

The Church Body and Our Leadership

*Our Mission is to gather in the name of Jesus
Christ to worship God and by the power of the
Holy Spirit do God's work in the world.*

Ministers

Our ministers are Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. They serve in a variety of roles. As preachers and teachers of the Word, they preach and teach the faith of the church, so that the people are shaped by the pattern of the gospel and strengthened for witness and service. When they serve at font and table, they interpret the mysteries of grace and lift the people's vision toward the hope of God's new creation. When they serve as pastors, they support the people in the disciplines of the faith amid the struggles of daily life. Ministers are a Presbytery resource selected by the congregation and called to service in our church.

Session

Eighteen elders and the two called pastors make up Session which is responsible for church governance and spiritual leadership. The Head of Staff (the Senior Pastor) acts as Session Moderator. The Clerk of Session (an elder) is responsible for basic administration of Session. Session receives new church members, provides for the worship and sacraments of the church, oversees pastoral care and educational programs, challenges church members about responsible Christian stewardship of money, time, and talents, establishes the church's

budget, and leads the congregation to discover what God is doing in the world and what God wants the church to be doing.

Elders serve a three-year term on Session and are responsible for the spiritual well-being and overall governance of the congregation. The congregation elects and ordains elders to discern and measure its fidelity to the word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Elders exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of the congregation during a three-year term of active service. To maintain continuity among the eighteen elders, our congregation elects six new elders each year.

WPC Session elders lead six permanent ministries that are composed of both elders and volunteer church members.

The Administration Ministry develops the tools for effective human resource management, supports the ministries of WPC in their efforts to identify, develop and retain superior staff equipped to nourish and sustain a vital, growing faith community.

The Christian Education Ministry responds to Jesus' challenge to encourage the teaching of God's Word; to foster an atmosphere in which people of all ages can study the Scriptures and explore what it means to bear a Christian identity.

The Christian Outreach Ministry identifies opportunities to develop programs where our resources of time, talent and treasures of may be used effectively.

The Facilities Ministry demonstrates good stewardship of the church resources as it tends to the maintenance, repair and renovation of the church building and property.

The Resources Ministry carries out good and faithful stewardship of the church's financial resources in accordance with the gospel; to develop and articulate financial policies and budget proposals that reflect our congregation's Christian beliefs and support our church's ministries.

The Worship Ministry creates worship services that are welcoming to all of God's children. This ministry includes the music program and assists in the sacrament of Communion and also provides support for other services of worship at WPC.

The Communications Ministry supports church activities and initiatives through a combination of appropriate communication vehicles and it fosters open communication about WPC and our activities within WPC and across the wider community.

Board of Deacons

Deacons provide pastoral care for members of the Church. In many respects, the Deacons are the "connective tissue" of the church, comforting, supporting and caring for the congregation through its nine Diaconate Missions and its Deacon on Call program.

A Deacon serves as the **Deacon on Call** for the congregation each week. This is done on a rotating basis, a responsibility that gives the pastors, the office staff and all Family Deacons and Mission Chairs a single point of contact so each can help provide appropriate care, support, sympathy or witness.

Each Deacon is assigned specific church members and families to serve as their “**Family Deacon.**” The Family Deacon provides a channel of communication between families and clergy, church staff and the congregation. Communication includes information such as church activities and the needs or concerns of each family.

The Diaconate consists of nine permanent missions whose work is carried out by deacons and volunteer church members.

The Celebrations and Concerns Mission reaches out through notes and cards to WPC members who may be hospitalized or homebound. This mission coordinates the WPC Prayer Chain which regularly prays for members of the congregation and beyond who are in need. Concerns are shared with God for as long as the Lord leads. The Mission also celebrates happy times such as births and baptisms and welcomes new WPC members, and extends sympathy on the death of a loved one.

The Christian Fellowship Mission provides social opportunities for Church members to gather and become better acquainted. Several examples include the weekly Coffee Hour between services, the New Members Receptions, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Annual Church Picnic. The Christian Fellowship Mission is comprised of Deacons and WPC volunteers and also coordinates volunteers to bake cookies and other food for special events.

Confirmation Mission deacons prepare young people for deeper, active church membership through study and related activities. Deacons teach and coordinate this important work in partnership with the Director of Educational Ministries and the Christian Education Committee.

The Family Deacon Mission assists and supports each Family Deacon with training and education as they minister to their individual families. Recently this mission introduced a periodic Extended Communion Service to WPC members who are either home-bound or facility-bound.

The Flower Sharing Mission rearranges Sunday's chancel flowers, after Sunday worship, into smaller containers and coordinates delivery to WPC members who are ill or confined to hospitals, nursing homes or at home. This mission provides meaningful and caring contact with those members who need support during difficult times.

The Memorial and Funeral Services Mission helps to coordinate all facets of the Service. The Church staff works with the Funeral home staff to make certain each family is fully supported.

The Memorial and Funeral Services Reception Mission provides a reception including punch and cookies in the Stevenson Hall (Fellowship Hall) following a Service. They may also coordinate with a caterer or a WPC Circle.

The Membership Mission includes the "New Member Orientation" which welcomes new members to WPC and introduces them to our church family. There is an emphasis on building friendships while learning about WPC ministries, missions and other programs of the church. New member classes are held two times during the year.

The Mission works with the "Fellowship Register Team" to review the Sanctuary Fellowship Registers, keep track of attendance and inform the Pastors about requests for membership information.