

# CORE VALUES SURVEY

In 2019, members/friends identified 3 essential traits of the Westminster faith community.

- We Welcome
- We Serve
- We Grow

Many ideas have emerged about how we might engage these core values and your input is needed. Take a moment and connect with the sacred spirit within you and let us know if anything below stirs your soul. The survey will remain open January 28 – February 15, 2022.

- **WE WELCOME**

I am interested in learning about becoming a church that is:

- Eco-Friendly **35**
- Works to eradicate poverty **33**
- Builds congregational vitality **47**
- Dismantles racism **37**
- Welcomes the gay/lesbian community (LGBTQIA) **36**
- Explores culture, transformation & reconciliation **36**
- Engages modern questions: diversity, technology **35**
- None of the above **5**

- **WE SERVE**

I may be interested in volunteering in the following places:

- Housing/Homelessness (IHN, Church in the Park) **27**
- Refugees/immigrants/basic needs (Salem for Refugees/Food Bank/Pantry) **29**
- Peace & Justice efforts, local and in the Presbyterian church **21**
- Social services (domestic violence, transportation, health care) **13**
- Schools/education/youth/scouting **18**
- None of the above **7**

- **WE GROW**

Which of these would you attend if offered again? Do you have new ideas?

- Nature-based curriculum (i.e., fauna & flora, eco-churches) **21**
- Respectful communication habits ("Peaceful practices: peacemaking thru dialogue") **33**
- Scripture-specific studies (Bible studies, university professors) **37**
- Cultural trends and 21st century congregations **24**
- Educational topics related to Welcoming and Serving **27**
- Families/parenting/children/youth/infants **10**
- Mental/emotional/spiritual health **25**
- Mindfulness/embodiment/meditation **23**
- None of the above **1**

## WE WELCOME

- The work in all above to overcome fear that freezes. Flexibility needed to accept and tolerate change. Core skills are empathy toward others and self. Replacing blame with understanding that all behavior is a response to meeting needs and this makes forgiveness easier.
- Following Christ, listening intently to His Word, encouraging all to experience forgiveness from sin.
- A “church’ being used as a front for a political organization is at least weird. It also is in jeopardy of losing non-profit status.
- Sticking to our foundational principles is a tried and true path forward.
- Exploring a range of spiritual practices and viewpoints.
- Worships God and cares for its members and local community first.
- Speaks out to support issues named above.
- Joins with other Salem churches in these projects and activities.
- Supports the prevention of gun violence.
- Westminster has had a rough last four years. For the next four years, I would like to see the church work on rebuilding church community. We need to develop programs and activities for all ages. I vision a post-pandemic church where there are noon time activities, evening potlucks, a talent show, family hike, etc. We need to increase adult membership to have the volunteers to help with children’s programs. To do this, controversial issues that divide should be avoided. For now, no new projects outside of the immediate church community should be started for a year The focus needs to be on increasing membership and getting the members to know and trust each other so when new programs are suggested people are in a comfort zone where they can say “I’ll help with that.”
- Are there Biblical passages that speak to these words (the list choices under the “We Welcome” topic)?
- Focus on spiritual growth through knowledge of God through study of His Word and fellowship.
- Welcome everyone.
- The future of the church must include all of those left behind and build a more just system by recognizing and working to dismantle injustice.

## WE SERVE

- Teaching and learning from the Word of God.
- I work full time and would appreciate Sunday morning streaming adult education.
- Current church leadership neglects the value of volunteers, and for the last 3 years has failed to publicly honor and thank the many volunteers that run the daily operations at WPC.
- What Biblical passages can we attach to these words (the list choices under the “We Serve” topic)?
- I already volunteer in these areas, I would e interested in becoming a member of a support team for a refugee family.
- Attend PEC sponsored events.
- Service may be hindered by COVID concerns.

- Praying daily for our church, our leadership, and our pastor. All I can do is supply some food needs, mainly. Music is my gift.
- I need restorative care for myself. I am discouraged and burned out.

## WE GROW

- Presbyterian history
- I would like to see a return of various topics for Adult education, not just Bible-based, but exploring topics relevant to our live in our community: Neighborhood topics of interest, and groups that are doing things we might like to know about, like the work of Liberty House, and more in-depth about what's happening at IHN, what does the Center for Hope and Safety look like, and the new union Gospel Mission building and what it means for the people it serves, and the work about Helping Hands and the work it does, and Table of Plenty and how it fits into the work of the Marion-Polk Food Share, an the work of Garten Industries, etc.
- Open to not only focusing on what is liked and valued about itself, but willing to look at the characteristics of the congregation that might inhibit open communication and truth telling. What problems need to be addressed, before they can be remedied? In what ways do the leadership and congregation need to repent? What structural and cultural elements inhibit such?
- Intentionally open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as it studies, prays, worships, and serves. Encouraging spiritual disciplines and small group commitments.
- What happened to children's time during the service? Other churches do this with lots of young youth participating each week
- Discernment. What is good, true, and following God's way as shown by Jesus. Basically, Christian ethics. How do we live according to the teachings of the New Testament in real, practical ways?
- Learning to pray (different than mindfulness and meditation).
- Why bother with church when there are other options?
- It would be a good idea to look at how the different church committees might work together to provide activities training, education, etc. on any of these topics. And, again, what Biblical passages fit in with these words (the list of choices under the "We Grow" topic)?
- Attendance somewhat hindered by COVID concerns.
- Interfaith events to bring people together.
- Service/social groups (to get acquainted while serving, i.e. Food Share).
- How does the church serve the elderly preparing for death?
- Help. What good is the church if it can't help me? What good am I if I can't help others?