committee meetings as plans are affirmed and solidified.

Session adopted a new position description for a part-time maintenance person that was written at the request of the Personnel Committee and reviewed by the Property Committee.

The Finance Committee received the report of the 2025 Financial Review conducted by Pam Richardson, as required by the Book of Order. The review included a recommendation that was passed; namely, the Mission Committee expend any locally retained funds from PCUSA special offerings to local mission causes on an annual basis.

The Property Committee shared that leaking pipes have been repaired in the boiler room, the drainage work related to the sump pump room is scheduled for August 6-7, and the start date for replacing electrical panels is still pending.

The Mission Committee completed the Presbytery's survey on the Unified Mission Pledge. They also brought a successful motion that Session temporarily combine the Education and Mission Committees to have committee oversight of Christian Education funds.

Session appointed John Swanson and Jan Kosowski to conduct a performance review of the interim Pastor and report back to Session and Personnel. Session hopes to act on a contract renewal at the August meeting.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

DEEP ROOTS, NEW GROWTH

A Workshop on Cultivating Thriving Churches

- Date: Saturday, October 17 from 10am - 3pm
- Location: First Presbyterian Church, Milan, IL
1620 1st St. W, Milan, IL 61264
- Cost: Suggested donation up to \$20 for lunch



Keynote Speaker: Rev. Josh Erickson

Leader & Co-Founder of the PCUSA Church Growth Network, which seeks to foster growth in size, vitality, and mission impact for local congregations and new faith communities so that more people experience the life-changing love of Christ.

Jointly organized and hosted by Great Rivers Presbytery and the Presbytery of East Iowa, this event will be an opportunity to share resources and ideas related to fostering church growth. In addition to a presentation and workshop from our keynote speaker, local leaders will offer additional workshops on congregational vitality.



Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/zWeK9r4TunJZkK3L9>

DEEP ROOTS, NEW GROWTH WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 17th from 10am-3pm:

Deep Roots, New Growth - a workshop on cultivating thriving churches. Similar to the event in Amana last spring, this will be an opportunity to share resources and ideas for fostering church growth and vitality. In addition to a presentation and workshop from our keynote speaker, local leaders will offer additional workshops on congregational vitality. Click here for registration and more information:

<https://forms.gle/zWeK9r4TunJZkK3L9>

Deadlines: Registration ends October 10th

Schedule:

- 9:45am: Informal Gathering
- 10:00am: Worship
- 10:30am: Presentation from Our Keynote Speaker
- 11:45am: Lunch and Tabletop Conversations
- 1:00pm: Workshops
- 2:00pm: Workshops

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Josh Erickson

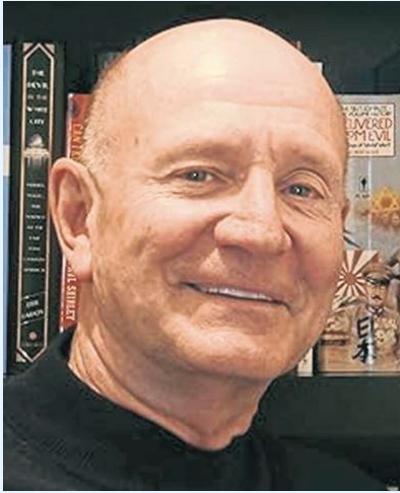
Rev. Josh Erickson is a leader and co-founder of the PCUSA Church Growth Network, which seeks to foster growth in size, vitality, and mission impact for local congregations and new faith communities so that more people experience the life-changing love of Christ. He has served in full-time ministry for 17 years, and currently as the senior pastor of Park Ridge Presbyterian Church (Park Ridge, IL).



SAVE THE DATE

**Iowa
Presbyterian
Gathering**

**Saturday, August 29
Ames Northminster**



MEN'S BREAKFAST GUEST SPEAKER

You are invited to attend Men's Breakfast at 7:30 am on Wednesday, August 5. Special guest Dr. Dave Markward, former Superintendent of CR Community School District will speak on "The History and Future of Public Schools."

Dave Markward has dedicated his professional life to public education for five decades. After graduating from Dubuque Senior High School and Augustana College, he earned advanced degrees from Western Illinois University and a doctorate from Illinois State University. His career spans

roles as a science teacher, coach, principal, and school district superintendent for the Rock Island-Milan and Cedar Rapids Community School Districts, as well as a college instructor and educational consultant.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Information: While our attention was focused on the 4th Ave. parking lot we noticed significant cracks in the 3rd Avenue parking lot pavement. In order to avoid a major future expense, those cracks will be filled and sealed, and the entire surface will be re-sealed and striped in August. Stay tuned to your e-news and announcements for parking lot closure dates.

