Westminster Presbyterian Church
Mission Component Prospectus
April 17, 2014
Open Doors Open Futures is an initiative that will connect communities, create engaging environments and continue Westminster Presbyterian Church’s legacy into the 21st century and beyond.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is mission-driven, compelled by the Gospel to work for love, peace, and justice in Minneapolis, within the Presbyterian Church USA, and in the larger Christian church and interfaith community. With a benchmark established in 2000 for our Complete the Celebration campaign, Westminster pledges 20% of all funds raised for capital improvements to local and global mission initiatives.

Westminster’s commitment to mission has been documented back to 1870, when Rev. Robert Sample was granted a six-month leave to travel the world and infuse a global perspective into the church. The church also has a history of leadership within the greater Presbyterian Church, dating back to when Westminster hosted the General Assembly in 1886. By 1900, Westminster funded more than half of the city mission work of the Presbytery, and the church still funds 29% of that budget today. In 1918, Westminster provided the largest-ever gift to a national mission campaign at $154,000, which would amount to more than $1 million in today’s dollars. As recently as 2004, the church provided $1 million to the PCUSA global mission campaign for work in Cameroon, the largest congregational gift pledged.

In early 2015, Westminster will approve the final prospectus for the Open Doors Open Futures Campaign, through which the Mission Component Team asks the church to consider a pledge of $7 million to continue our history and leadership of support to mission initiatives. Our vision for this mission giving is to connect communities and nurture relationships across the city and in the world. The team has carefully reviewed proposals from each of the projects described in this prospectus, made prayerful decisions about which projects to consider for funding, and set benchmarks by which each project will be measured for future funding consideration.

We invite you to read and consider the impact Westminster could make by investing in these critically important projects and organizations.

Sincerely,
Mission Component Team of the Open Doors Open Futures Campaign

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Mission Component Team Process

To prepare for the Open Doors Open Futures Campaign, the Mission Component Team was charged with making a recommendation for a commitment of 20% of capital funds raised, to be pledged to local and global initiatives. The team estimates that this will amount to $7 million, although that number will be subject to change until the total campaign prospectus is finalized in early 2015.

The team has asked local and global partners to submit formal proposals detailing the funds requested, the project proposed, and the milestones against which their work could be measured. We then carefully reviewed the proposals and narrowed our recommendation to organizations and projects that fit the following criteria:

- Consistency with our mission to be a Telling Presence in the City and beyond
- High impact projects that can touch the lives of individuals and transform communities
- Potential for substantive, measurable outcomes
- Existence of partners who have the ability to implement projects as described
- Ability of Westminster funds to be leveraged by partners
- Manageable risk, with future funding dependent on meeting milestones
- Appropriate sharing between local and global projects

The Campaign Committee and the Church Boards must approve this proposal before any external commitments are made.

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Mission Funding Recommendation

Westminster’s mission initiatives are centered around five broad themes: affordable housing, local partnerships, young adult leadership development, global partnerships, and South Sudan. These areas were chosen because of their consistency with existing mission programming, our church mission, our hope for the world, and the needs of the church. The team recommends a commitment of 80% of our funds locally and 20% percent globally.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Affordable Housing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aeon</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relocation of Marimark residents</td>
<td>400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beacon Interfaith Housing</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Grace-Trinity Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westminster Counseling Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Young Adult Leadership Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kwanzaa Twenty First Century Academy</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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<td>Macalester College-Westminster scholarships</td>
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<td>WPC Young Adult Ministries Meisel Scholars</td>
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<td>WPC Young Adult Ministries Seminarian Support</td>
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<td>WPC Young Adult Ministries Houses of Hospitality</td>
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<td>McCormick Center for Faith, Service &amp; Leadership</td>
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<td>NEXTChurch</td>
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<td><strong>Global Mission</strong></td>
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<td>Travel scholarships</td>
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<td>Palestine partnership</td>
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<td>Cameroon partnership</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding</td>
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<td><strong>Total global funding</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total mission funding recommendation</strong></td>
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Affordable Housing Recommendations

Investing in affordable housing is a legacy commitment for Westminster, rooted in the belief that all of God’s people deserve a home. The Mission Component Team recommends continued support for several ongoing partnerships: Aeon, Beacon Interfaith Housing, Habitat for Humanity, and the relocation of Marimark Apartment residents.

