
INTRODUCING JEN STRICKLAND, OUR CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We have a great reason to celebrate! The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting every week since October. We reviewed the dossiers of 100 candidates, and we interviewed eight. I worked closely with the APNC, and we all agreed: we were searching for the one candidate who would stand out from all the rest. We were not going to stop until our whole group felt that special sense of calling of this candidate to Westminster.



We are delighted to introduce Jen Strickland as our candidate for associate pastor at Westminster. Inside you will find much more important information about her. We are highly enthusiastic about presenting her to you. The gifts of grace that God has given her fit extremely well with the position the congregation developed last year.

I believe Jen Strickland has the strong gifts that an associate pastor needs in order to help us move forward with the vision God has given to Westminster.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Andrew
McDonald

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, July 14** after 10:30 a.m. worship for the purpose of voting on a call to Jennifer Strickland as associate pastor at Westminster. We hope you will be able to be present at this meeting. Ms. Strickland will preach at both services. Following each service, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall to give everyone a chance to meet Jen personally.

MEET OUR CANDIDATE

After eight months of research, discernment, and prayer, it is with great joy that your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee presents and recommends to you **Jennifer Lyn Strickland** as our candidate for Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Born and raised in a small town in Ohio, Jen graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a degree in Mass Communications and Creative Writing. She headed west to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and a Master of Arts in English at Chapman University. It was upon completion of these degrees that Jen felt a strong call to ministry and moved to the East Coast to attend Princeton Theological Seminary. Jen graduated with her Master of Divinity in May of 2012 and moved to Kansas City to work for the Heartland Presbytery office before taking a position as the Interim Youth Director of Village Presbyterian Church.

During her time in New Jersey, Jen served the church in several positions that have provided a foundation of experience for ministry at Westminster. As a CPE Chaplain Intern at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, she engaged one-on-one with patients, led interfaith worship, and developed the art of crisis ministry.

As a Pastoral Associate Intern at Broad Street Ministry and Arch Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, and later at Liberty

Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio, Jen had the opportunity to write prayers and liturgy in addition to sermons, and help plan and lead alternative styles of worship. She created and led One Community, a monthly congregational fellowship night, designed and led Bible studies, and taught adult education classes.

Jen currently serves as Interim Youth Director of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kan., a multi-staff church of 4800 members. In this position, she writes the curriculum for the confirmation class, creates lesson plans for Sunday School, and plans and leads high school and middle school youth groups. Jen also developed a creative fellowship program for middle schoolers at an ice cream shop and the Café Connection for high school youth. Jen supervises a staff of four and works with them to plan fundraisers for the youth department. She frequently serves as a guest preacher for churches in Kansas and Missouri.

Jen has served the mission of the PC(USA) by leading mission trips to the Dominican Republic and to Detroit. She led youth in serving meals at a community mission house, and served coffee and delivered clothing at a homeless café. Jen's internship at Broad Street Church in Philadelphia, where half the membership is homeless, provided a unique opportunity for outreach in an urban setting. At Village Church, Jen planned volunteer days at nearby retirement communities.

Throughout the years, she has served as a volunteer at summer camps and as an English as a Second Language tutor for disadvantaged children, worked on Habitat for Humanity projects, and volunteered at the annual Goodfellows Holiday Drive.

The primary areas of responsibility for the new Associate Pastor at Westminster are:

- Community building, with a special focus on young adults in the 20-40 age group;
- To help develop and grow a new alternative style of worship to complement the continuing traditional service;
- Adult education; and
- Outreach and mission.

From the very first video conference interview with Jen, the APNC has felt that she is uniquely qualified to provide leadership in these areas. When asked to identify three adjectives to describe herself, Jen chose "compassionate," "creative," and "genuine," and her warmth and compassion truly radiated right through that video connection. Her greatest passion in life is to "live out radical hospitality," deepening her own hospitality and empowering others to be hospitable, with a special focus on the 20- and 30-something age group. Jen's creativity, artistic talent, and experience as an actress complement her experience in planning and leading alternative styles of worship, and she is eager to develop and lead adult education that is interesting and intellectually stimulating.

