

The Annual Report for the Year 2019



Westminster Presbyterian Church

presented at

**The Annual Meeting of the
Congregation and Corporation**

February 23, 2020

**The Annual Report
for the Year 2019
Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Statistical Report Membership Statistics for 2019

Total Communicant Membership as reported December 31, 2018

291

Additions during 2019

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
By Certificate	1		1		2
Reaffirmation	2		5		7
Profession					
Confirmation	3		2		5
Other					
TOTAL					14

Losses during 2018

By Death	0		4		4
By Certificate	1		1		2
Other	13		16		29
TOTAL					35

Total Communicant Membership as reported December 31, 2019

270

Affiliate Members Male: 0 Female: 0 Total: 0

*Into the Church Triumphant
Mary Virginia Dumont, Shirley Taylor, Elaine Tilton, Kay Yale*

Child Baptisms 1
Adult Baptisms 1
Marriages 0

Attendance Figures

		<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Average Sunday (not summer)		101	85
Average Sunday (summer)		73	63
	Total Worshippers	4586	3848
Ash Wednesday		21	11
Palm Sunday		131	73
Maundy Thursday		17	25
Good Friday		N/A	N/A
Easter Sunday		271	218
World Communion Sunday		77	70
Longest Night		8	6
Christmas Eve		269	177
Christmas Sunday (Sunday After)		105	40

**Report of the Clerk of Session
For the Year 2019
Anne Carney, Clerk of Session**

Members of the Session

Myles Altimus	Nicole Aronson	Tom Buckley
Anne Carney	David Hall	Avery MacKellar-Nogueira
Heather McBride	Len Oshinskie	Barbara Riihimaki
Jenna Sheridan		

Moderator: The Reverend Julie Emery.

On March 10, 2020 our “new” Session committee structure will be two years old. During that time we have grown, learned, prayed and discerned. It hasn’t always been easy, needless to say. But as of the end of 2019 our leadership teams are functioning well and faithfully. Please see the individual team reports for more detailed information.

Our focus has been on how to demonstrate love of God, neighbor and self. We are committed to walking with the congregation of Westminster so that we can continue our vital mission to do God’s work in this wonderful but hurting world. We know that we are not always successful in communicating with the congregation and we always strive to do better. Please come talk to us about your hopes and concerns.

Some of our noteworthy actions in 2019 include:

- Welcoming nine new members
- Learning about Cultivated Ministry as a way to help us evaluate our programs in ways other than using numbers
- Taking an active role in the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) with 60 members attending the founding celebration in October
- Receiving a Confirmation class of 5 youth
- Voting to become a More Light church so that in partnership with More Light Presbyterians we can truly welcome and accept the LGBTQIA+ community.

This is my third and final year as Clerk of Session for Westminster. I continue to be astounded by the love and fellowship expressed by our community, not only to one another but to our neighbors. I am grateful for the wisdom and dedication of Westminster’s Leadership Team and am privileged to share in our ministry together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Carney, Clerk

**The Rev. Julie Emery
Pastor/Head of Staff**

Dear Westminster,

As I look back upon this past year, I find myself overwhelmed by the vibrant and exciting ministry taking place through our church. Westminster continues to adapt to our changing culture, meeting people where they are and offering the joy and love of the Gospel, while also remaining a steady presence of faith and witness in our community. Truly, Westminster is living proof of a loving God.

In 2019 we continued our organizational shift to be more flexible and open to participation. This has meant developing six overarching teams: Worship, Sustain, Flourish, Engage, Care and Serve. Led by Elders and Deacons, yet open to the participation of all, each team oversees and manages the ministries of Westminster. This new structure has allowed us to connect formerly siloed committees, streamline our work and has gathered larger groups of people to share the workload, as many hands make our efforts light and joyful.

Any shift in organization will take some adjustments and time to work well. However, in our second season of the new structure we have begun to find strong footing. New teams are balancing the former ways of doing things with being open to new ideas and ways of being the church. This flexibility has better enabled us to more fully reach out into our community while we continue to make our church home a place of hospitality and grace.

And we have done this with great success in 2019. In the last year, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Westminster has:

- ◆ Sent 25 people to serve alongside the people of Puerto Rico so that they might continue to rebuild after the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria.
- ◆ Served 75-100 people lunch each month at Loaves and Fishes and 85 people dinner each month at South Park Inn. (That's over 2000 people served this year!!)
- ◆ Supported over 60 children and youth in growing in faith and offering a safe, faithful and loving community where they are affirmed as beloved children of God in CHAOS events, LIFT, child-friendly worship stations and mission work.
- ◆ Helped to lead almost 100 youth from all over West Hartford in mission, fellowship and connection through the WeHaYouth Group.
- ◆ Visited and cared for 20 aging church members throughout the year through our visitation program, offering home community and church connection.
- ◆ Welcomed nearly 200 community members each week, offering a safe haven to gather and find connection in their struggle with alcoholism, eating disorders and mental health struggles through AA, OA, and support groups.
- ◆ Offered approximately 2000 community members hospitality in the use of our building for fellowship, music enjoyment, and play each month. Groups included the Scout Troop 163, YMCA, The Musical Club of Hartford, local indoor soccer groups and the Presbytery of Southern New England.

Not only that, in 2019 Westminster:

- ◆ Added our name to the growing network of More Light Churches, officially affirming our commitment to LBGTQIA+ inclusivity and welcome, and worked to educate our congregation on what it looks like to be an inclusive and affirming church.
- ◆ Created a church logo, drawing upon our history and affirming our future as a relational, transformational church.

(Pastor Report continued...)

- ◆ Shared our innovative LIFT ministry with the wider church world at NEXT Church and the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.
- ◆ Helped to found the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, bringing 60 people to the Founding Event, gathering and training 6 core team leaders, and made a significant financial commitment to the ongoing work of justice for the Greater Hartford community.
- ◆ Engaged in the work of anti-racism through study, discussion and training and education for our pastor and members of our leadership so that as a people of faith we can continue to work toward an anti-racist community and world.

It is true, there are many aspects of our church that do not look the same as they once did. We have shifted the seating in our sanctuary to be more dynamic and geared toward building relationships. The choir has moved out of the choir loft and into the congregation, to better support congregational singing and community connection. We have said goodbye to old friends who have moved on and welcomed new friends who have found a spirit of joy and welcome in our community. And yet, while some things have changed, we remain a steady force of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a broken and hurting world.

Even while we are doing so much exciting and impactful work for Christ in this place, Westminster's financial health remains precarious. The Session has had many conversations this year about our need to increase our income in order to cover the costs of ministry. As the costs of doing ministry grow, our pledged income has not kept pace, which has necessitated a larger draw-down from our endowment than is sustainable long-term. This truth weighs heavily on the hearts of the leaders of Westminster. And yet, again and again we have affirmed the good work happening at Westminster, and our desire to continue moving into the future with hope and faith.

We believe that God is at work in our ministry and in our community at Westminster Church. We believe God continues to call us to be salt and light so that we might share God's love and justice in our community and world. I remain inspired and blessed by the courageous commitment of the leadership at Westminster. I am so grateful to be in ministry alongside such faithful people.

I welcome the future of Westminster with great hope and anticipation, for God continues to be alive and at work in this place.

With faith and hope,

Julie

Ministry Areas

Worship

The Worship team supports our pastor in offering creative and vital worship that invites and engages people of all ages and backgrounds, welcoming the people of God into praise, lament, singing and prayer in the communal worship of God.

Guiding Scripture: Psalm 100, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”

Elders: Avery MacKeller-Nogueira and Jenna Sheridan

Dr. Stuart Paul Duncan **Minister of Music**

The year 2019 was a stellar year for spiritually-engaged music, for our choral and bell choirs, and for celebrating the gifts and talents of our scholarship students. There were several major liturgically-shaped musical experiences over the course of 2019. During Lent, we showcased the solo talents of our scholarship students, the acapella strengths of our choir, and the dedication of our bell choir by presenting a series of spirituals that aligned with the liturgy for that week—intentionally framed around the theme of water. Culminating in our Easter service, we presented a choral prelude that recapped all these liturgical/musical moments throughout Lent, preparing us for celebrating our Risen Lord. Many of these pieces are challenging, especially with a small choir, and so I am grateful to the continued support of our scholarship students, who form the backbone for each of the choir’s sections, and the dedication and musical talent of our choir members who have risen to meet the challenges, both musical and spiritual.

