

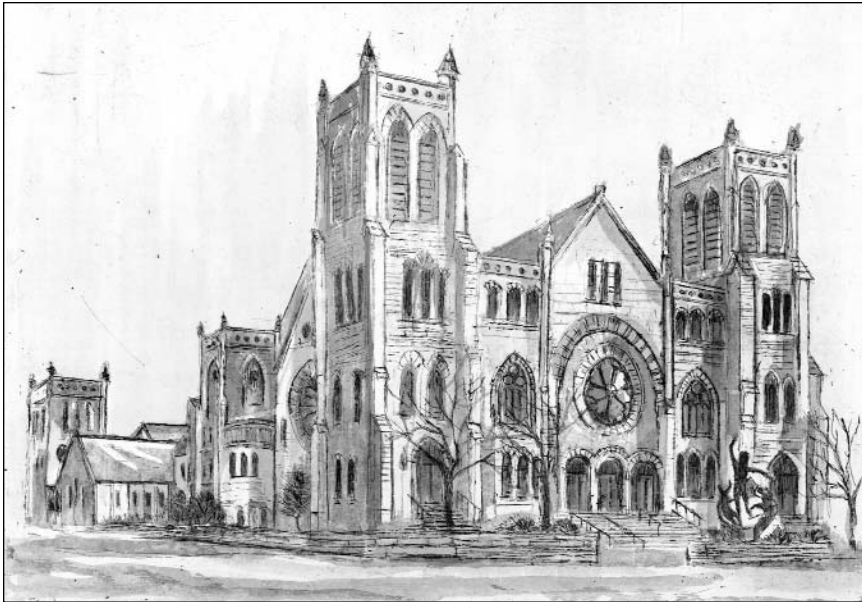
WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Witness to the Resurrection

Ministry at the Time of Death

Funerals and Memorial Services



Westminster, etching by Stephen E. Chase, 2004

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-38

Our church family seeks to offer compassionate support to those who experience the death of a loved one.

When a family member has died or death is imminent

We seek to provide pastoral care and spiritual support as soon as possible. Please notify the church at 612.332.3421. When the church office is closed, a minister is always on call. Voicemail messages are checked regularly by the minister on call, who will return your call as soon as possible.

Arranging a Worship Service

A funeral is a religious service at which the body of the deceased is present and takes place within a few days of death. At a memorial service, the body is not present, which can offer greater flexibility in scheduling. Either service is first and foremost an occasion for the worship of God. Its purpose is twofold: to bear witness to God's promises of resurrection life, and to remember the life of the one who has died as a part of the eternal story of God's creative love. Recognizing our common humanity, the service seeks to offer solace, support and hope to all who attend.

Please notify us of your desire to hold a funeral or memorial service as soon as possible. You may choose a minister to conduct the service. The minister you select will meet with you to offer comfort and discuss options for the service. At this meeting, you will plan the order of worship, including the selection of hymns, music, and scripture. Sharing memories and clarifying the desired character of the service will also be part of this conversation.

Times and dates

A funeral or memorial service must be scheduled on the church calendar before public notice is given. Contact Sandy Wilson in the church office, 612.332.342, or swilson@wpc-mpls.org.

The Worship Setting

The Chapel can accommodate up to 175 people. The Sanctuary comfortably seats up to 1,500.

Music

Music can be a powerful ministry of healing in times of grief. Music for the service should be respectful and worshipful in content. Selections are made in collaboration with the officiating minister and/or the Minister of Music and the Arts, who approves all music, musicians and soloists, and plays for all services unless prior arrangements are made. We are unable to accommodate recorded music.

Bulletins

The church provides up to 200 black-and-white bulletins containing the order of worship and identifying the service participants. Names of pallbearers, a reception announcement, and memorial information may be included. You may arrange to have an outside vendor print additional or color bulletins at your expense.

Guest Book

The family and/or funeral director provide the guest book(s).

At the Service

Members of Westminster's Grief Support Ministry Team will be at the church to assist in directing family and guests. Funeral home staff may also be willing to assist if a large crowd is expected.

Interment and Cemetery

The funeral director and/or cemetery arranges for these services in consultation with the officiating minister. Westminster's Memorial Garden provides a beautiful setting for ashes to be interred in a columbarium at the church. For more information and to make arrangements to purchase a niche, contact Sam Cooke in the church office, 612.332.3421 or scooke@wpc-mpls.org.

Recording the Service

You may request a complimentary CD audio recording of the memorial service. Please notify the officiating minister in advance.

Flowers

Anthony Shane Florist, (612.871.9388) often provides flowers for the church, or you may order flowers elsewhere. Whether the service is held in the Chapel or Sanctuary, one or two arrangements are sufficient. Additional floral tributes can be placed in public areas of the building or on tables at the reception. Upon request, we will provide assistance in preparing floral arrangements for you to take home or determine a suitable disposition if the flowers are to be donated.

Memorial Wall

Located in the Memorial Garden, the Memorial Wall provides Westminster members the opportunity to remember those they love with an engraved name. Make arrangements with Sam Cooke.

Reception

Upon request, Westminster's Hospitality ministry will host a reception for up to 200 people in the Great Hall or the Meisel Room. We will make every effort to accommodate reception requests, but in some

cases previously scheduled events may make an on-site reception impossible. If this happens, we will work with you to arrange an alternate time and/or nearby location. Saturday receptions at the church must end by 4:00PM

Cookies, mixed nuts, mints, coffee, tea, and ice water are served at receptions hosted by the Hospitality ministry. If you prefer a light meal or anticipate attendance of more than 200 people, we will provide a list of caterers familiar with Westminster. A member of the Hospitality ministry will be on hand to assist the caterer.

Additional ministries during times of grief

After the funeral/memorial service, Westminster provides continuing pastoral care through the Grief Support Ministry Team. The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support meets weekly on Saturday mornings and provides speakers, small groups, and a lending library. Westminster's pastors are always available for pastoral conversations, and the Westminster Counseling Center offers professional assistance with grief issues. Our Prayer Ministry provides prayer support for families who have lost loved ones.

Community (non-member) services

As part of Westminster's ministry to the community, we are open to providing a sacred worship space for local families in times of grief. Contact the church for more information.

Fees and Honoraria

The fee for the organist or pianist is \$150. For a soloist or other instrumentalist provided by the church, the fee is \$125. There is no fee for Westminster pastors; however an honorarium may be given at the discretion of the family. Funeral directors suggest a guiding figure of \$200, which is comparable to other churches similar to Westminster. While there is no fee for a reception at Westminster, a donation to the church to help with expenses is appreciated.



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