On a more personal note, Jen loves good conversations, vegetarian cooking, foreign and classic films, reading, summer and autumn, writing short stories and sermons, snowboarding, spending time with her dogs and other four-legged friends, practicing American Sign Language, dancing, yoga, hiking, traveling to new places, Instagram, and thrift stores. Jen put herself through graduate school by working as an actress in commercials and print ads, and by

selling several short stories to literary magazines. She is outspoken about women's and minority rights.

Jen has an older brother named Eric; he and his wife Jonelle live in Orange County, Calif., and are expecting their first child this fall. Her parents, Ken and Kim, are both retired and live in her hometown of St. Marys, Ohio. Jen met fellow graduate Jacob Buchholz while both were students

at Princeton; they are excited to begin a new chapter of their lives together in Lincoln. Rev. Buchholz is the co-founder of a Deaf church in Kansas City and is the executive director of development for Deaf International, a Christian non-profit organization that works in the Deaf community.

The APNC feels that Jennifer Strickland is an outstanding candidate for Associate Pastor at Westminster.

(cont. p. 4)

COMMENTS FROM THE APNC:

"Jen has an impressive academic background, earning three master's degrees before the age of 30, and she has displayed a solid foundation in Reformed theology and a willingness to explore new ideas."

- Carol Bishop

"Jen has the heart, the drive, the passion, and the vision that Westminster desires in order to continue to grow and develop our church community."

- Chris Campbell Eells

"After meeting Jen, I understood why this process is referred to as 'a call'; God helped us journey to Jen, who radiates creativity, compassion, warmth, spirit, intellect, and dedication to hospitality - everything we were hoping to find in an associate pastor and more."

- Jody Kellas

"In our first face-to-face meeting, I found Jen to be very engaging and enthusiastic about her calling."

- Bob Michaud

"Jen's personality fits perfectly as Westminster looks to build its young adult ministry, and as one of her references stated, 'Jen will absolutely flourish in a caring congregation.'"

- Todd Peterson

"Jen displays abundant poise, maturity, and confidence for a young lady."

- Shalla Young

"A wonderful individual - Westminster is truly blessed to have crossed paths with Jen Strickland."

- Walker Zulkoski

"Jen is delightful and will make a wonderful addition to the staff. She has the gifts an associate pastor needs to help us fulfill our congregational goals."

- Rev. Andrew McDonald

Meet Our Candidate - cont.

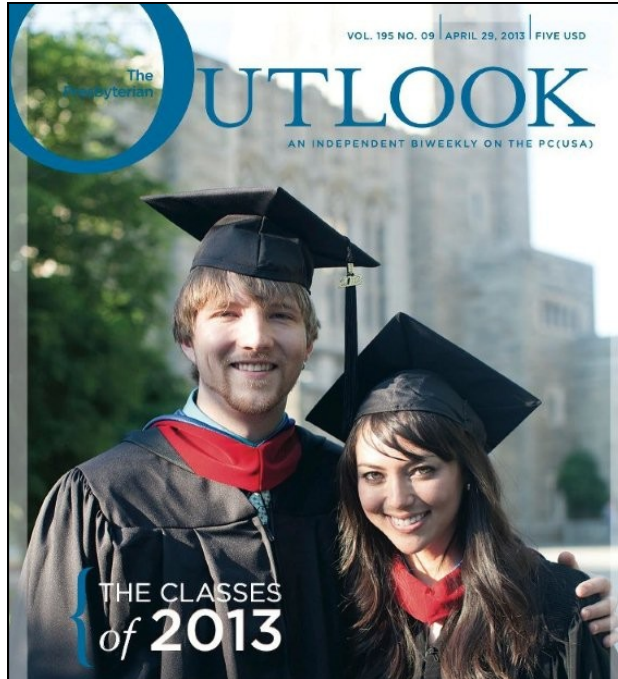
We, as your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, are excited to present Jennifer Strickland and believe that with her experience, enthusiasm, and energy, she is an excellent choice to help us build relationships among members, expand our program for young adults, offer creative worship experiences, and provide adult education opportunities for all ages.

*Carol Bishop, Chris Campbell Eells, Jody Kellas, Bob Michaud,
Todd Peterson, Shalla Young, Walker Zulkoski*

A Word from Jen:

In Romans 8:28, Paul writes, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose." It is a verse I have clung to over the years, a verse that has comforted me when all things seemed to be working together to rain on my parade (or, in some instances, cancel my parade altogether), as well as a verse I have lifted up in praise during times of great joy.