The beginning of the fall semester was a difficult time for me personally and professionally as I had to balance the role of being the Minister of Music at Westminster and the Director of Fellowships, Outreach, and Programming at The Graduate School at UConn. This latter position required me to travel extensively for recruitment and certainly put undue stress on both myself and the choir. It goes without saying, that without the tireless commitment and talents of Barbara Riihimaki, this would have been a much bumpier period for the choirs and for our music in general. I am ever thankful for her gifts and talents. After this brief period of unrest, we were able to focus on preparing for Advent and Christmas. For me personally, our Advent Lessons and Carols was one of the most rewarding of my career. Over the space of three months of rehearsals, the choir learned a diverse array of musical styles from contemporary composers, including Tavener, Sergeant, Howells, Vaughan Williams, and Whitacre. In addition to our bell choir, we also had a guest cellist and baritone. Our Christmas services this year again included the talents of guest brass musicians in the form of Catherine Riihimaki for the earlier service and a brass quintet for our later service. In addition, our choir performed several pieces for the later service, adding to a musically and liturgically uplifting celebration of the birth of our Lord.



One other area of musical development that should be mentioned is within our wonderful LIFT services. We set out in Fall 2019 to involve the congregation in writing a LIFT song—something that reflected Westminster’s dedication and passion for Christ’s message. The goal was to spend our time together crafting the lyrics for a song by digging deeper into the theme of each LIFT service and how that shaped our own thinking about Westminster. I am excited to share with you the text that we came up with. My hope is that in the future, someone may be led by the spirit to set the lyrics to music:

*We offer all our living gift,
Westminster is here to uplift.
All together we sing as one,
Diverse and accepting of everyone.*

*We give our hearts to community,
Through kind and thoughtful charity.
With faith, works, and love,
We share our blessings from above.*

Worship Team

Jenna Sheridan and Avery MacKellar-Noguiera, Co-Chairs

Team Members: Rev. Julie Emery, Elder Nicole Aronson, Cyndi Brown, Chris Scigulinsky, Gary Holloway, Howard Sprout, Stacy Raney, John Rhine, Elder Barbara Riihimaki, Janet Wade-Utay

Head Ushers: Gary Holloway, Ed Carney, Mike DeBolt, and Pam Rekow

Audio Engineers: Len Oshinskie, Jenna Sheridan, and Janet Wade-Utay

Communion Coordinators: Jan Stafford and Heather McBride

Flower Committee Chair: Ma'Lynn Feingold

Banner Coordinators: Carol and Craig Schramm

The Worship team assists the pastor and staff in planning worship services and ensuring the supporting elements of worship are coordinated and effective.

In our worship team model, interested Westminster members gather at various times during the year to plan worship services for a church season (Advent, Epiphany, Lent-Easter, Ordinary time, etc.) with the pastor. This includes any visual elements of worship as well as the readings, prayers, and hymns. Because we plan in seasons, people can join as they are able throughout the year and are not bound by a commitment to be at all worship planning team meetings.

The Lenten season began with an Ash Wednesday service on February 14. During Holy Week, Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) was joined by First Presbyterian Church of Hartford for Maundy Thursday Communion Service. The service included a meal and worship around the table. On Easter, we celebrated the resurrection of Christ with a 10:00 a.m. service with the Rev. Julie Emery preaching. We had a wonderful amount of music accompanying the service as well.

We continued to enjoy the musical talents of our congregation. We had great musical leadership through 2019 with Stuart Duncan. Our Todd Tilton scholarship students throughout the year, Rachel Lloyd (soprano), Vanessa Parre (mezzo soprano), Ryan Macini (bass), and David Sirna (tenor), provided strength of voice and shared solo talents, blessing our choir and worship in many ways. The Westminster Bell Choir played multiple times throughout the year enhancing worship with music at Christmas, Easter, and several other times during the year. We are thankful for their commitment and the music ensemble they create.

We also continued the use of worship stations during worship. The worship stations are available to all ages and are particularly helpful for our very young members who continue to use them frequently.

Throughout the year, we continued to experiment with the arrangement of the chairs to create a more intimate worship setting. We worshiped 'in-the-round' for a large part of the year, and throughout the summer used this structure to strengthen and renew our relationships with one another. The Rev. Julie Emery led the congregation by posing intimate questions at the start of worship, giving time to congregants to discuss and relate to one another one-on-one and as a group. This allowed us to foster a greater sense of community as we focus on our relational understanding of one another.

We also welcomed a series of art installations from Avery MacKellar-Noguiera, one of the Worship Team Elders. These included weaving during worship throughout the summer, window paintings during our "created for" series in the fall (see photo to the right), and our hanging stars throughout the winter season.

In October, the worship team hosted an appreciation luncheon for our current ushers and greeters. We had a potluck lunch of chili, bread, and dessert, and included a refresher training and took feedback. Based on the feedback, we agreed to move to a team-based model for the 2020 year.



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(Worship Report continued...)

The once monthly integration of Worship and intergenerational Christian Education has continued with beautiful LIFT services from September to May. In 2019, we moved our LIFT service start time from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., keeping the service at approximately 2 hours long.

During Advent, we tailored worship seating arrangements to encourage greater community and connection during worship. A Service of Reflection and Remembrance was held December 19. The traditional Christmas Eve Services were held December 24, including a family friendly service at 5:00 p.m. and a 9:00 p.m. service. Our 5:00 pm service included a “paper bag” Christmas Pageant, which had excellent participation as our children, youth and adults retold the story of the birth of Christ. The 9:00 p.m. service included communion, and both services included a candlelight worship.

2019 was a grace and spirit-filled year of worship at WPC. Our goal is to continue presenting meaningful worship that enriches the lives of our Westminster community and enables us to share God’s love with each other and the world.

We want to thank all the many wonderful volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to make our worship and musical experiences a blessing to all. This includes the audio-visual technicians, bell ringers, choristers, communion planners and servers, flower donors and arrangers, greeters, ushers, liturgists, musicians, pastors and lay preachers, our music minister, church administrator, prayer and scripture readers, sanctuary decorators, instrumental soloists and all other volunteers who enhance our worship.

Flourish Team

Flourish supports and encourages ALL people as they grow on their faith journey through community, Bible study, prayer, practice and service.

Guiding Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:5-7 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

Elders: Nicole Aronson, Heather McBride and Peter Benner

Karen Hammond Director of Faith Formation

Moving Toward Becoming Intergenerational

I recently got a timely reminder of what it means to be an Intergenerational Church. I had the good fortune of hearing Dr. Theresa Cho, a Presbyterian pastor in San Francisco. She talked about her church’s journey toward becoming an Intergenerational congregation. Dr. Cho described three different ways of generations being together:

Multi-generational: Different generations exist together... perhaps in the same room often, but not necessarily interacting

Cross-generational: Different generations share as if it were a “generations fair”... I’ll share some of what is special about my generation if you will share some of what is special about yours.

Inter-generational: Different generations interact and share with each other in such a way that our shared stories cause us to think differently and consider ways we need to change

In my mind, these three definitions are on a continuum, and I believe that it is this last definition—becoming an Intergenerational Church—that I see Westminster working toward. In 2019 I observed this happening in many ways.

(continued on the next page...)

(Director of Faith Formation Report continued...)

In our worship. We have had worship stations in our Sanctuary for several years. But I have noticed that there is greater and greater interaction happening with these stations among children and adults – particularly adults who are not parents of young children. I notice adults who stop by and read the directions on each station, or who observe (and are often delighted by) children who are participating. I notice teens and adults who are comfortable getting up and coloring during worship, or stopping by our reading area to see what new books are available. We’re beginning to understand that there are different ways to engage in worship, and that we can learn from experiencing practices that others find meaningful.



