

Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
4400 N. Shartel Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 524-2204
www.wpcokc.org

Position Description: Associate Pastor for Outreach and Contextual Worship

Primary Responsibilities will include: oversee the development and production of experiential, participatory, image-rich and theologically sound worship gatherings especially designed to attract the unchurched and others to a vital relationship with Christ and his community of disciples known as Westminster Presbyterian Church. S/he will integrate a wide variety of liturgical, dramatic, technological and musical genres to lead people into a meaningful and Christ-centered worship experience. By these and whatever means necessary, we hope to bring people to a place of heartfelt worship that is uniquely Westminster; give direction to significant outreach ministries designed to reach, welcome and integrate persons into congregational life; leverage modern culture as momentum to compel others to Christ, by remaining both culturally accessible and faithful to Biblical orthodoxy.

Secondary Responsibilities will include: create opportunities for Christian community among multiple generations in an increasingly individualistic culture; lead and equip evangelism efforts; share in the pastoral duties of WPC including worship leadership, preaching, teaching, administration, pastoral care and participation in the life of the Presbytery; perform tasks and responsibilities, as the needs of the congregation and staff require.

Characteristics and qualifications needed in a person who would fill this position: Christ-like character; innovative and passionate; guided by Biblical theology and a passion for God's sovereign power and grace; extensive training and experience in Christian formation; understanding of (but not swallowed up by) post-modern culture; not easily overwhelmed; possesses tactics for greater leadership in ministry with others; creative; willing to work outside the box; compelling public speaker; ability to relate to multiple generations; willing to work in a collegial fashion with other staff and lay leaders; ability to lead/oversee worship support teams (multimedia, creative, hospitality, tech, etc.); prayerful, relational, genuine; with personal and spiritual integrity.

Primary skill choices: Evangelism, spiritual development, preaching, corporate worship/sacraments, communication (written/oral), leadership of staff/volunteers, teaching and young adult ministry.

About Westminster Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church is located in one of America's most livable heartland cities. The church campus is located just three miles northwest of the capital and surrounded by half a million residents. The congregation has a healthy mix of 1800+ older and younger members, many of whom are leaders in business, medicine, community organizations and politics. The church staff includes three ordained pastors and a program staff of 12.

Westminster began a contemporary worship service in January 2006 using a praise band, computer graphics and video presentations. We've found it challenging to remain faithful to our denominational tradition yet culturally relevant to the unchurched and those believers who aren't comfortable in our three traditional worship services. This format is constantly changing and we aren't finished yet.

During the past three years, our members have engaged in critical analysis of their faith in Christ Jesus in a number of congregation-wide studies, including the Alpha course, Experiencing God, the Bethel series, The Bible in 90 days, and currently a year-long study of the Gospel of Matthew. This congregation has

extended its faith roots deeper and is on the brink of transformation of themselves and their community. We are definitely committed to provide compassionate care to our neighbors.

Westminster's Gifts, Skills and Resources for Mission

Westminster has a gifted membership with proven commitment. It is financially secure, with program staff that is mature, experienced and collegial. We have excellent children's and adult education programs. The facility is in good shape. The congregation has a strong will to change in whatever way needed to thrive in the future.

Our Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Bryan Eckelmann, arrived at Westminster only a year and a half ago with a vision for building on our strengths of worship, lay leadership and Christian education. His particular passions are spiritual transformation, missional outreach and relational ministry. Under his direction, the congregational care, adult education, administration, financial support and youth ministries departments of the church have been significantly strengthened, and renovations to the sanctuary and church exterior have been completed (debt free).

Now, the focus is turning toward outreach and reforming our methods of worship to reach a changing culture. In the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Westminster there is a diverse population with many who have yet to experience the transformative power of Jesus Christ and the love of his people. We want to change that.

Key Theological Issues That Are Reflected in the Ministry of Our Congregation

Westminster is unique in our denomination. It is growing and attracting an increasingly younger membership and is thriving in an urban/suburban setting. It has strong Bible-centered Christian Education programs, and a mission- and justice-centered heart. It suffered through a 5-year period of financial and pastoral scandals, but has remained healthy and enthusiastic about its future. As one of the largest and wealthiest congregations in the Presbytery, WPC could succumb to complacency. God forbid! Complacency will not meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving post-Christian culture.

This culture demands that WPC become increasingly effective at reaching populations of un-churched individuals with the timeless truths of the Gospel. While using methods that honor the people to whom we minister, we are called to affirm the unchanging truths of Scripture and our Confessions. The imperative of evangelism, the call to purity and the need for relevance must be maintained in prayerful tension as we seek faithful forms of worship and ministry. We trust that with the Spirit's guidance, we will rise to this challenge.

Many Westminster members are involved in civic volunteer work. Our challenge is to take Christ into those activities transforming them into Biblical missions of mercy. We are also maturing in our relationships so that our members can live out Christ in their everyday lives. Determining what God has called us to do in each of our lives is a key issue faced by the membership.