It is a verse that reminds me God goes before me and is always alongside me, knitting together a beautiful tapestry of my life, which includes my mistakes, my triumphs, my missteps, and my achievements. It reminds me that God remains God and my job is to rejoice in that fact, to be thankful about it, and to share that good news with others. And



it is a verse I thought of often during my search process, as I prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide me to the church where I could best share my gifts, connect with the community,

and begin a new chapter of ministry. I knew right away that Westminster was such a place, and with each conversation I had with APNC members, my sense of call grew stronger.

So it is with great delight that I now repeat Romans 8:28 and invite you to celebrate with me the way all things have worked together for good in this process of discernment for all

of us. I look forward to meeting new friends and becoming part of the dynamic family at Westminster.

- Jen Strickland

The Messenger is a monthly publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church

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PILLARS AND TRADITIONS: WESTMINSTER AND LOHMEN



At left: Friends from Lohmen, Germany, will visit Westminster Aug. 3-10.

Clockwise from top left: Clara-Elly, Curt, Anett, and Tilo Opitz; Michael, Brigitte, Sarah, and Raphael Schleintz; Tony Burghardt; Jens, Franz, Kathi, and Martha Michel; Christian Cornelissen.

(Photo courtesy Tom Pappas.)

Next month, Westminster will be visited by 14 of our friends from Lohmen, a village in the heart of the former East German Republic.

When Lincolmites made their first group visit to Lohmen, the year was 1989 and the Berlin wall was intact. The group from Westminster was still on the Communist side of the wall when it came down.

Dozens of Christians have traveled both directions - east to Europe and west to the United States - to share faith, cultures, and friendships over the years. Several constants anchor the visits there in Germany, or here in Lincoln:

- We always share rich times together in worship.
- We work side by side in mission.

- We enjoy friendliness and hospitality by scheduling the best activities to showcase local culture and daily life.
- We enjoy a delicious traditional meal prepared and hosted by the visitors.

This year, the group of Lohmen travelers includes pastors Brigitte and Michael Schleinitz. We are told Michael is an accomplished cook, so put Aug. 7 on your calendar for a fabulous German meal at *Veh Ob Veh* - how a German would pronounce WOW.

It has been our experience that German people are quite knowledgeable about American history, politics, and culture. Our visitors in 2004 descended on the Macy gift shop and nearly emptied it of souvenirs.

Most Germans also have a high fascination with Native Americans. It is our good fortune that the Indian Center will have a pow-wow during the Lohmen group's first weekend here in Lincoln; we plan to attend.

Several of the Lohmen teens indicate that swimming is a favorite activity, so we've planned a swim outing for Aug. 9 at Gene and Bess Armstrong's lake house.

Everyone is welcome to join these and many other activities. Please make a promise to yourself to make your perception of God's world bigger and more beautiful by taking part in any way you can. The next chapter of the Lincoln-Lohmen adventure will be written **Aug. 3-10!**

WATCH FOR NEW SMALL GROUPS!

In May, Small Groups Ministry set up an information booth in the Garden Room in order to help Westminster members become aware of and involved with Small Group activities. As a result of these efforts, new groups are now emerging!

One of the new groups that will soon be seen at Westminster is **“Genesis to Guinness,”** a men’s counterpart to Ladies’ Night Out, with a theme or study topic discussed at meetings with liquid refreshments. Geoff Cline will lead the group as it evolves. This new Small Group will provide a great opportunity for men to meet new friends, study, and enjoy fellowship. The first gathering is planned for late August. Watch for details!

Another Small Group to watch for this fall is **“Disciples Making a Difference.”** Are you doing all that God is calling you to do in this life? Are you unsure of what God’s purpose is for you? You may gain better insight to answering these questions by attending group study of “Disciples Making a Difference,” a set of handouts composed three years ago by Gene Armstrong and other Westminster members. This group will meet for six weeks on Wednesday evenings following the WOW dinner. Come to the

Lounge at 6:30 p.m. beginning Aug. 28 for study and discussion led by Bruce Sheffield.