In our LIFT mornings. 2019 brought the beginning of our 4th year of LIFT (Living In Faith Together). When we began LIFT, we named it with the hope that we would expand our way of living together, particularly as a community of many generations. Over the past year I have seen us grow in this direction in many distinct ways. The relationships being built between people of different generations are extraordinary. Not only is this seen on LIFT mornings, but it is encouraging to witness interactions at other times as well. It is beautiful to see our children excitedly volunteer to be ushers during worship and hear adults equally excited, calling them by name, and partnering together. How wonderful to have a member in her 8th decade tell me that she would love to go take yoga classes with a member in her 20s. I see our LIFT mornings not only bringing us together, but now becoming part of “how we do church” and transforming many of us.

In our community outreach. In April 2019 we held our 7th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. This truly is a fun celebration that involves many generations. Our youth enjoyed painting faces and leading crafts, our adults extended warm Westminster hospitality to all who attended, and everyone celebrated with young ones who thoroughly enjoyed egg hunting (even inside on a rainy day!). At Christmastime we tried something new – a Paper Bag Pageant at our 5:00 Christmas Eve Service. This was a celebration that involved multiple generations like nothing else! Most of the attendees were from the greater community (rather than Westminster members) and EVERYONE participated in the pageant. It was truly such fun to see the group of shepherds (ranging in age from 3 to 75) laugh together and enjoy their part (complete with inflatable candy cane shepherd’s crooks as props!). What a fabulous way to share the joy of Christmas with the greater community and to celebrate all generations.

In our everyday interactions. In 2019 the LIFT Planning Team welcomed some new members, including a middle school student and a high school student. Each month we meet for conversation around our upcoming LIFT theme, and each member of the group contributes equally. Different generations confidently and comfortably sharing together has brought new perspectives and richness to our planning and understanding, and certainly has helped deepen relationships. When I observe our coffee hour after worship or a lunch after a LIFT morning, I am noticing that groups of people talking together are not separated by age. Our focus on storytelling and sharing with each other is bearing fruit – we are truly becoming a community interested in getting to know each other, especially across generational lines.

So as I reflect back on this year, I see us moving very steadily toward becoming an **Intergenerational** community. I believe that this is the kind of community God calls us to be. Faith formation is central to Westminster and is by definition a way that we change ourselves. What an incredible blessing that we can help each other make these changes by becoming an “all ages together” community.

Flourish Team

Nicole Aronson & Peter Benner, Elders

Last year we celebrated our congregation's generosity which allowed us to double the paid time of our Director of Faith Formation, Karen Hammond. In 2019, Karen was the driving force behind each of the LIFT Sunday mornings. More and more responsibility has fallen on Karen as our meeting attendance and available volunteers have dwindled.

LIFT events were held once each month from January through May from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and September through December from 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

For January through May we continued our study of parables including “Prodigal Son”, “Wise and Foolish Builders”, “Friend at Midnight”, and the metaphor of “The body of Christ”. We had a special focus on Baptism in January and Communion in April and charity versus justice in May.

For the second half of the year we began a study of relationships. We started in September with readings from Genesis in which we learn that God created us for relationship. We also explored the stories of Ruth & Naomi and Loyalty, Jacob & Esau and Betrayal, and Zechariah and Patience.

Each LIFT included some service or mission activity. We made suncatcher crosses to be delivered to some of our members who do not attend church regularly, sandwiches and “No Sew Blankets” for Hands on Hartford, beautiful wreaths to decorate and welcome the new homes built by Habitat for Humanity, crayon and inspirational quote fall decorations for South Park Inn, holiday cards for veterans through the mission of the Red Cross and we packed Thanksgiving baskets for families affiliated with our Covenant to Care Social Worker.

Each morning also featured some crafts, thought provoking discussions, music, some dramatic story retellings, and a puzzle that our community enjoyed for the remainder of each month, and food. Starting in January the LIFT team planned, promoted and hosted hearty coffee hours or meals. We enjoyed a Puerto Rican food festival in May with special guests, a cook out in September as part of our new year celebration, and a soup and bread lunch.

Karen Hammond led a Confirmation class series for five high schoolers along with Paul Buffat, Julie Emery, Duane Grabber, and Marissa Torsiello in the fall of 2018 into the spring of 2019. All five youth, Thatcher (TJ) Erickson, Ella Kimberly, Joshua Sirman, Nathan Souza, and Alyson Sutliff were confirmed and welcomed into membership on May 5.

The adult Westminster Salon met each week excluding LIFT Sundays and during the summer. Discussions were led by Peter Benner and John Berman predominately as well as some of the regular members of the group. Each week focused on an article or book related to living Christian beliefs and values in our current culture in West Hartford and more broadly.

Nicole Aronson led a four week series for parents and congregants based on the book “Parenting in the Pew” by Robbie Castleman. Rev. Julie Emery led a short series on Presbyterianism 101. Attendance at all of the regular 9:00 offerings has declined, although there is a dedicated small group of people who attend the Salon.

Other adult education opportunities included Sisters in the Spirit Women's Evening Bible Study, Women's Bible Study (January-June), Circle One, Dinner Groups, and Covenant Groups.

The Westminster Community Easter Egg Hunt took place on April 20. Each of Westminster's Teams assisted in the planning and execution of this annual event. Westminster welcomed approximately 50 children and their families. Children had their faces painted, did crafts, had photos taken with the Easter Bunny, and listened to the Easter story. Over 1200 stuffed eggs were scattered and gathered.

Youth Ministry

Heather McBride, Elder and Committee Chair

Youth Ministry committee members are Nicole Aronson, Adam Bender, Larry Carr, Avery MacKellar-Nogueira, Heather McBride, Dan Souza, and Nancy Souza.

In early 2019, Denise Noble stepped down from Youth Ministries after a year of faithful service on the committee; her efforts were deeply appreciated. In August 2019, the Youth Ministry team excitedly welcomed Larry Carr and Jenna Sheridan as CHAOS leaders, joining a team of talented, dedicated, and fun-loving volunteers. In January 2020, Jenna regretfully stepped down from the committee in order to fulfill other commitments at Westminster; however, she remains available as a substitute leader if needed. We extend our deepest gratitude to all members of the committee who have made a difference in 2019; their leadership and the example they set for our youth is outstanding.

The Youth Ministry committee meets on an as-needed basis throughout the year; at these meetings, the primary areas of focus are discussing special events such as mission trips and fundraising activities and planning out the CHAOS calendar for the coming months. CHAOS, which stands for Christians Hanging Around On Sunday, meets on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00pm at church and includes middle and high school youth. At our regular meetings, we enjoy games, have a discussion, and share a meal together. There are also special events, such as service projects and off-site activities.

Westminster has continued to be an active participant in the West Hartford Youth Group (WeHaYG), which is a collaborative gathering with two other local youth groups from First Church of Christ Congregational and St. John's Episcopal Church. Previously, WeHaYG had been meeting for special events and service activities on weekdays when there was no school, such as Election Day or Martin Luther King Jr. Day. However, starting in October 2019, WeHaYG has begun meeting more frequently on a once per month basis during normal CHAOS meeting times, generally the first Sunday of the month. Some of the activities that the WeHaYG offered in 2019 included making no-sew blankets for Hands On Hartford, serving at the Bloomfield Backpack Program at First Church in Bloomfield, creating holiday cards for area veterans, navigating the corn maze and snacking on apple cider doughnuts at Lyman Orchards, and creating "inspiration rocks" by writing an uplifting word in marker on a rock and leaving it in a public location as a random act of kindness.

In late June 2019, one senior high youth attended Heads Up Hartford, a week long summer camp uniting urban and suburban youth to improve communities and develop leaders. Participants of this camp serve at local nonprofits such as CRT Day Care Centers, elderly and disabled housing centers, Foodshare, and The Village for Children and Families, to name a few examples. Additionally, one youth and one adult leader attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium in July 2019 at Purdue University. This event is a gathering for high school aged youth from the Presbyterian Church USA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs once every three years. Westminster was the only church in the Presbytery of Southern New England to send a youth representative. Participants enjoyed worship, learning, and fellowship with other Presbyterians from around the country.