Also on our list is a continuing problem with standing water in the basement sump pump room, also known as the dungeon. The cause was identified as insufficient drainage of the 3rd Avenue wall. Work has been contracted to rebuild the external and internal drainage systems, install a vapor barrier, and replace the sump pump. Fortunately, the original wall is in reasonably good shape. This work will begin on August 6.

Less than exciting but also an important project awaiting work schedule confirmation is some electrical work. As a result of an inspection of our building by Church Mutual Insurance, multiple electrical panel distribution panels were identified as prone to failure and pose a significant hazard. Replacement panels have been ordered, and work will begin when our electrical contractor receives the material. As of current date we still do not have a begin date.



BEAR CREEK

AN OVERNIGHT RETREAT AT CAMP BEAR CREEK

Join us for an overnight opportunity at Camp Bear Creek! Folks will gather as early as 1pm on Friday, September 18th for a time of prayer, camp activities, fellowship, and restful solitude.

 **EVENT DETAILS**

 **LOCATION**

Date: Sept 18th at 1:00pm
- Sept 19th at 10:00am

Camp Bear Creek
(9106 42nd Ave, Wyoming,
IA 52362)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Cost: \$45 per person

Space is limited to 15 private rooms
(which may be reserved for individuals or couples).

Registration Deadline: September 11th

REGISTER ONLINE NOW:
<https://forms.gle/npK1HBMDqx6AJe256>




LOAVES & FISHES UPDATE

It is getting **BIGGER**: Currently Loaves & Fishes is the largest mission of our congregation. Unfortunately this mission continues to grow as the number of clients served continues to grow.

Years ago, 40 - 80 clients being served on any given Tuesday afternoon was a typical day. Today we are serving 200 - 270 on most days.

People are struggling, our homeless population continues to increase, and our government's care of the vulnerable continues to decline.

Let there be no doubt that in serving "the least of these" we are serving our Lord.

Jan Kosowski, L & F Director



Calendar: Special Events

Aug. 2 - Communion Sunday
Aug. 3 - Deacons Meet
Aug. 5 - Guest Speaker at Men's Breakfast
 NO August Property Meeting
Aug. 15 - B.O.L Back to school giveaway
 - Noon in West Parking lot
Aug. 17 - Finance Meets 4:30pm
Aug. 18 - Session Meets 6:30pm

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

Access the updated WPC calendar at crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 9am - Classroom
 Westminster Worship 10 am - Sanctuary
 Beacon of Light 11:30 am - Chapel
 EGPC 11:3 am - Old Dining
 NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5 pm - Atrium

Mondays

Staff Meeting 11 am - Pastor's Office
 Bridge 11 am-4 pm - FLC
 Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7 pm - Atrium

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 7:30 am - Atrium
 Prayer Shawl - 1 & 3 Wednesdays 9:30 am

Thursdays

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



This Month's Birthdays

Lee Anne Hataway	August 3
Connie Hayes	August 7
Flora Kitzman	August 13
Don Hoepner	August 19
Dave Cosgrove	August 20
Suzanne Huebsch	August 22
Marjorie Bjornsen	August 24
Larry Cooper	August 24
Jim Patterson	August 25
Jan Perkins	August 27
Bob Warner	August 30



This Month's Anniversaries

Tom & Barb Read	August 16
Bob & Kathy Moore	August 21
Ed & Jan Kosowski	August 23

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

August 2 - David Basler
August 9 - Heather Wagner
August 16 - Barb Mumford
August 23 - Ed Mumford
August 30 - Pam Richardson

Fridays

Office Closed

EGPC 8 pm First Fri. of mth. Women's overnight
prayer

Saturdays

Office Closed

EGPC 10 am to 3 pm - Old Dining
Natural Swedish Pentecostal Church 10 am to 4
pm
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11 am - Atrium
EGPC 7 pm last Sat. of mth. Men's overnight
prayer

Greeters

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

**If you would like to greet any Sunday
please be in the foyer between
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.
Everyone is encouraged to greet
anytime.**



Westminster Presbyterian Church | 1285 3rd Ave SE-Cedar Rapids, IA | 319.366.7185 | crwpc.org

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