The word “disciple” comes from the Latin word *discipulus*, which means “a follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime.” As believers today, we are disciples, but the question remains: are we simply trying to live a pious life, or are we actively helping each other and our neighbors as God intended? During this six-week study, we will explore God’s call to us and how we heard the call, how to work as a team, doubts and questions we may have, and finding our gifts and special abilities. This study should help us put our belief and faith into action and *make a difference!*



Small Groups Ministry is always willing to help people participate in the life of the church and form new friendships by making a connection with an existing group or helping start a new group. Suggestions for new Small Groups are always welcome!

For more information, contact:

Bruce Sheffield
402.783.0394

Robyn Uebele
937.935.6858

Love dogs? Join the Pack! - July 27

“The Barky Parky Pack” is a new Small Group organized for church members to gather and socialize in a casual outdoor environment with their dogs and families at a local dog park. Our first Pack gathering will be held on **Saturday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m.** at **Rickman’s Run Dog Park** (3701 70th St., east of Holmes Lake Park). There is a separate fenced-in grassy area for smaller dogs and a larger, 3-acre fenced-in area for dogs of all sizes. Ample parking, picnic tables and benches, Porta Potties, and areas with shade, grass, and water are all available at the park. When entering and leaving the park, please remember to keep your dog leashed!

Contact **Robyn Uebele** at **937.935.6858** with questions or for more information about this new Small Group.

SPEND TIME SERVING OTHERS THIS SUMMER

Seeking a fulfilling volunteer opportunity for the summer? Look no further than Westminster's own outreach projects! Consider serving dinner at The Gathering Place or Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach.

Westminster serves dinner at **The Gathering Place** on the second Friday of each month. Volunteers arrive at 4:45 p.m. and serve dinner from 5 to 6

p.m. After dinner, volunteers are asked to help with light cleanup and are usually finished by 6:15 p.m. The Gathering Place is an ideal opportunity for families to volunteer together; it works best with six to eight people at a time.

Every other month, Westminster volunteers cook and serve dinner for 100-130 people at **Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach**.

Cooks usually arrive at 3:30 p.m.; those who are serving arrive around 4:45 p.m. After dinner, volunteers clean the kitchen, wash dishes, and sweep the floor, usually finishing around 7 p.m.

To offer your time and talents for either of these outreach projects, contact Judy Roper by email at judy.roper@yahoo.com.

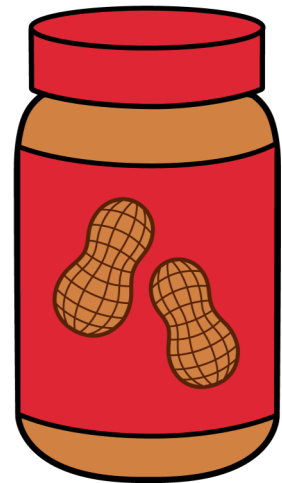
It's Peanut Butter Month at the Food Pantry!

July has been designated Peanut Butter Month for the Westminster Food Pantry! When you shop for yourselves, please remember to pick up an extra jar of peanut butter (any type will do!) to donate to the pantry, along with your regular grocery donations.

If you've ever wondered about the journey a donated food item takes once it leaves your caring hands, consider a single jar of peanut butter. This jar arrives in the pantry donation box by the east entrance stairs at the church. Next, we place it with other jars of peanut butter on the pantry shelves. Six of these jars are packed in boxes each week by volunteers; these six boxes will be sent to six different families. Each week on Tuesday, a representative from the People's City Mission makes a stop at Westminster and loads up those packed boxes to take back to the Mission, which keeps lists of local people who are eligible to receive one of these boxes of food. Unfortunately, the need for food boxes is greater than what can be provided by our pantry and others around the city. A family may only receive a food box once every two months.

You can help hungry local families! Remember to pick up an extra jar of peanut butter for the pantry when you shop this month. (You might consider a jar of jelly to go along with it, too!) Boxes with lids are also always needed for packing the food, and monetary donations (so we can supplement our food stores) are always welcome and needed as well.

Thanks for your continued support! If you have any questions about this wonderful outreach ministry, please don't hesitate to ask us.



- Hank and Nora Hinrichs

KEEP YOUR MIND SHARP THIS SUMMER

WITH EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Sinning Like a Christian

Adult Ed moderator **Ernie Hines** continues leading study and discussion of William H. Willimon's *Sinning Like a Christian: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins* on Sunday mornings in July. Willimon's book calls sin "an offense against the way the Creator has created us to be," and addresses each of the seven traditional deadly sins in intriguing new ways. Join us in the **Lounge**!

Westminster Bible Class

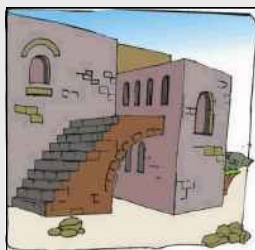
Join us in the **Parlor** for a study session from *The Present Word*.

- July 7 "Temple Restored," Ezra 3:8-11; led by **Steve Carveth**
- July 14 "Dedication of the Temple," Ezra 6:13-22; led by **Bill North**
- July 21 "Fasting and Prayer," Ezra 8:21-23; led by **Steve Solomon**
- July 28 "Gifts for the Temple," Ezra 8:24-30; led by **Steve Solomon**

Mondays at 11 a.m.

Matthew on Mondays

Continue study of the Gospel according to Matthew with **Rev. Dr. Ken Moore** on Mondays in July! New members are always welcome to join this in-depth faith-enhancing class - come to the **Lounge**.



Summer Sunday school classes continue! (10:45 a.m.)

Summer Sunday school meets after the Children's Conversation during 10:30 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary.

Throughout the summer session, preschool-age children in **Kindergarten of Eden** will continue to explore the "Fruits of the Spirit" through interactive lessons and "Character Builders," an animated video series. In these fully-animated episodes, children will enjoy learning valuable lessons, important spiritual truths, and positive character traits through heartwarming stories and fun-filled songs.

In **Faith Village**, children in grades K-5 will continue to focus on in-depth study of the Ten Commandments. These children will journey through this part of their faith adventures with a fantastic animated film series and other exciting activities in order to understand God's Commandments at their own level.

NEWS NOTES

WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesdays; 6:45 a.m. in the Parlor

- July 2** "Restaurants We Remember," presented by James L. McKee, president, J & L Lee Company
- July 9** Bible study, led by Dr. McDonald
- July 16** "Economic Development Update," presented by Walker Zulkoski, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- July 23** Bible study, led by Rev. Ellen Davis
- July 30** "The New Face of Energy Independence," presented by Mark Whitehead, president, Whitehead Oil Company
-

GET READY FOR THE BOOK SALE!

June has come and gone; July will be over before we know it. Then it will be August, which means time for the annual Book Sale! Get busy checking your basements, attics, garages, closets, toy boxes, and other nooks and crannies for books, videos, DVDs, puzzles, games, and CDs to donate. Box up those items and leave them in the Library **no later than Aug. 15**. We'll take it from there. Proceeds from the sale support the Library; any unsold items are donated to the People's City Mission. Mark **Aug. 18-25** on your calendar, and remember to shop early and often to pick up the best bargains!

All In The Family:

- *Baptisms*: Annabelle Grace, daughter of Sara and Josh Lovell.
- *Bereavements*: Comfort for the family and friends of Elsie Carrier, who died on May 23.

Enjoy Prairie Readers' triple treat: July 17

This month, Prairie Readers will explore three books by the much-loved Montana author Ivan Doig: *English Creek*; *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*; and *Ride with Me, Mariah Montana*. Read one or more of these books and join us for discussion led by Diana Wild, Judy White, Linda Burchard, and Weston Crawford.. All book lovers are invited to join the lively literary discussion at **1 p.m.** in the **Parlor** on **July 17**. Questions can be directed to **Faye Moulton** (402.423.7608).

South Branch Library presents Jeff Quinn's magical style: July 16

On **Tuesday, July 16**, magician Jeff Quinn will present another family-friendly magic show at Westminster as part of Lincoln City Libraries' Summer Reading Program for Children. Quinn's show will tie in with LCL's themes for the program and feature tricks about mining, digging, holes, and other things from beneath the surface. Join the fun at **2 p.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**!

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

The following members celebrated birthdays during June and renewed or became members of the Foundation Birthday Club:

Marybell Avery	Joyce Baird
Steve Carveth	Samantha Davis
Carol Jean Glenn	Pat Hackley
Dan Hoffman	Marcia Hollestelle
Sandy Howerter	Stu Howerter
Kent Jagers	Lesley Jagers
Kim Kubick	Earl Lampshire
Ginger Nissen	Francy Scheele
Roy Scheele	Herb Schliesser
Pat Sinkey	Faye Webert
Neal Wilson	



Join us this summer for
CREATIVE ARTS CAMP

JULY 15-19 **9 a.m.-noon**
Kindergarten-Grade 5 (in fall)
(3 classes: Kindergarten, 1-2 grade, 3-5 grade)



KINGDOM QUEST!