2019 activities included:

- Multiple post-worship brunch and movie events
- Foodshare Walk Against Hunger
- Sorting clothing at Covenant to Care
- Serving a meal at Loaves and Fishes
- Lock-in focusing on self-care and pampering, including activities such as painting nails, wearing face masks, relaxing in the youth room while watching a funny movie, and waking up with a morning yoga practice
- CHAOS Christmas party with tasty Italian food, a Christmas Bible verse scavenger hunt, Christmas trivia, *The Grinch*, and a Yankee gift swap
- Hosting the annual Chili and Mac & Cheese Cook-Off fundraiser in February, which brought in a total of \$974; all of the proceeds were banked for a future year when a larger mission trip is organized

Engage Team

The Engage Team strives to have all members involved in the ministry of Westminster through the offering of their God-given time, talents and treasures. We are committed to spreading our Christian message by making meaningful connections with the broader community.

Guiding Scripture: Romans 12: 4-8 “For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, through many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Membership: Cyndi Brown and Stacy Raney (January – March co-chairs), Barbara Riihimaki and Jolee West (April – December co-chairs), George Arwady, John Berman, Ann Cox, Abbey Downing, Sandy Fry, El Harp, and Pam Rekow.

In 2019, the Engage Team concentrated on Stewardship, Communications and the following areas related to Membership and Member Engagement.

Membership

New Member Classes: New member classes were held in February, April and October resulting in nine new members being received into membership. In response to the discussions in these classes, Rev. Julie lead two Salon classes on Presbyterianism and current theologians in the fall. In 2020, the plan is to hold a new member class in the spring and one in the fall.

In an effort to clean our membership rolls, we contacted members who had not attended Westminster Church for two or more years to give them the option of remaining on our rolls or be removed. We eventually removed 29 names.



We welcome new members (from left to right) Sara DeGraff, Jolee West, Howard West, Sally West, Desiree Duda, Jenna Sheridan and Michael Sola

Member Engagement

Small Groups: We believe that having members engaged in small groups is a significant way to build relationships among our members with common interests. A small group of 20s/30s young adults called “Gathered” was formed this year and meets monthly after church. There are now 14 small groups that meet on a group specific schedule. We continue to look for new small group opportunities, one being a possible Ladies Brunch group to meet after church for occasional brunch outings.

Getting to Know You Gathering: Engage assumed responsibility for coordinating the three Getting To Know You gatherings during the year including picnics in June and September. These gatherings in the Fireside Circle are open for anyone to come but we especially encourage our older members to attend these daytime



We welcome new members Marilyn Pikor and Larry Carr

Wednesday gatherings. We always have a program as part of the gathering. For example, Rev. Julie spoke at the September gathering on our new logo. Our Christmas gathering in December was cancelled due to an ice storm and was rescheduled to January. These gatherings are very popular with our older members and have typically drawn 25 – 40 members.

Membership Photo Directory: A major project for us this year was producing a Membership Photo Directory. We thank Len Oshinskie and Nicole Aronson who spent several Sundays and many other times taking pictures of members for this directory. Members were also encouraged to send in close-up family photos if they preferred. We also had tremendous support from Becky Kimberly, who printed the directory in-house and enabled us to have the directory ready for families as we started the new church year in September.

(continued on the next page...)

(Engage Team Report continued...)

Pastor's Coffee: Rev. Julie held three Pastor's coffee hours in the first half of the year that were open to interested members for coffee and conversation. Attendance was small but the conversation was interesting and enjoyable for attendees. Rev. Julie also attended each Getting to Know You gathering as part of her outreach to engage with members and was the lead speaker at the June picnic.

Name tag and birthday cards: New nametags were made and implemented to encourage all members to wear nametags. Birthday cards are sent monthly to our members and result in many positive comments for this remembrance.

Celebrate West Hartford: It was decided not to participate in Celebrate West Hartford in 2019 due to other priorities and after looking at the benefits versus the people effort needed to staff the tent.

Food Truck Event: After two organizational meetings and much research and discussion about the goal and tasks in hosting a food truck event in late summer, it was decided not to pursue this project in 2019 due to the people support required plus difficulty in getting food trucks to show interest in selling food at a first time event.

Yard Goats Faith and Family Day: Instead of hosting a food truck event, we coordinated an outing for members and their families at a Yard Goats minor league baseball game in Hartford celebrating faith and family. Rev. Julie received an award along with other faith leaders given by the team. Forty people from Westminster families attended this outing and had a fun time. We will consider doing this again in 2020.

Engage Bulletin Board: We set up a bulletin board in the foyer where members could share recommendations for books, podcasts, movies, restaurants, etc. for about 8 months.

Jigsaw puzzle library: A jigsaw puzzle library was set up in the foyer outside the Fellowship Hall where members can take any puzzle home and exchange them as desired.

Re-useable canvas grocery bags: In light of a law to stop using plastic bags in most stores, we ordered 150 canvas grocery bags with our name and address imprinted on them as part of our attempt to market our name. Bags were sold to members and given to recipients of our Thanksgiving food bags.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Riihimaki, co-chair

Nominating Committee David Hall, Chair

The Nominating Committee consisted of David Hall (Chair), Nicole Aronson, Ma'Lynn Feingold, Cindi Brown, Becky Kimberly, and Michael Seltzer. The group met between May to July 2019. An insert for the church bulletin was prepared to inform the whole of the congregation of the opportunities available to serve on one of the Church teams.

Members of the Nominating Committee discussed potential members and each took an action to reach out to those prospective members about the opportunity.

The committee arrived at a slate of nominees for the various church teams including Adam Bender (Deacon, Serve Team), JoAnne Berry (Deacon, Care Team), Tom Buckley (Elder, Serve Team), Marcia DeBolt (Deacon, Care Team), David Hall (Elder, Sustain Team), Heather McBride (Elder, Flourish), Helena Offei (Deacon, Serve Team), Jenna Sheridan (Elder, Worship Team), Nathan Souza (Deacon, Serve Team) and Jean Summers (Deacon, Care Team).

Stewardship Committee **Cyndi Brown, Chair**

Committee Members: Rev. Julie Emery (Pastor), Cyndi Brown, Stacy Raney, Becky Kimberly, and Pam Rekow

The Stewardship Committee is tasked with supporting and engaging the congregation in an ongoing conversation regarding their commitment of time, talents and resources to support Westminster Presbyterian Church's ministries. The committee focuses on planning and budget oversight to ensure the church's financial resources are appropriately allocated to the ministry of the church.

2019 Activities

2019 was the year for "Sharing God's Love in a Changing World". During the Stewardship Campaign, the Engage Team was asking all members to take the next step in generosity. We asked our members to be aware of how abundantly blessed they are, and to grow more generous in response, noting that members give differently in different seasons of our lives, and are always invited to respond generously to what God has given us. We asked members to consider what kind of giver they are to Westminster.

Beginning Giver

I give to the church occasionally, out of a sense of tradition and obligation.

Thoughtful Giver

I like the idea of supporting the church, and give what I can when called upon.

Generous Giver

I prioritize my investment in the Church as a response to what God has generously invested in me.

Extravagantly Generous Giver

God's extravagant generosity compels me to be extravagantly generous toward others.

Among the highlights of the year for the Stewardship Committee were:

- Achieved 100% pledging from the leadership of Westminster (Deacons and Elders).
- Reached out to everyone on the membership roll either via phone or by note.
- Continued to clean up membership rolls.
- Customized thank you letters sent to the congregation based on pledge levels and consistency of giving.
- An educational meeting regarding per capita. This will continue throughout 2020.

As of March 30, 2019, we received pledges from 93 out of 103 possible households for a total of \$310,532.00. There were 4 households who gave regularly but did not complete a written pledge for a total of \$2000.00

Communications Committee Pam Rekow, Chair

Committee Members: Rev. Julie Emery, Greg Hammond, Karen Hammond, Becky Kimberly, Pam Rekow (Chair)

The Communications Committee’s mission is to develop effective ways for Westminster and our various committees to articulate the church’s message within and outside our congregation.

The Communications Committee’s primary focus in 2019 was the development and launch of Westminster’s new visual identity.



Westminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We contracted with artist, graphic designer and theologian Lauren Wright Pittman, who drew inspiration from Westminster’s cherished quilts, describing Westminster as *...beautifully pieced together, authentic, unpretentious, welcoming and comforting, like a quilted blanket, and vibrantly diverse in the colorful pieces that make up a larger whole.*

Westminster’s new logo design features leaves growing from the center and hands facing outward, inclusive, warm and welcoming, sharing gifts and serving our larger community.