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Reduce Homelessness in the City
Aeon, $3,000,000

When 60 residents of the Marimark Apartments were displaced as a result of the next-door project, Westminster committed to continue to be a positive force for affordable housing in the city by more than replacing the lost units. The church pledged to construct 150 high-quality, affordable housing units in the city. To accomplish this goal, Westminster has partnered with Aeon (formerly Central Community Housing Trust), a nonprofit developer, owner, and manager of high-quality affordable housing units that serves more than 3,500 people annually in the Twin Cities.

Westminster has already committed $1,000,000 to Aeon, which has used the funds to begin construction on 63 units. The church has also committed an additional $2,000,000 to reach the 150-unit goal, contingent upon review and approval of specific project proposals.

Support Low-Income Neighbors
Relocation of Marimark Residents, $400,000

In addition to the construction of new homes to replace the Marimark Apartments, Westminster has engaged in a ministry of care for the 60 displaced residents.

The church received and spent $400,000 to assist residents with the emotional and financial impact of their relocation. A review of the project was completed in 2013.

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Support At-Risk Youth
Beacon Interfaith Housing, $250,000

Homelessness affects an estimated 2,500 young people every day in Minneapolis. To be a part of the solution, Westminster partnered with the nonprofit housing developer Beacon Interfaith Housing, as well as Plymouth Congregational Church and YouthLink, to develop Nicollet Square. Nicollet Square provides housing for 42 at-risk youth, and offers supportive services that require ongoing operating support, such as mentoring and employment coaching.

The team recommends funding of $250,000 to continue this successful partnership, which will be critically important as cutbacks in public funding create an operating shortfall over the next several years. Each partner that helped develop Nicollet Square has committed to ongoing funding to ensure the operating budget can be met every year.

Build Affordable Homes
Habitat for Humanity, $100,000

In the Twin Cities region, more than half a million people—about 20% of our population—pay too much for their housing. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity shares Westminster’s commitment to faith in action, working with people of faith to eliminate poverty housing in our region.

Westminster has contributed both volunteer and financial resources to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for 24 years. The team recommends an annual contribution of $20,000 over the next five years to continue to provide a financial base of support for the construction of new affordable homes for low-income families.

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Local Partnership Recommendations

As an active congregation in the city, Westminster must nurture relationships with other communities of faith as well as local service providers. In the immediate term, the church is committed especially to two: supporting the ministry of Grace-Trinity Church in Uptown Minneapolis and supporting the relocation of the Westminster Counseling Center.

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Revitalize an Urban Ministry
Grace-Trinity Church, $750,000

Grace-Trinity Church is a small congregation in the heart of Uptown. In 2010, Grace-Trinity leadership approached Westminster to help them explore ways to revitalize the church’s ministries and to reach out to the residents of Uptown. In 2012, Westminster helped select a new pastor for the congregation with the dual purpose of ministering to the existing congregation and welcoming new young adults. Since then, weekly worship attendance has doubled and the church is filled with a new sense of energy and possibility.

The team recommends a total commitment of $750,000 to continue the revitalization of Grace-Trinity Church. $400,000 of this has already been received and spent on refreshing and renewing the church’s worship and gathering spaces. An additional $70,000 has been committed for the church’s ongoing operations this year. We recommend a further commitment of $280,000 to fund the church’s ongoing operations over the subsequent four years.

Provide Compassionate Counseling
Westminster Counseling Center, $250,000

Westminster Counseling Center provides pastoral counseling, which blends religion and theology with methods of contemporary and traditional psychology. Originally a volunteer-staffed outreach ministry of Westminster, it is now an independent nonprofit with an outstanding reputation and a compassionate ability-to-pay fee structure.

