

March 12, 2025

Dear Friend in Christ,

We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose that we write to you today. Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois is searching for a visionary individual with a deep and abiding faith and a passion for ministry to lead an historic, mission-focused congregation. Like Springfield's most famous resident, Abraham Lincoln, Westminster's founders promoted the cause of abolition and, as the church has grown and evolved, we continue to promote justice and social causes. Westminster is a cornerstone of our community with a profound and enduring history of mission work. For over 190 years, we have been a community dedicated to faith, love, and service. Our congregants are passionate about making a positive impact in the world, and we are looking for a leader who shares this vision and can inspire us to new heights.

We are seeking an experienced individual to serve initially as Co-Pastor to succeed our Pastor and Head of Staff, who will retire October 1, 2025. We envision a collaborative relationship, working together for a few months, to ensure a seamless and positive transition. Our church of approximately 1,000 members is a thriving, supported (and supportive) community. We pride ourselves on our strong sense of discipleship and mission, striving to make a positive impact both within our congregation and the wider community. Our foundation is solid, and we are eager to build upon it with new and dynamic leadership.

Our mission is to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals can grow in their faith in Jesus Christ, engage in meaningful worship, and participate in community outreach. We are a church that not only nurtures the spiritual well-being of its members but also serves as a beacon of hope and support for those in need.

Springfield is a hidden gem in the center of the state. While Springfield has many amenities of a larger city, we have more community and less traffic. We are the headquarters of several international businesses, such as Bunn-o-Matic, LRS, and Brandt Consolidated. We have a strong medical community with two hospitals and a large clinic of multispecialty providers. As the state capital, we are the home of the Illinois General Assembly and Supreme Court, as well as the Governor's Mansion and numerous state agencies. And you can't escape our hometown president. Springfield is the home of the Old State Capitol where Lincoln gave his famous "House Divided" speech, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln's Tomb, as well as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Lincoln's New Salem, a living museum, is also just outside of town. We also have two other larger museums, the Illinois State Museum and the hands-on Kidzeum of Health and Science. We have a strong educational landscape, with the University of Illinois at Springfield, the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and Lincoln Land Community College. Sangamon Auditorium at UIS hosts many national touring plays, musicals, and other performances, including the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. There are also multiple smaller venues for local productions, including The Muni, Springfield's outdoor theater with musicals every summer. In addition to the performing arts, we also have a vibrant arts community through the Springfield Arts Association and smaller studios and galleries.

Outdoor recreation can be found in our numerous walking and biking trails, public parks and Lake Springfield. Travel to and from Springfield is easy, with a regional airport, Amtrak station, and Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis just a few hours away by car.

Our [Ministry Discernment Profile](#), available from the QR code below or on the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection (search for “Co-Pastor”), provides details about the qualifications for, and responsibilities of the position and we hope you will review it carefully. As we embark on this search, we invite candidates who feel called to this sacred role to prayerfully consider joining our church family. We believe that the right minister will not only uphold our rich tradition of mission work but also bring fresh ideas and a renewed sense of purpose to our congregation.

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume, a cover letter outlining their vision for ministry or Statement of Faith, and any relevant supporting materials (e.g., sermon recordings, references) to WestminsterPNCChair@gmail.com.

We are committed to conducting a thorough and prayerful search process, guided by the Holy Spirit, to discern the best candidate for this important role. We trust that God will lead us to the individual who is meant to shepherd our church into the future.

Our congregation is excited to welcome a new Pastor/Head of Staff who will lead us with vision and enthusiasm. Together, we will continue to grow and serve, reaching new heights in our journey of faith and community. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our congregation and the broader community.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Todd Knox
Chair, Pastor Nominating Committee
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Illinois



<https://tinyurl.com/WPCmdp>