We launched our new logo and branding in August with banners, yard signs and promotional items, including car magnets and T- shirts.



In April, we promoted Westminster’s annual community egg hunt with colorful posters, calendar listings and a highly visible banner in West Hartford Center. Other area egg hunts had to cancel due to rain, but we moved ours indoors and about 50 children from the community enjoyed hunting for eggs and other activities at Westminster. We have secured the West Hartford Center banner space to promote our egg hunt in 2020. Westminster also joined Instagram in 2019 @westpresby.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for news, photos and messages that inspire and connect our Westminster community.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Indoor Egg Hunt Draws A Crowd

Westminster Presbyterian Church, in West Hartford, hosted a community egg hunt. The kind weather could not deter the hunt or a visit from the Easter Bunny. The indoor event drew a large crowd, which enjoyed a morning of treats, arts and crafts, and egg hunts for all ages.



Hartford Courant photo feature of Westminster’s egg hunt.

Serve Team (Deacons & Session) **Tom Buckley and Len Oshinskie, Elders**

The Serve team provides opportunities to experience and share God's love through serving others, advocating for God's justice, and educating our congregation regarding issues of social justice and community need. Guiding Scripture: Isaiah 58 and Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

We are happy to report the Serve Team has had an active year providing opportunities for members to get involved in service to others, continuing some traditional activities, reestablishing a few others and adding new ones. The members of the team are: Deacons Adam Bender, Helena Offei, Nancy Souza, Nathan Souza, Michael Seltzer and Elders Tom Buckley and Len Oshinskie.

We continue to serve at South Park Inn through the dedicated efforts of Michael Seltzer and Adam Bender who coordinate the numerous Westminster volunteers who serve meals monthly there. Westminster has also contributed White Gifts at Christmas. For this year, they are coordinating additional volunteering opportunities to expand our partnership. These include expanding contacts to promote healthier food options, clothing donations, and skill building with SPI residents. It is so gratifying to see the dedication of our many members to this longtime partnership.

Similarly, our ministry with Loaves and Fishes continues to be led by Margaret Taylor. Again many members contribute to this effort to feed those in need.

Thanksgiving Baskets and the Angel Tree gifts are a wonderful tradition that continue, coordinated wonderfully this year by Nancy Souza, Helena Offei and Nathan Souza. Thanks once again to our members for their generosity!

Through the dedicated efforts of Nancy Souza, Westminster also reinitiated our relationship with Covenant to Care and HANOC (Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center) by providing Stop and Shop gift cards to help feed those in need. Nancy also connected with a sister church in New Haven recently who asked for assistance in providing for a new refugee family there, through our collaboration with IRIS. Again, Westminster provided food gift cards to a new refugee family.

In March, 17 members and friends traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to work for a week helping to rebuild the home of an 80 year old woman, restoring a community laundry that is free to local citizens and painting and repairing Presbyterian church school rooms. A second group of 9 traveled in April to rural northwest Puerto Rico and served to rebuild homes.

In June a group of 13 members worked for a day at a Habitat for Humanity site in East Hartford. We were fortunate to have that quintessential Habitat moment of building and raising the first wall of the home that was dedicated in December and now is home to a deserving mother and 2 young boys who provided hours of their own sweat equity to the build.

Ann Cox has continued as a dedicated volunteer, coordinating and overseeing Jesse's Garden which grows vegetables on our grounds and then distributes the bounty to those in need. Thank you Ann!

In addition to these activities Westminster partnered by making financial contributions to the following organizations: Foodshare, South Park Inn, Medical Benevolence Fund, Theological Education Fund, Heads Up Hartford, Interval House, IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services), My Sisters' Place, Operation Fuel, Prudence Crandall Center for Women, St. Elizabeth House and Young Adult Volunteers.

(continued on the next page...)

(Serve Team Report continued...)

A new social justice effort was begun this year. Westminster has become a founding member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). As of this writing, Westminster is one of 39 dues paying members of GHIAA, consisting of churches, synagogues, mosques and community organizations. The goal of GHIAA is to build a diverse organization of lay leaders and clergy from across bounds of race, class, gender identity, religion and geography to build relational power to address social justice issues in local communities and beyond. The GHIAA Founding Assembly took place in October and was attended by over 1500 people, including 60 enthusiastic members of Westminster. At this Founding, the slate of justice social initiatives were announced to the public, these include housing, education, health care, gun violence, and criminal justice reform. Each congregation that is involved in GHIAA has formed and trained a core team of lay leaders. The Westminster Core Team leaders are: Nicole Aronson, Peter Benner, Tom Buckley, Cindy Buckley, Heather McBride, Nancy Souza.

The role of the core team is to engage in individual meetings with each congregant, host house meetings to learn of congregants' social justice concerns, participate with other GHIAA members in determining the organizational priorities, keep their congregation informed of the movement and work of GHIAA, and represent the congregation during key decisions. The core team is the communication link between the member congregations and GHIAA. To date, GHIAA has already established major initiatives in housing, education and health care, some that involve new law changes that will improve the lives of those in our community.

We are grateful for the opportunities to serve and in the spirit of Micah... to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

Care Team (Deacons & Session)

The Care Team seeks to be a caring presence in the lives of our members through nourishing body and soul and brings “Living Proof of a Loving God” to our members through one-on-one ministries of visitation, prayer, phone calls, meals, flowers, notes and other avenues of caring. We seek to show each member of Westminster that they are loved, remembered, prayed for, thanked and supported.

Guiding Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12 & 26 “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

Deacons: Ashley Aronson, JoAnne Berry, Marcia DeBolt, Ma’Lynn Feingold and Jean Summers.

Care Nicole Aronson, Elder

The Care team experienced a renewal in 2019 with focused efforts on the caring ministries of Westminster. One of our greatest achievements was the organization of a team of individuals who visit regularly with our members who are no longer able to attend church regularly. A team of ten visited regularly with eleven shut-ins. As the year ended, we found more members to be in need of visitation and are actively searching for others eager to join us in this ministry.

The blessings found in the chancel flowers that are then broken up into bouquets for our members in the midst of sorrow, joy, and in thanks was affirmed. Additional volunteers were recruited to aid in the delivery each week as well as greater communication with the church at large to act as donors.

Meals were provided to members in need and prayer shawls were knitted and distributed to many members and their loved ones. A prayer chain was developed to allow for immediate prayers in the midst of emergencies and energy is given to assist our office administrator in maintaining the church prayer list.

Westminster’s hospitality, as evidenced by coffee hour after worship, was discussed and affirmed. A Keurig was purchased and new policies/instructions were developed to enable more people to participate and not find it burdensome.

Memorial & Meditation Garden El Harp, Chair

The Memorial & Meditation Garden continues to be a resting place for the ashes of our members and friends. The location and landscaping provides a special place for reflection and thanksgiving for the lives of those remembered. This past year Mary Virginia Dumont (May 27, 2019), Shirley Taylor (April 3, 2019), Richard Tilton (November 28, 2017) and his wife Elaine Tilton (September 27, 2019) joined other relatives, members and friends in the Garden. We also mourned the death of Kay Yale (August 3, 2019).

Each spring on the Sunday before Memorial Day, following our church service, a special service is held in the garden as a reflection of the love and caring from their families and friends.

Committee members this past year were JoAnne Berry, George Dewey, El Harp and Gary Holloway.

Sustain Team

The Sustain Team supports Westminster's congregation and Leadership Teams by coordinating, managing, and leading Westminster's facilities, employee support, and finances for today's and tomorrow's needs.

Guiding Scripture: Matthew 6:2-4, 19-21 "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that your alms may be in secret ; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Leadership: Elder Myles Altimus, Anne Carney, Clerk of Session, Elder David Hall

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Scott Brown, El Harp and John Rhine

Building and Grounds Committee Myles Altimus, Chair

A major project upgrade to the building was the installation of new flooring in the Fireside Circle and the Smart Room. Another ongoing project is working on rejuvenating (cleaning, sanding, varnishing) wood throughout Church. About 25% has been completed in 2019. Some items included: window railing in the Library and Administrative office, credenza in Administrative office, bench inside stairway leading to Sanctuary, some handrails, office door, etc.