As part of the Open Doors Open Futures Campaign, Westminster will provide new office space for the Counseling Center. The team recommends a commitment of $250,000 to support expenses related to this relocation.

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Young Adult Leadership Development Recommendations

Westminster is invested in the very real need to support young people, including those in our own congregation, as they discern their call through college and beyond. In fact, Presbyterian mission has always been rooted in education and teaching ministries—across the U.S. and around the world. Our partners are actively engaged in developing efforts to improve outcomes for youth—from working with middle school students on Minneapolis’ North Side to supporting young adults here and across the country who are engaged in service to others.

Prepare North Minneapolis Youth for College
Kwanzaa 21st Century Academy, $125,000

Kwanzaa 21st Century Academy is a newly established out-of-school academic program that will provide rigorous daily math and reading assistance to middle school students in North Minneapolis. The program is run by Kwanzaa Community Church and the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) to ensure all North Minneapolis children in the Zone are prepared to graduate from high school ready for college. The initial goal of this program is to recruit 50 scholars from NAZ’s geographic base to prepare them to achieve academically, excel personally, and dismantle the belief that only certain children can learn, grow, and succeed.

The team recommends a $125,000 commitment to this program. The results will be evaluated and reported on by Dr. Lauren Martin, Ph.D., who is the director of research for the University of Minnesota’s Urban Research and Outreach Center.

Improve Access to College
Macalester College-Westminster Scholarships, $350,000

The Macalester Westminster Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by three generous Westminster donors for the purpose of providing scholarship assistance to Westminster or other Presbyterian young people who have financial need and wish to attend Macalester. The fund is a collaboration between Westminster and Macalester College in recognition of our historic relationship.

Macalester has already received $350,000, which has been placed in an endowment specifically designated for this purpose.

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Help Young People Find Their Path  
Westminster Young Adult Ministries Meisel Scholars - $75,000

The Meisel Scholarship Program was established in 1987 to encourage young people from Westminster to share their talents, follow their convictions, and expand their education outside of the traditional college classroom. Students participate in volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of the church’s mission. Over the past several years, interest in the program has increased beyond the program’s capacity.

The team recommends an annual contribution of $15,000 to this fund over the next five years, totaling $75,000, to expand the program’s capacity and increase the average scholarship award by 20%.

Support the Next Generation of Ordained Ministers  
Westminster Young Adult Ministries Seminarian Support, $75,000

Westminster is committed to supporting the next generation of ordained ministers as we move forward into a challenging future. The church has an active committee on Christian vocations to assist students of this congregation in all steps along the path to ordination, including early identification of call, connections to pastoral staff, continuing prayer, and emotional support. Historically, however, the church has not provided significant financial support to seminarians. Financial support is necessary to contribute to travel, internship, and practicum experiences that will help shape the future of the church.

The team proposes to establish a fund in the amount of $15,000 per year for five years, totaling $75,000, to provide meaningful financial assistance to seminarians. This fund would provide assistance to at least one Westminster seminarian per academic year.

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Create Intentional Communities of Faith
Westminster Young Adult Ministries Houses of Hospitality, $75,000

Young adults often find meaning through service experiences such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America, and other service organizations. Many who choose such experiences serve in communities far from their home, and some serve in secular programs while inspired to serve through a spiritual motivation. Twin Cities Houses of Hospitality is a new shared ministry, launched by members of Westminster, House of Hope Presbyterian, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian, and Macalester College. The program will offer spaces for young people to live together in intentional community, engage in spiritual disciplines like simple living and mutual hospitality, and explore connections between a life of faith, service, justice, and vocation.

The team recommends funding of $15,000 per year over the next five years, for a total of $75,000, to pilot the first two Hospitality Houses in the Twin Cities and to explore program expansion in future years.

Engage Young People in the Church
McCormick Center for Faith, Service, and Leadership - $100,000

As one of the leading PCUSA seminaries, the McCormick Center nurtures faithful Christian ministry and leadership through rigorous academic study, practical experience, and spiritual formation in an environment that is ecumenical, urban, and cross-cultural. McCormick recently launched the Center for Faith, Service, and Leadership (CFSL) to engage a new generation of young people in coming to know and invest in the church. The center will especially focus on young people involved in community service or justice work.