“Seek first the kingdom of God....” Matthew 6:33

Hear ye, Hear ye! Explore your artistic gifts in a variety of art forms with **Medieval themed** activities.

Each class will be directed by an expert in the area from the community!

ASSEMBLY: Listen to Words of Wisdom and get ready for our quest!

ART: Enjoy multi-media creation

CRAFT: Let the fun begin (as children arrive, engage in an exciting activity)

MOVEMENT: Use your whole body for expression. Great exercise!

MUSIC/SKIT: Learn fun rhythms and songs and a skit



\$45 per Child/\$100 max per family

Partial Scholarship Available

- ❖ Extended care is available through Westminster Preschool for \$10/day. Your child (up to age 12) can stay at Westminster before and after CAC (7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.); special activities will be available. Children will need to bring a lunch.

Reservation is required prior to the camp week. Please make note on your check (memo: CAC extended care)

Register online at westminsterlincoln.org.

Contact Masako Nakamura Bacon: masako@westminsterlincoln.org or 475-6702 x111

*Please cut the portion below and return with a check made out to:
Westminster Presbyterian Church CAC; 2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502*

CREATIVE ARTS CAMP 2013 REGISTRATION

Child's Name: _____ Grade (in fall): _____ Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Address (with ZIP code): _____

Special Needs/Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact

Name/Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Office Use Only

Paid _____ Check # _____

Date _____ Initials _____

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

Westminster Presbyterian Church | 2110 Sheridan Blvd. | Lincoln NE 68502

God has given to each of us certain talents and gifts that are to be utilized for the glory of Jesus Christ. Please consider the gifts and talents of our church community and recommend those who you feel are qualified for these offices. You may also recommend yourself. All active members are eligible.

Please talk to one of these committee members if you have questions: Shelley Kuzma, Francy Scheele, Bob Schoettger, Nancy Stuckey, Grace Willnerd, Gail McNair, moderator, and Dr. Andrew McDonald (ex officio).

Nominee: _____

Office: (circle any that apply) Foundation Session Deacon Usher Nominating Committee

Name of person submitting nomination: _____

Phone number where the Nominating Committee can reach you if they have questions: _____

What qualities make this nominee eligible for the office?

It would be helpful for you to tell us what specific gifts they have. All nominees should have qualifications which include: cooperativeness, openness, maturity of judgment, willingness to learn, regular attendance at worship and ability to follow through on assignments.

Nominees should have unique characteristics:

Foundation: (6 year term) Record of financial support of Westminster and demonstrated marketing or financial expertise.

Session: (3 year term) Willingness to chair a Session committee or ministry during their term; ability to recruit members for a committee; demonstrated leadership abilities (whether at Westminster, in business, or other civic involvement) and ability to “agree to disagree” and move on after airing a minority view.

Deacon: (3 year term) Deacons are ordained to serve those who are in need in a very direct and personal way. Also need a desire to share the sense of fellowship and camaraderie among the Deacons.

Usher: (3 year term) Ushers offer a genuine sense of welcome and help to create a place and attitude of meaningful worship.

Nominating Committee: (1 year term) The mission of the Nominating Committee is to search for the future leaders of Westminster. The Nominating Committee is a committee of the congregation.



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westminsterlincoln.org

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT AT WESTMINSTER!

Exciting things are coming! In addition to the arrival of our new associate pastor, we have an exciting array of programs coming this fall. *Help us share the excitement!*

Next month, we want every member to invite someone to visit Westminster.

We have a special goal: to have our members invite 150 people (or more!) to visit us on **Sunday, Aug. 18 - Genesis Sunday.**



We promise to prepare a wonderful day that will introduce our guests to Westminster at its best! That includes worship, music, games, education, great food, and much more!

This month, think about and pray about someone you know who would be blessed to discover the wonderful Christian community at Westminster.

Then email Marge@westminsterlincoln.org and tell her the names of the friends you will invite. We will be ready to give them an enthusiastic welcome when they arrive!

**Jesus called us to share the good news.
Now it is our time to share the good news of Westminster!**