The Sexton Team also overhauled platforms used in the Fellowship Hall used for Old Guard and others as needed. The platforms were becoming a safety issue as they were becoming unstable and also they were becoming difficult to setup due to old / failing mechanical supports.

Ministerial Relations and Personnel (MR&P) Anne Carney, Chair

This year the committee conducted annual reviews of all staff members. In general our staff is viewed positively and as continuing to faithfully guide Westminster to be a caring community working to make a difference in God's world. They work well together to provide worshipful experiences and to create, propose and implement new programs and activities for our congregation.

I am grateful to the members of the personnel committee, Cyndi Brown, John Rhine, Pam Rekow and Russ Cormier, for attending to our staff and providing support when needed. I also thank Gary Holloway, who resigned from the committee this year, for his many years of dedicated service.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Westminster Presbyterian Church
February 24, 2019**

Moderator Julie Emery called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. with prayer. Our minister of Music, Stuart Duncan, led us in singing the hymn *I've Got Peace Like A River*.

The Clerk declared that there was a quorum of at least 29. Actual attendance was 52. The call for the meeting was read. Notice had been given on at least two preceding Sundays.

The congregation **VOTED** to approve the agenda.

The congregation **VOTED** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of February 28, 2018.

The congregation **VOTED** to approve the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of September 30, 2018.

The congregation **VOTED** to receive the Statistical Report of the Membership.

The congregation **VOTED** to receive the annual reports of the Pastor, Clerk of Session, Minister of Music, Director of Faith Formation, Session Committees, and the Board of Deacons.

Moderator Julie Emery led a presentation about the new leadership committee structure. A member from each committee shared the committee's purpose and some of the work they are doing.

Moderator Emery reported on the number of hours worked by each member of the staff. She commended the staff on their excellent work.

Moderator Emery presented a certificate of appreciation to Greg Hammond for his 19 years of work as treasurer. Westminster contributed \$500 to the new infusion center at CCMC in honor of Greg.

Elder Mike Debolt led a review of the 2018 budget. He then led a presentation of the 2019 budget. Member Elsie Harp expressed concern about the sustainability of withdrawing from the endowment each year.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to receive the 2019 budget.

The Chair of the Ministerial Relations and Personnel Committee, Art Riihimaki, for the Session, **MOVED** the Pastor/Head of Staff's terms of call for 2019.

The **MOTION** was **VOTED** by a secret ballot vote of 45 in favor, 4 against and 3 abstentions. The Pastor's terms of call for 2019 as voted are:

(continued on the next page...)

2019 Senior Pastor Compensation

Cash Compensation	\$64,318.34
Housing Allowance (actual to be set by Senior Pastor)	<u>30,000.00</u>
Effective Salary	<u>\$94,318.34</u>
Medical (25% of effective salary)	23,579.59
Pension (11% of effective salary)	10,375.02
Disability (1% of effective salary)	943.18
Medical Deductible (1.5% of effective salary)	1,414.78
Dental PPO	1,632.36
Social Security - Employer (7.65% of effective salary)	6,998.89
Vouchered Allowances:	
Business Expense Allowance	3,000.00
Education Allowance	<u>3,000.00</u>
 Total Compensation	 <u>\$146,676.94</u>

Number of working units/hours per week 13

Weeks of annual vacation 5

Additional Sunday leave 1

Weeks of annual study leave 2

Number of paid holidays 10

After completing 6 years of service, the Pastor is entitled to a sabbatical of 3 months.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to recess the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at 5:30 p.m. to convene the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

Following the Meeting of the Corporation, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

Moderator Emery shared things from the past year that members can be thankful for and things that bring hope for our future together.

Moderator Julie Emery asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the following members of the congregation who joined the Church Triumphant in 2018: Barbara Ashcraft, Barbara Barrett, Dorothy Eisle, Shirley Esthus, Doug Landsman and Betty Millar.

There was no Other Business brought before the congregation.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to adjourn. Moderator Julie Emery closed the meeting at 5:50 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carney
Clerk

The Reverend Julie Emery,
Moderator

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation
Westminster Presbyterian Church
February 24, 2019**

Elder Art Riihimaki, President of the Corporation for 2018, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Corporation meeting of February 25, 2018.

The Finance Committee is currently acting as treasurer. Session will inform the congregation when a treasurer is elected by Session.

Elder Riihimaki reported that the corporation had no new or outstanding debts to outside financial sources.

Elder Len Oshinski, Chair of the Serve Team, and Anne Carney, Clerk of Session, were nominated as President of the Corporation and Secretary of the Corporation respectively for 2019. Art Riihimaki asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to close the nominations and elect the nominees.

No other business was brought before the Corporation

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and VOTED** to adjourn. The meeting was closed at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carney, Secretary

Art Riihimaki, President

**Minutes of the Called Meeting of the Congregation
Westminster Presbyterian Church
June 23, 2019**

Moderator Julie Emery called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. with prayer.

A quorum was present. The quorum was more than 30 members.

The meeting was called for the purpose of electing officers for terms beginning in September 2019. The call for the meeting was published on 2 Sundays: June 9, 2019 and June 16, 2019.

Elder Nicole Aronson, for the Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate to be elected:

Ruling Elders: Nicole Aronson (2 year term), David Hall (1 year term), Tom Buckley, Heather McBride, Barbara Riihimaki and Jenna Sheridan (3 year terms)

Deacons: Joanne Berry (1 year term), Marcia Debolt (2 year term), Helena Offei and Jean Summers (3 year terms)

Moderator Emery asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Elders or Deacons.

Hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote and the nominees were elected unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Aronson,
Acting Clerk

The Reverend Julie Emery
Moderator

**Finance Committee Report
For the Year Ending December 31, 2019
Kevin Morrison, Treasurer**

The Finance Committee was formed in 2018 as part of the organizational restructuring into ministry areas and is now part of the Sustain team. The Committee is responsible for routine bookkeeping, financial reporting and controls, treasury functions and budget development.

Presented for the congregation are an Operating Statement, Statement of Funds Activity, Balance Sheet and Restricted Fund Balances. Accounts and activity have been consolidated where appropriate for ease of review. A detailed listing of Other Restricted Funds is included with the financial statements.

Financial Highlights for 2019:

Operations for 2019 resulted in a deficit of \$3,177. The deficit compares to a surplus of \$30,100 in 2018. The decline from 2018 resulted primarily from lower pledge and additional contributions and higher staff expenses; these were partially offset by larger gifts and transfers from investments. Lower contributions resulted from a decline in the number of pledges and a reduction in the average pledge amount. Higher staff expenses were due to the addition of a music director. The shortfall from budget for the year was largely due to a decline in additional contributions, partially offset by an increase in transfers from investments which have had good returns similar to the rest of the market.

Receipts for the year were \$494,278 which were slightly higher than both 2018 and the budget. Pledges and additional contributions comprised 62% of the total receipts with transfers from investments (22%) and gifts (8%) making up most of the remainder.

Disbursements totaled \$497,456 which were significantly higher (\$37,987) than 2018 and only modestly higher (\$4,602) than budget. The increase over 2018 was primarily due to the addition of a music director. Other differences included lower spending on buildings and grounds and mission support offset by higher insurance and major repairs. Compared to budget, office expense and staff salaries were higher while mission giving was lower.

During 2019 the permitted amounts from housing and investment funds were transferred to operations. In addition, \$67,757 was transferred from our endowment funds to cover cash shortfalls during the year. The Statement of Funds Activity shows the activity in operations, restricted funds and investments for the year. Total cash and investments increased by \$13,177 during the year to \$848,508. The operating funds deficit of \$161,015 was more than offset by an increase in the market value of investments of \$136,649 and a net increase in restricted funds of \$34,664.

