Westminster Presbyterian Church

Church Profile

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Our City

Everett is the county seat of Snohomish County (one of the fastest growing counties in the state with a population of over 800,000); located 25 miles north of Seattle. The city is nestled at the mouth of the Snohomish River along Port Gardner Bay with views of both the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges. Outdoor recreation is abundant and is easily reachable from the city.

Everett was a planned city financed by a group of local and East Coast businessmen, including John D. Rockefeller, The Rucker Brothers, Charles L. Colby, Henry Hewitt Jr, and Colgate Hoyt.

The city was incorporated in 1893 with an economy centered on the lumber industry. In the city’s early days, it was nicknamed “City of Smokestacks” and later “Milltown”. It was known for its churches and bars. The economy of Everett has now transitioned from lumber and diversified with the construction of Boeing’s aircraft assembly plant for the Boeing 747 in 1967. In 1992, the
U.S. Navy established Naval Station Everett. In 2002, Everett received an All-American City Award.

Everett is a growing city; projects are underway to redevelop both the waterfront and along the Snohomish River. These projects include construction of multi-family housing, including housing for low income and/or homeless people. The population of Everett at the 2010 census was 103,019 and was estimated to be 111,262 in 2018. It is projected to grow by 60,000 within the next 30 years.

Westminster is located next to Immaculate Conception school pre-k - 8th grade (250 students) and is a block South of Everett High School (1,400 students).

Everett is also home to Everett Community College, who instruct some 19,000 Students and has Partnerships with major universities such as WSU.
About Our Building

Westminster Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Hoyt Ave. and 26th St. in the heart of Downtown Everett. Our current building was built in 1929, moving from our original location a few blocks away on Colby Avenue, to make way for a new Sears store location. The building is in the Neo-Gothic style with the sanctuary seating a maximum occupancy of 260 persons. Stained glass windows brighten the room, donated by the generous contributions of the congregation. The building is also equipped with a professional kitchen and Fellowship Hall in the basement.

In 1964, having received a gift of a new pipe organ, renovation of the front of the sanctuary was done to accommodate it and the pipe chamber.

In 1972, to better accommodate our Sunday School programs, a new Christian Education wing was attached to the north of the existing building. This new addition was built over the former location of the manse. After the manse was moved it was later sold off. The current pastor owns his own home.

In more recent years a major effort has been undertaken to restore and renovate the building. The exterior brickwork has been carefully cleaned and repointed, the roof replaced, the carpet in the Christian Education wing was replaced, and bathrooms were renovated. Future restoration of the sanctuary, organ, and kitchen are in the planning stages.

At present, the building is a part of the Washington State Historical Building Survey and Inventory as well as the City of Everett's Historic Resource Survey.
Our History

"By appointment of the Board of Home Missions of the United Presbyterian Church, Rev. L. Lanning came to Everett, Washington, in September 1900. October 14, 1900 in a rented hall, he conducted his first church service in Everett. Very few people were present and only one of the number, Mrs. Elizabeth Loria, has been a member of the United Presbyterian Church. Everett was advertised by interesting articles from the pen of Dr. Lanning in the United Presbyterian Church papers and a number of families were thus influenced to move hither. The Congregation was organized with twenty-seven members, March 19, 1901."

Session Record Book, 1901

- Rev. Dr. Lanning continued as pastor 1901 - 1912
- Rev. M.E. Dunn D.D. was pastor from 1913 - 1915
- Rev. James H. Edgar was pastor from 1915 - 1918
- Rev. Carl S. Dunn, son of Dr. M.E. Dunn was pastor from 1918 - 1921
- Rev. Howard M. Jamieson was pastor from 1921 - 1948
- Rev. Dr. Robert B. Brown was pastor from 1948 - 1968
- Rev. John P. Hoogstrate was pastor from 1968 - 1991 Pastor Emeritus 1991 - present
- Rev. Frederick L. Zoeller was pastor from 1991 - January 1, 2020
The congregation withdrew from the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1959 due to the increasing liberalism of the church and the impending merger with the Northern Presbyterian Church. God blessed the congregation by providing the funding to allow us to buy our building from the Presbytery. After diligent search and consideration, the church joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (formerly Bible Presbyterian) which merged with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod in 1965 to become the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. In 1982 through a process of “joining and receiving” we became a part of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Over the last 119 years, one continuing group of Christians, now known as Westminster Presbyterian Church, remains faithful to the Word of God and the Reformed Faith.

Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, and Solus Christus...Soli Deo Gloria!!!
Mission and Vision Statements

Definitive Statement

This member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Confesses the Authority of Holy Scripture, the Verity of the Reformed Faith, and the Necessity of Obedience to the Great Commission—God helping us.

Our Mission

By God’s grace, for Christ’s glory, relying on the Holy Spirit, our Mission is to evangelize downtown Everett and world, regularly worship together, actively pray, build-up the Body of Christ, and develop our talents in serving God.

Our Vision

is that the entire Everett Community know Westminster as a church which reaches out evangelistically, through individuals and families, in the use our facilities, and with music.
What We Believe

We believe

♦ That the Bible is the infallible, inerrant, inspired, written Word of God; inspired by the Holy Spirit and is God’s revelation of truth, infallible and authoritative in matters of faith and practice.

♦ In the Holy Trinity, that there is one God existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That these three are the creators and sustainers of all that exists.

♦ That all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are entirely unable to save themselves from God’s displeasure and wrath, except by His mercy and grace alone.

♦ That salvation is by God alone, as He sovereignly elects those He will save, enabling them to freely choose Him.

♦ That salvation is freely offered to all, but, is effectual for those that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and He has chosen.

♦ That salvation is based on God’s grace, not on any individual merit but solely on the merit of Christ and His finished work on the Cross and resurrection.

♦ That through His perfect live and sacrificial death, Christ atoned for the sins of all who trust Him alone for salvation.

♦ That He is coming again in power and great glory to judge both the righteous and unrighteous and that those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be eternally present with Him but those whose names are not written in that Book will be judged guilty and will be cast from His presence into eternal punishment in Hell, that place reserved for those who do not believe together with Satan and his angels.

♦ That those who believe, together with their children, are members of God’s covenant family and therefore entitled to the title Christian.

♦ That we are to live all aspects of our lives to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ which we are increasingly enabled to do through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in God’s people and who gives strength, wisdom, and gifts to follow Christ and bring glory to His Name.

♦ That the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms are faithful to and set forth the system of doctrine contained in the Holy Scripture but are subordinate to the Word of God.
Congregation

The Congregation of Westminster is an active body of believers. The liturgy that we follow is traditional. We have a wonderful Chancel Choir lead by Choir Director Thomas Harper, Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Washington, and employ an organist to enrich our worship. Communion is held once a month.

Average Sunday morning attendance is around 85.

As of March 2020, Westminster has a communicate membership of 140 and 45 Covenant Children.

Westminster meets at various times throughout the week in addition to our Sunday Worship Services.

Vietnamese Outreach

Westminster holds a Vietnamese Worship service; Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Assistant Pastor Vihn Le, who leads the service, has been with Westminster for over 5 years.

Church Officers

God has provided over the years men of integrity and those holding to sound doctrine as taught in the Word of God and the Westminster Standards. At this time, God has provided five Ruling Elders and three Deacons to the Church. These men continue to provide oversight of the congregation and care for the facilities which God has given us as under-shepherds of our “sheep.”

Church Ministries

WIC

Westminster’s Women in the Church is a vibrant organization that is the life blood of the church. They serve at memorial services, weddings, providing sanctuary flowers, Mercy meals, visit shut-ins, and various other services. They also host Bible studies, women’s retreats, and other such activities. In addition, WIC sponsors an annual “Tea and Boutique” in November that raises thousands of additional dollars for Missions over and above budgeted missions giving.
Senior Lunch
The Seniors of the congregation meet three times a year for a luncheon at the church. Each lunch consists of fellowship, devotional, and special program.