McCormick has requested $100,000 in operating support to establish the CFSL. The team recommends a commitment in that amount, paid out in installments over three years, to help the center attract and leverage further support from churches, individuals, and foundations to launch and support this important ministry.
Reimagine and Create the Church of the Future
NEXT Church - $50,000

NEXT Church is a network of leaders across the PCUSA who believe the church of the future will be more relational, diverse, collaborative, hopeful, and agile. It is an independent organization that provides space for robust conversations about the theology, the culture, and the practice of ministry. NEXT serves as a catalyst for new mission callings and supports strong leadership in a time of adaptive change.

Over the next several years, NEXT hopes to create a web site to allow networking, to host national and regional gatherings, and to call a director to provide daily leadership to this growing network. The team proposes that Westminster pledge $10,000 per year over the next five years, for a total of $50,000, to support these goals.
Global Partnership Recommendations

Westminster has formed relationships with faith communities and nonprofit organizations in Cameroon, Cuba, and Palestine. These global partnerships are bound by written covenants. The church’s global relationships are rooted in a ministry of presence and solidarity. These continued commitments present opportunities to support Westminster’s congregational partners as they advance their local ministries.

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Deepen Personal Connections with International Partners

Travel Scholarships - $50,000

Personal connections with Westminster’s global partners help foster meaningful opportunities for deep, lasting, and faithful growth together in our relationships with Jesus Christ. The team requests $50,000, paid out over five years, for travel scholarships for Westminster members to visit partner congregations. These funds will also be available to support travel expenses for members of Westminster’s partner congregations.

Develop Christian Leaders

Palestine Partnership, $150,000

In Palestine, Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church and its Diyar Consortium will develop Christian leaders committed to church and society. Twenty young adult Christians per year (100 total over five years) will be enrolled in the project.

The team recommends $150,000, paid in installments of $30,000 over five years, to support a part-time coordinator, monthly training workshops, retreats, and annual support for a student enrolled in a master’s program at Dar Al-Kalima College to study abroad. This is in addition to support Westminster has provided in past years through the Presbyterian Foundation to support culinary arts training at the College.

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Support Youth and Family Ministries
Cuba Partnership, $100,000

In Cuba, Westminster partners with the National Synod of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Cuba in Havana and the Versalles Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Matanzas. Our relationship with the Synod helps to support the ecumenical Evangelical Theological Seminary as well as CANIP, a camp located in central Cuba. Over the next five years, the partnership will focus on home-based biblical, theological, and ethics training; youth summer Bible camps; and training for individuals and churches working in educational ministries.

The team requests $100,000 over five years, paid in $20,000 installments, for these Cuban ministries.

Deepen Our Partnerships
Cameroon Partnership, $100,000

Westminster’s primary partners in Cameroon are the Kumba Town Presbyterian Church and AIDSCARE Link. These organizations request funding for micro-loans to help people living with HIV/AIDS build small businesses and become financially independent. In addition, the partners would fund scholarships and internships for students at Cameroon Christian University, construct a modest dining hall for Kumba Town Primary School, and complete an office building for the Presbytery with residential space for the church’s minister.

The team recommends an annual commitment of $20,000 over the next five years, totaling $100,000, to support these projects.

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South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding

As part of the PCUSA’s commitment to improving educational outcomes around the world, Westminster has been asked by PCUSA Global Mission to consider a $1 million lead gift toward this $3.4 million, five-year project that will support peace and reconciliation efforts and improve educational outcomes in South Sudan. If approved, this commitment would be paid out over five years, beginning with $500,000 in 2014. The remainder would be paid out in annual installments only as success metrics are realized and as Presbyterian World Mission generates equivalent matching funds.

Support Education and Peacebuilding in South Sudan
PCUSA Global Mission, $1,000,000

South Sudan is both the world's newest and its poorest country. Millions of South Sudanese live in dire poverty. One in four children dies before the age of five, forcing many families to focus on basic needs rather than education. The country’s new government does not have the capacity to build a national educational system.

Numerous studies have shown that communities with higher educational attainment are more likely to do well economically and enjoy healthier lives. Studies also document the multiplier effect of educating women and girls living in poverty. The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS), RECONCILE International, and the Association of Christian Resource Organizations Serving Sudan (ACROSS) are committed to overcoming the barriers in South Sudan to provide a quality Christian education for children. These partners will inspire communities to overcome the trauma of civil war, contribute to the education of their children, and create and manage community schools. Together, the project partners have developed four measures of success:

2. Provide two-year teacher training to 32 promising educators and mobile teacher training to 180 teachers.
3. Train 60 school administrators to sustain these programs over the long-term.
4. Improve academic outcomes for 14,000 South Sudanese primary school students and double the number of primary school girls regularly attending school.

This commitment would challenge other congregations, presbyteries, and individuals from across our denomination to invest in this project. Copies of the full project proposal are available online and in Westminster’s library.

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Frequently Asked Questions about the South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Mission

1. Is this really the right time for this effort? Shouldn’t we wait until things have settled down in South Sudan?

Our brothers and sisters in South Sudan are living in difficult circumstances, and they have asked for help in building peaceful communities and strengthening local schools. Community leaders see education as the pathway to strengthening both the church and the nation and, as such, are committed to ensuring safe and secure access to education for all children in their communities.

2. What happens if the situation in South Sudan changes?

The situation in South Sudan is constantly changing. This project must move forward, adapted to changing circumstances. If it becomes impossible to reach a goal by a planned strategy, the PCUSA will seek a closely related strategy. However, the project could be terminated if basic conditions for success cannot be met.

3. The PCUSA is asking Westminster for 30% of this project’s cost. Where will the rest come from?

The PCUSA will be seeking support from every member of the Sudan Mission Network, congregations in presbyteries with partnerships in South Sudan, and many other presbyteries, congregations, and individuals. The partners believe that the project will engage the imagination and the faithfulness of many partners.

4. This is an ambitious project. Where does all this money go?

Although $3.4 million is a significant amount of money, one of the attractive things about investing in South Sudan is that money can be stretched further there. While many budget lines are estimates at this stage, the PCUSA has gathered the best information that they can at this time. Project partners will provide annual financial reports.

5. Is Westminster being asked to make this leap of faith alone?

No. Presbyterian World Mission and other members of the international community, such as the Red Cross, the European Union, USAID, the Lutheran World Federation, Norwegian Church Aid, Dan Church Aid (from Denmark), and EED (from Germany), are committed to South Sudan. PCUSA is asking Westminster to collaborate with all of these partners. We have been called for such a time as this.

6. One hears about corruption in Africa. How can we be sure the money will go where it is intended?

Project partners were specifically chosen because of their experience and demonstrated results in South Sudan. In addition, the PCUSA has committed staff to oversee the project so that Westminster can be sure that every dollar committed is used responsibly.

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Summary and Next Steps
The Mission Component Team recommends funding of $7 million to 18 projects that fulfill Westminster’s mission to be a Telling Presence in the City and beyond. Eighty percent of the proposed funding is local, in the areas of affordable housing, local partnerships, and young adult leadership development. The remaining 20% would be dedicated to projects with Westminster’s existing global partners, and a proposed new commitment to the PCUSA’s South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Mission. These commitments would be funded over the five-year span of the Open Doors Open Futures Campaign.

Once approved by the Church Boards and the Campaign Committee, this proposal will be overseen and its implementation will be managed by the Mission Component Team. The team will:

- Request annual reports from funded organizations,
- Review reports against proposed project milestones,
- Recommend future funding based on the outcomes achieved, and
- Provide regular progress reports to the Church Boards.

As members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, we believe these gifts will create tangible and lasting benefits for our partners in mission in Minneapolis and around the world, all to the glory of God. We look forward to engaging with members of our Church Boards and our congregation in exploring this important work and our faithful response.

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