Comparative Operating Statement—Actual and Budget For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	Change from 12/31/2018 Fav(Unfav)	Annual Budget 12/31/2019	Change from Budget Fav(Unfav)
<u>Receipts:</u>					
Operating receipts:					
Pledged Contributions	\$ 331,189.86	\$ 304,672.20	\$ (26,517.66)	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 4,672.20
Additional Contributions	17,571.28	3,579.87	(13,991.41)	18,000.00	(14,420.13)
Plate Offerings	4,107.21	4,322.56	215.35	4,100.00	222.56
Per Capita	4,853.93	4,498.95	(354.98)	4,900.00	(401.05)
Building Use	23,225.00	25,580.00	2,355.00	23,800.00	1,780.00
Mission Fundraisers	1,635.06	43.51	(1,591.55)	1,680.00	(1,636.49)
Total Receipts	\$ 382,582.34	\$ 342,697.09	\$ (39,885.25)	\$ 352,480.00	\$ (9,782.91)
Gifts:					
Special Gifts toward Budget	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 27,946.55	\$ 5,946.55	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 946.55
Memorial and Honorary Gifts	6,598.00	10,025.00	3,427.00	10,000.00	25.00
Total Gifts	\$ 28,598.00	\$ 37,971.55	\$ 9,373.55	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 971.55
Investment Income	\$ 3,872.77	\$ 3,174.32	\$ (698.45)	\$ 3,970.00	\$ (795.68)
Transfers and Loans:					
Transfer from Investments	\$ 23,467.00	\$ 22,243.00	\$ (1,224.00)	\$ 22,243.00	\$ -
Transfer from Manse Housing Fund	20,051.00	20,436.00	385.00	20,436.00	-
Transfer from Westminster Fund for Mission	137.60	-	(137.60)	140.00	(140.00)
Loan from Endowments	30,860.56	67,757.00	36,896.44	56,585.00	11,172.00
Total Transfers and Loans	\$ 74,516.16	\$ 110,436.00	\$ 35,919.84	\$ 99,404.00	\$ 11,032.00
Total Receipts	\$ 489,569.27	\$ 494,278.96	\$ 4,709.69	\$ 492,854.00	\$ 1,424.96
<u>Disbursements:</u>					
Worship (Worship and Music)	\$ 3,067.32	\$ 2,452.73	\$ 614.59	\$ 3,130.00	\$ 677.27
Flourish (Christian Education)	2,682.66	2,469.11	213.55	2,730.00	260.89
Serve (Mission & Outreach)	28,801.78	23,995.51	4,806.27	30,365.00	6,369.49
Care (Christian Care and Spiritual Nurture)	712.88	704.96	7.92	730.00	25.04
Engage (Administration)	3,109.65	4,018.87	(909.22)	4,600.00	581.13
Sustain (Office Expense)	19,675.02	20,478.93	(803.91)	16,100.00	(4,378.93)
Sustain (Buildings & Grounds)	58,774.50	50,760.68	8,013.82	49,500.00	(1,260.68)
Sustain (Insurance and MRRF)	16,966.54	23,875.46	(6,908.92)	24,000.00	124.54
Staff Expenses	325,678.74	368,699.39	(43,020.65)	361,699.00	(7,000.39)
Total Disbursements	\$ 459,469.09	\$ 497,455.64	\$ (37,986.55)	\$ 492,854.00	\$ (4,601.64)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 30,100.18	\$ (3,176.68)	\$ (33,276.86)	\$ -	\$ (3,176.68)

Statement of Funds Activity For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance as of January 1, 2019	\$ 23,906.93	\$ 811,424.08	\$ 835,331.01
<u>Operating Receipts:</u>			
Contributions	\$ 298,820.91	\$ -	\$ 298,820.91
Plate Offerings	4,322.56	-	4,322.56
Per Capita	4,498.95	-	4,498.95
Building Use	25,580.00	-	25,580.00
Interest and Dividends	0.24	3,174.08	3,174.32
Mission Fundraisers	43.51	-	43.51
Total Operating Receipts	<u>\$ 333,266.17</u>	<u>\$ 3,174.08</u>	<u>\$ 336,440.25</u>
<u>Operating Disbursements:</u>			
Worship (Worship and Music)	\$ (2,452.73)	\$ -	\$ (2,452.73)
Flourish (Christian Education)	(2,469.11)	-	(2,469.11)
Serve (Mission & Outreach)	(23,995.51)	-	(23,995.51)
Care (Christian Care and Spiritual Nurture)	(704.96)	-	(704.96)
Engage (Administration)	(4,018.87)	-	(4,018.87)
Sustain (Office Expense)	(20,478.93)	-	(20,478.93)
Sustain (Buildings & Grounds)	(50,760.68)	-	(50,760.68)
Sustain (Insurance and MRRF)	(23,875.46)	-	(23,875.46)
Staff Expenses	(368,699.39)	-	(368,699.39)
Total Operating Disbursements	<u>\$ (497,455.64)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (497,455.64)</u>
Excess (Shortage) of Operating Funds	\$ (164,189.47)	\$ 3,174.08	\$ (161,015.39)
Transfer from Investments	\$ 121,213.39	\$ (121,213.39)	\$ -
<u>Restricted Fund Receipts:</u>			
Interest and Dividends	\$ -	\$ 10,681.15	\$ 10,681.15
Special Gifts	28,046.55	-	28,046.55
Adult Mission Trip	12,118.06	-	12,118.06
Tilton Music	5,470.00	-	5,470.00
Music	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Capital Campaign	2,058.78	-	2,058.78
Memorial Garden	2,025.00	-	2,025.00
Pastor Sabbatical	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Flower	1,490.00	-	1,490.00
Peace and Global Witness	1,145.00	-	1,145.00
Other Restricted	2,608.00	-	2,608.00
Total Restricted Fund Receipts	<u>\$ 61,961.39</u>	<u>\$ 10,681.15</u>	<u>\$ 72,642.54</u>
<u>Restricted Fund Disbursements:</u>			
Adult Misson Trip	(11,869.60)	-	(11,869.60)
Allen and Willard	\$ (7,215.00)	\$ -	\$ (7,215.00)
Tilton Music	(6,475.00)	1,000.00	(5,475.00)
Scoville Scholarship	(3,000.00)	3,000.00	-
Flower	(1,717.70)	-	(1,717.70)
Refugee Mission	(1,463.00)	-	(1,463.00)
Other restricted	(10,238.22)	-	(10,238.22)
Total Restricted Fund Disbursements	<u>\$ (41,978.52)</u>	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>	<u>\$ (37,978.52)</u>
Net Change in Receivables/Payables	\$ 2,880.00	\$ -	\$ 2,880.00
Change in Market Value	\$ -	\$ 136,648.72	\$ 136,648.72
Net Change in Account	<u>\$ (20,113.21)</u>	<u>\$ 33,290.56</u>	<u>\$ 13,177.35</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2019	\$ 3,793.72	\$ 844,714.64	\$ 848,508.36

