

WPC Distinctives Statement

In His kind providence, God has called Westminster Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA to be a vibrant covenant community, intent upon love for the brethren, covenant faithfulness, biblical discipleship and the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Toward that end and in addition to the standards of the PCA (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms), the following distinctives comprise a faithful representation of our calling:

We are a covenant community

- We believe that God, in His infinite wisdom and great care, has ordered all of life in the context of the covenant He has made with man. Because of this reality, we view children as a reward and heritage from the Lord, every bit a part of this gracious covenant that God has entered into with their parents. As fully participating members of this covenant community, our joy is made complete as they partake of the Lord's table with us at the earliest opportunity for a profession of faith.

Because God is the Lord and giver of life, we believe that He has not only given us children but has given us a model by which they must be nurtured and disciplined. As we consider the fact that the student becomes like the teacher, that God's word instructs the parents to teach His precepts without interruption, in every season and circumstance of life, we are committed to homeschooling as being the most faithful means of educating the next generation. This necessitates that the father is the head of his home as Christ is head of the Church, that he protects, rules over, loves, declares the Word to, and nurtures his wife and children. In turn, the wife, following this vision and direction of her husband, joins with him in the instructing and educating of the children. These children then grow in the grace and knowledge of God, the faith of the father is passed down and these arrows are shot forth into the culture to colonize and subdue it unto the crown rights of Jesus Christ.

We are an integrated community

- We believe that God has placed us into families and that these families come together to form the church of Jesus Christ. The example we find in Paul's exhortations to the church as well as the gathering together of God's people under the old and new covenants provide us with the proper context for life in the covenant, that is, the fruitful interaction of all ages together being taught, fed, exhorted and fellowshiping. As such, we have no Sunday School but enjoy learning together, father beside son, mother beside daughter, husband beside wife.

We are a community whose relationship to God is reflected in our worship

- Whereas God is a God of order and desires to be worshipped on His terms, in Spirit and in truth, in reverence and in awe, we subject ourselves to His regulation as we enter into His sanctuary. We believe that God in His mercy renews covenant with His people as they assemble together for worship, and as a result, we corporately confess our sins, respond to the voice of God, receive His pardon, are reminded of His character, His terms, and our duty, are nourished and fed at His table and are sent forth renewed to the task of being used to advance His kingdom.

We are a believing community

· We believe the plain truths of God's Word as He has revealed them, beginning with the foundational doctrine of creation. The example God sets forth for mankind is made evident in the account of creation and is fundamental to our understanding of life itself, including vocation, labor, the Sabbath, the nature of God, etc. To tamper with the plain meaning of the text invites tampering everywhere else God has revealed Himself and makes void the ebb and flow of work and rest as God has decreed.

We believe that Christ has merited salvation for us based upon His active and passive obedience. Further, we affirm the fundamental truth that justification is by faith, which is itself, a gift from God, not of works lest any man should boast. Consequently, we deny any attempt to secure for man the slightest hand in his own redemption.

We are an optimistic community

· We believe the promises of God when He tells us that the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, that earthly swords shall indeed become earthly plow shares, that the kings of the earth will indeed kiss the son in time and space, and that Christ, who has been given dominion and all authority on this earth by His Father, will indeed be victorious against all principalities and powers. Toward that end, the church has been commissioned by Christ to take dominion of the earth on His behalf through the preaching of the gospel and the baptizing and discipling of the nations. This discipling of the nations includes teaching them to do all that Christ has commanded, hence, the law of God is the only standard for culture and society and will one day be the righteous rule of the land. We look forward with great anticipation to the day when a man will no longer say to his neighbor, "Know thy God," for all shall know Him.

We are an evangelistic community

· We believe that the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ comes bottom up rather than top down, and as a result, individuals, families, churches and cultures are not saved through political action but through the spread of the gospel, emanating outward, beginning with Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ultimately the uttermost parts. Because of this commitment, we are motivated to disciple and equip fathers to evangelize their children, for families to be salt and light in their communities, for the church to proclaim the good news of that Gospel, and for the church to multiply itself in the world.