Concert Series
Westminster hosts several free concerts during the year for the general public. These concerts are a variety of local Christian music groups. The schedule varies from year to year depending who the Music Committee finds. Each Concert is always a treat and a fantastic outreach to the city.

Family Camp
Every August the church holds a Family Camp at Fort Ebey State Park on Whidbey Island. The camp runs from Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. Besides a bonfire devotional each evening, the campers enjoy activities like hiking, biking, games, and a potluck supper.

Christian Education
Sunday School
The education of the laity is one of the primary jobs of the church. At Westminster, Sunday School is an important tool to that end. All ages are welcome to Sunday School. We have a Toddler – 12 grade program and an Adult Sunday school program. These classes are taught primarily by the laity.

Nursery & Toddler room
A nursery and a Toddler room are available for young children and babies to 4 years of age. Parents are welcome to utilize this ministry during the morning worship service.
Vacation Bible School

VBS was an integral part of child ministries and outreach. At one time, about half of the children coming were from outside the congregation. Over the years this program has waned. It’s been about two years since VBS was held at Westminster. There haven’t been any volunteers to take on leading this ministry. It is a desire of the congregation to one day revive this beloved ministry.

Bible Studies

Thursday Night Bible Study

The Thursday Night Bible study, now meeting at 1601 Rucker, has been meeting for 12-plus years. Participation consists of about 75% from Westminster and 25% from other churches. This Bible study is for the entire family. There is childcare for the younger children. On the first Thursday of the month there is a potluck.

Monday Night Bible Study (NEW)

The Monday Night Bible study at 5133 W. Highland Rd. is a brand-new endeavor that the Church has taken on to expand the Bible study program. This study is currently geared toward young professionals, but, is open to all. The new Study is set to begin on March 9th, 2020.

Vietnamese Bible Study

Meets on Friday Nights at Pastor Vihn’s house. This study is conducted in Vietnamese.

Men’s Breakfast

The men of Westminster meet once a month at Bob’s Burgers and brew for Breakfast and Bible study. The event is open to all men and boys. The Bible study is led by its participants.
Committees

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee is responsible for finding missions for the church congregation to support. They are also the primary arm of communication between the church and missionaries and the missionaries’ organization.

Music Committee

The Music Committee consists of four church members plus the Choir Director and Organist who sit in an advisory capacity. The Committee advises the Session on matters pertaining to our music ministries and recommends candidates for Choir Director and Organist when needed.

Christian Education Committee

This Committee consists of representatives of the various educational programs of the church. The Committee oversees educational needs, materials, and methods.

Deacon’s helpers

The Deacons are blessed with a multitude of helpers. The Deacons keep a list of these skilled individuals should a need arise. In recent years they have helped when the Deacons were overwhelmed with a sewage flooding problem, and other such disaster issues.

Maintenance Committee

These are Deacon’s helpers that take an active role in maintaining the church building and grounds. They handle everything from plumbing and electrical to lawn care and painting.

Beautification Committee

This committee is made up of Deacon’s helpers who assist with aesthetics and design choices and provide the main muscle for new building and decorating projects.

For more information on Westminster’s congregation and church ministries; please see the Congregational Report attached to this document.
Westminster’s Weekly Schedule

Sunday
- Vietnamese Worship Service 9:30 AM
- Morning Exercises 9:30 AM
- Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 AM
- Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM
- Congregational Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

Monday
- Nellie Lanning Circle (meets once a month) 6:00 PM
- Monday Night Bible Study (NEW) 7:00 PM at a member’s home

Tuesday
- Sewing Circle 9:30 AM
- Deacons’ Meeting (meets once a month) 6:00 PM
- Joint Session Meeting (Elders and Deacons together meet once a month) 7:00 PM
- Session Meeting (meets once a month) 8:00 PM

Wednesday
- Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Thursday
- Thursday Night Bible Study 7:00 PM (first Thursday potluck at 6:30 pm) at a member’s home

Saturday
- Men’s Breakfast (meets once a month) 8:00 AM
- Game Night (meets twice a month) 6:00 PM