Comparative Balance Sheet December 31, 2018 and 2019

	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	Change From 12/31/2018
Assets:			
<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>			
Webster Bank Checking	\$ 23,345.62	\$ 3,232.17	\$ (20,113.45)
Webster Bank Money Market	561.31	561.55	0.24
Total Cash And Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 23,906.93</u>	<u>\$ 3,793.72</u>	<u>\$ (20,113.21)</u>
<u>Brokerage Accounts</u>			
Charles Schwab & Co. Account - General	\$ 98,086.74	\$ 101,260.82	\$ 3,174.08
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(1,746.45)	21,668.22	23,414.67
Charles Schwab & Co. Account - Housing Fund	296,703.94	308,799.29	12,095.35
Total Brokerage Accounts	<u>\$ 393,044.23</u>	<u>\$ 431,728.33</u>	<u>\$ 38,684.10</u>
<u>New Covenant Funds</u>			
Lydia & Richard Allen & Eleanor Willard Fund	\$ 207,054.93	\$ 199,740.35	\$ (7,314.58)
The Lester Senger Christian Education Leadership Fund	41,409.47	49,848.06	8,438.59
The Memorial Garden Fund	7,488.81	9,014.87	1,526.06
The G. T. Scoville Trust Fund Differently Able	5,324.79	6,485.50	1,160.71
The Scoville Scholarship Fund	2,515.48	6,309.85	3,794.37
Todd R. Tilton Music Scholarship Fund	8,485.02	11,333.25	2,848.23
Westminster Endowment Fund	146,101.35	130,254.43	(15,846.92)
Total New Covenant Funds	<u>\$ 418,379.85</u>	<u>\$ 412,986.31</u>	<u>\$ (5,393.54)</u>
<u>Account Receivable</u>			
Due from Westminster Congregation	\$ 8,637.36	\$ 77,154.74	\$ 68,517.38
Deposit Receivable	1,450.00	1,450.00	-
Account Receivable	2,880.00	-	(2,880.00)
Total Account Receivable	<u>\$ 12,967.36</u>	<u>\$ 78,604.74</u>	<u>\$ 65,637.38</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 848,298.37</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 927,113.10</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 78,814.73</u></u>
Liabilities:			
Due to Lydia & Richard Allen & Eleanor Willard Fund	\$ 4,318.68	\$ 38,577.37	\$ 34,258.69
Due to Westminster Endowment Fund	4,318.68	38,577.37	34,258.69
Due to Scoville Fund	3,000.00	-	(3,000.00)
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 11,637.36</u>	<u>\$ 77,154.74</u>	<u>\$ 65,517.38</u>
Equity:			
<u>Endowment & Memorial Gift Funds</u>			
Lydia & Richard Allen & Eleanor Willard Fund	\$ 201,430.49	\$ 196,951.00	\$ (4,479.49)
Westminster Endowment Fund	150,557.27	154,760.44	4,203.17
The Lester Senger Christian Education Leadership Fund	41,409.47	49,413.06	8,003.59
Todd R. Tilton Music Scholarship Fund	7,840.02	9,683.25	1,843.23
The Scoville Scholarship Fund	2,448.62	6,242.99	3,794.37
The G. T. Scoville Trust Fund Differently Able	5,391.65	6,552.36	1,160.71
Manse Housing Fund	276,442.65	299,315.39	22,872.74
Martha Richards Music Enrichment Fund	150.00	150.00	-
Memorial Gift Funds	16,725.46	16,725.46	-
Total Endowment & Memorial Gift Funds	<u>\$ 702,395.63</u>	<u>\$ 739,793.95</u>	<u>\$ 37,398.32</u>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>			
The Memorial Garden Fund	\$ 7,488.81	\$ 11,001.65	\$ 3,512.84
Deacon Fund	153.94	103.94	(50.00)
Other Restricted Funds	98,268.90	80,567.28	(17,701.62)
Total Restricted Funds	<u>\$ 105,911.65</u>	<u>\$ 91,672.87</u>	<u>\$ (14,238.78)</u>
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			
Net Operating Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Allowance for Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(1,746.45)	21,668.22	23,414.67
Net Income (Loss)	30,100.18	(3,176.68)	(33,276.86)
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$ 28,353.73</u>	<u>\$ 18,491.54</u>	<u>\$ (9,862.19)</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>\$ 848,298.37</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 927,113.10</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 78,814.73</u></u>

**Other Restricted Funds
December 31, 2018 and 2019**

	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>	Change from <u>12/31/2018</u>
<u>Other Restricted Funds</u>			
Senior High Mission Trip	\$ 16,702.45	\$ 18,570.45	\$ 1,868.00
Organ Improvement	18,358.07	18,358.07	-
Music	7,844.42	12,844.42	5,000.00
Capital Campaign	8,207.88	8,562.92	355.04
Pastor Sabbatical Fund	6,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00
Refugee Mission Fund	5,713.47	3,411.42	(2,302.05)
Adult Mission Trip	2,689.00	2,937.46	248.46
West	2,754.50	2,754.50	-
Pastor Discretionary Fund	2,446.08	1,806.08	(640.00)
Major Repairs and Renovations Fund (MRRF)	1,326.03	1,326.03	-
Prepaid Contributions	19,356.16	25.00	(19,331.16)
Other Restricted Fund	6,870.84	1,970.93	(4,899.91)
Total Other Restricted Funds	<u>\$ 98,268.90</u>	<u>\$ 80,567.28</u>	<u>\$ (17,701.62)</u>

**Audit Committee Report
Cyndi Brown, Chair**

Committee Members: Ann Jarrett, Pam Torsiello and Ed Carney
Organized by: Cyndi Brown

The Audit Committee reviewed a sampling of records for the years 2015 through 2019 and found no concerns to report. A full report has been submitted to the Finance Committee if there are any specific questions. We would like to thank Greg Hammond, Westminster Treasurer for 20 years, and Kevin Morrison, our current Treasurer, for all their time and conscientious effort made behind the scenes to ensure Westminster's financial records were in good keeping.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Torsiello

Westminster People 2019: A Year in Photos

Annual Chili vs. Mac & Cheese Cook-off

And the winners are.....



Chili – 1st place Art Riihimaki (wife Barbara accepting his award), 2nd place Avery MacKellar-Nogueira and 3rd place Nathan Souza

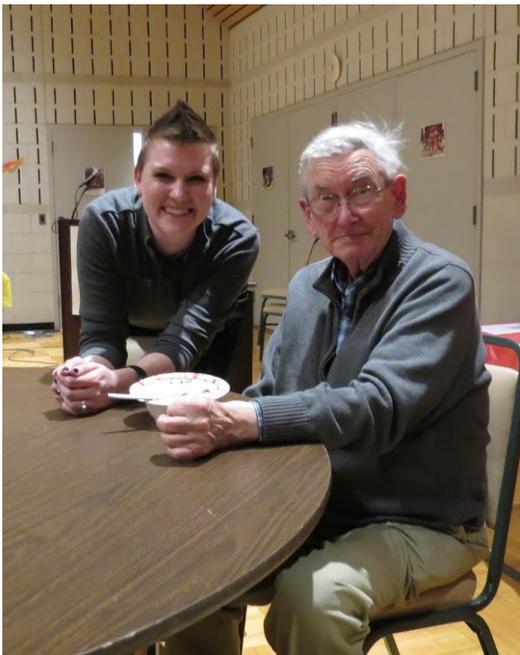


Mac and Cheese – 1st place Zoe Buffat, 2nd place Katie Osoba and 3rd place Ashley Aronson.



(continued on the next page...)

(Annual Chili Cook-off continued...)



Mission and Community Outreach

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Founding Assembly



Foodshare Walk Against Hunger



Jessie's Community Garden



Puerto Rico Mission Trips



Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt (Held indoors due to rain)



(continued on the next page...)

(Easter Egg Hunt continued...)



Westminster Youth

CHAOS: Westminster Youth Group



WeHaYG Combined Youth Group with Westminster, First Congregational Church & St. John's Episcopal Church



LIFT (Living in Faith Together) Sundays

January LIFT Sunday



February LIFT Sunday



March LIFT Sunday



April LIFT Sunday (Palm Sunday)



May LIFT Sunday



September LIFT Sunday



October LIFT Sunday



November LIFT Sunday



December LIFT Sunday



Paper Bag Pageant: Family Christmas Eve Service



Westminster Moments





Westminster Presbyterian Church Vision & Mission Statements

Westminster is a vital, engaging, inclusive family of faith that serves God by: supporting each other on our spiritual journeys, sharing the gifts we have been given, and demonstrating the love and justice of Christ in our community and world.

Westminster offers living proof of a loving God.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Julie Emery, Minister/Head of Staff
Barbara Riihimaki, Interim Director of Music
Karen Hammond, Director of Faith Formation
Becky Kimberly, Church Administrator

Mike McElroy, Church Sexton
Paul D. Sigler, Church Sexton Assistant
Wanda Bender, Security Coordinator
Jeannine Stimson, Bookkeeper

Leadership of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Flourish

Nicole Aronson, Elder
Heather McBride, Elder

Worship

Avery MacKellar–Nogueira, Elder
Jenna Sheridan, Elder

Engage

Barbara Riihimaki, Elder

Sustain

Myles Altimus, Elder
Anne Carney, Clerk
David Hall, Elder

Care

Ashley Aronson, Deacon
Nicole Aronson, Elder
JoAnne Berry, Deacon
Marcia DeBolt, Deacon
Ma'Lynn Feingold, Deacon
Jean Summers, Deacon

Serve

Adam Bender, Deacon
Tom Buckley, Elder
Helena Offei, Deacon
Len Oshinskie, Elder
Michael Seltzer, Deacon
Nancy Souza, Deacon
Nathan Souza, Deacon