

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION**

02807

On Monday, September 15, 2025, the 665th regular meeting of Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was held in Galbreath Memorial Chapel. Dr. Forrest was the Moderator and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

Attending were Dr. Forrest and Rev. Bentley and Elders Berrott, Conroy, Davis, Eccher, Hallums, Malarkey, McGee, Page, Ralston, Sarraf, Serene, Thornburgh, and Waller, constituting a quorum.

Report of the Clerk

Elder Melanie Hallums served as acting Clerk in the absence of Elder Ludwig. A motion to approve the minutes of the 664th (August 18, 2025) regular meeting of Session and was made, seconded, and approved. A motion was made, seconded, and was passed to approve the membership actions indicated below.

DEATHS

Judith Over, August 18, 2025

John R. Null, Jr., September 9, 2025

Janis Davis, September 13, 2025

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, September 1, 2025, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dr. Forrest reported the following scheduled meeting dates and topics:

Regular Session Meetings: October 20, 2025, and December 8, 2025.

Pittsburgh Seminary: Dr. Tom Bolsinger lecture, September 19-20, 2025, Henderson Lectures.

Congregational Meeting: October 26, 2025

Officer Retreat: January 9 and 10, 2026

Ordain and Install Officers and Congregational Meeting: January 25, 2026

Upper St. Clair High School Licensing of South Parking Lot

Elder Waller reported that there is no new information to report and that further response from the High School or School District is not expected. Dr. Forrest stated that she will not include this issue in future agendas.

WECEP Lease Agreement

The board of managers of WECEP, LLC still has not approved the proposed lease agreement. Dr. Forrest reported that the managing board is expected to consider the lease at its October meeting. WECEP is currently paying the recently-negotiated lease amount, but the board of managers has not provided an explanation for its delay in signing the lease. A motion was made to convey to the WECEP board of managers that Session expects that the lease will be signed no later than October 31, 2025. If WECEP does not sign the lease by that date, it should explain its concerns in writing no later than October 31, 2025, so those concerns may be addressed. The motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.

Stewardship Campaign for 2026

Elder Berrott reported that the Stewardship Commission has grown to thirteen members and that they have been working on the 2026 stewardship campaign, which will be titled "The Joy of Giving." The Commission has developed three strategies for the 2026 campaign: (1) Ask those who have given in the past to increase the amount of their giving by 10%; (2) Encourage non-givers to become givers (and pledgers) to help the Church meet budget demands; and (3) Communicate that Deacons and members of Session are expected to pledge in 2026.

The Stewardship Commission has created a "Theology of Giving" pamphlet that all congregants will receive, and the Commission is preparing a video presentation for the 2026 campaign. The stewardship campaign will commence on October 26 when it will be introduced at the congregational meeting. Elder Berrott reported that a luncheon will be held following the service on November 23, which is a one-worship Sunday. The Commission hopes to announce that Westminster has met its goal of receiving commitments sufficient to finance the \$1.54 million budget for 2026.

Transition Plan Dissolution

Dr. Forrest reported that she recently met with members of the Commission on Ministry of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. The two members of the Commission who attended the meeting raised a concern about the transition plan that was approved by Session, as well as by the General Minister of the Presbytery and was included in the Ministry Discernment Profile. The Commission members requested that the transition plan be dissolved. A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the transition plan. Following discussion, the motion was carried. A

revised transition plan will be submitted after a new senior pastor is selected. Dr. Forrest emphasized that Westminster has followed the requirements of the Book of Order throughout the search and selection process.

Organ Preservation Project

The Worship Commission and the Finance Commission have approved using money from the Endowment Special Gifts fund to hire a consultant to help develop a plan and to estimate costs of a project to restore and update the sanctuary organ. Dr. Forrest advised that replacement of the organ console is needed and that cost is expected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Approximately \$100,000 of that amount is likely to be contributed by the Endowment. The Worship Commission expects to inform the congregation of the project later this Fall after more details are known and to initiate a request for funding to begin the project in 2026.

Session Guidance for Future Nominating Committees

Dr. Forrest asked Session to consider providing guidance for future Nominating Committees regarding some of the qualifications that are desirable for officers of Westminster. She stated that currently no written guidelines exist for the Nominating Committee to consider. Members of Session discussed whether to provide written guidance and particularly whether a history of giving to the Church should be a prerequisite for nomination to be an officer. After discussion no action was taken. Session will resume consideration of this issue at a future meeting.

Update of Pastor Nominating Committee

Elders Tom Page and Roberta Sarraf reported that the PNC has reached the stage of reviewing applications and scheduling interviews. The PNC continues to invite applications and has posted an announcement of the search in *Presbyterian Magazine*.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bentley reported that the Deacons held a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on September 14 and that they will meet on September 22. The Deacons will serve extended communion on October 5, and Rev. Bentley asked members to email her if they know of anyone who would like to receive extended communion.

Rev. Bentley stated that she will attend the meeting the Presbytery at Crestfield on October 2, and she invited members of Session to join her. She also advised that the "One Hit Wonder" program on Wednesday September 17 will feature Father Paul Abernathy, an Orthodox priest who serves as pastor of Saint Moses, the Black Antiochian Orthodox Church and as CEO of the Neighborhood Resilience Project, located in the Hill District.

COMMISSION and COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissions and committees submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

Adult Spiritual Development

Bridge

Finance

Personnel

Property

Stewardship

Youth Ministry

Worship

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Meeting participants shared individual joys and concerns for the Church, its members, and their families and for the community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm with prayer led by Rev. Bentley. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on October 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm in Galbreath Memorial Chapel.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William C. Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved: