



Westminster
presbyterian

one church. two locations.
FRIENDLY AVENUE CAMPUS
LAKE BRANDT CAMPUS

REPORT FROM THE SESSION

We are grateful for the twenty people who served on Listening Teams to help the healing process at Westminster. Fifty-six people were heard over a six-week period last fall. In a church of 2,000 members, we recognize that most of the people who took this opportunity were deeply hurt by the conflict in 2009. The purpose of these Listening Sessions were to assist the healing process.

At its February 2010 meeting, the Session spent the majority of the meeting discussing the themes which arose out of the conflict and how we can learn and grow from the experience. While we cannot erase or undo the past, we can acknowledge the hurt, hopefully heal and grow in Spirit, and seek to embrace and trust as God would have us do.

After reflecting together on what we have learned, the Session approved the following action items to share with the congregation:

1. Publish highlights of session meetings in our monthly newsletter (and continue to post session minutes in the hallway outside of the offices) to improve communication with the congregation.
2. Develop effective continuous training, education, and equipping of elders, committees, pastors, and staff.
3. Educate the congregation on Presbyterian identity using such opportunities as newsletter articles, sermons, and other learning opportunities.
4. Provide staff with supervisor support/mentoring and personnel committee liaison.
5. Continue to enhance our ministry to youth and their families by:
 - Emphasizing spiritual growth and a life of Christ-like service.
 - Developing a sustainable youth ministry which is not dependent on just one leader but which involves pastoral leadership, staff, elder, and youth volunteers ministering with/to our youth and their families. This model is better able to minister to a variety of different young people.
 - We have established a Youth Committee to better develop the leadership qualities of our youth and adult leaders.
 - To reach out to all kinds of youth with the love of Christ.
 - To encourage members of the Confirmation Class (and their parents) to continue in our High School Youth Program and not to see confirmation as “graduation” from the church.
 - To continue to strengthen communication between the youth ministry area and the pastors and rest of the staff.

Continued

[Committees of the session are working with our Youth Consultant, Marti Reed Hazelrigg, to develop a comprehensive plan for Westminster's Youth Ministry. The Youth Committee along with Marti, youth staff, elders, volunteers, and youth are currently carrying out an important ministry with our youth. New programs, such as Table Groups, with six youth meeting in the homes of members to be shaped by Scripture, have begun this year. Watch the newsletter for further reports.]

6. Continue to develop belonging, unity, and trust

- Develop a strong and diverse spiritual community among the staff, session, and larger congregation.
- Through worship and education series, through congregation-wide events, through common threads in all our worship services strengthen our sense of belonging and unity.
- Continue to intentionally be a praying church.
- Work on healthy conflict resolution when we disagree.