

April 28, 2023

Dear members and friends of Westminster,

On April 27, at a special meeting of the church's Session, Board of Trustees, and Deacons, I announced my decision to retire as senior pastor, effective October 31, 2023.

This decision has not been easy for me. I recently turned 70 and sense that I am being called to move into the next chapter in my life. The same is now true for Westminster. God has great things in store for this congregation that will unfold in coming years.

I give thanks to God for the call extended to me by Westminster in the summer of 1999 to serve this historic congregation in downtown Minneapolis. This coming fall I will have begun my 25<sup>th</sup> year here. God has blessed our time together in ministry. I am grateful for the love and support from you. What a joy it has been!

The world has changed since Beth and I arrived from San Francisco with our young family. A new century started. September 11 happened. The country has seen economic downturns and periods of growth. Our nation has engaged in global conflicts, while becoming bitterly divided at home. A pandemic isolated us from one another for more than two years and claimed millions of lives around the world. A national reckoning with racial injustice commenced.

Through all those challenges, by the grace of God Westminster has remained healthy, engaged, and resilient. We have worshipped week after week, cared for and educated our children, youth, and adults, welcomed newcomers, served God's people in the city, pursued justice with partners both local and global, and transformed our downtown church facility. God's Spirit has led us along the way. Together we have built upon Westminster's *telling presence in the city*.

The church's outstanding staff team and lay leaders are well prepared to guide the congregation through what lies ahead, working with transitional leadership and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Session named a Succession Planning Team (SPT) a year ago anticipating my retirement, without knowing the date. Last night I informed church officers of my timing and the SPT shared a thorough transition plan. Ed Cunningham is leading this effort, with Meghan Gage-Finn's support. (See notes below.)

In a gathering in Westminster Hall following 10:30 worship this Sunday, April 30, Ed and Meghan will share next steps in the transition process. The May issue of the *Westminster News* and the church's website will also have this information. I encourage you to sustain these plans with prayer and continued support of Westminster.

Over the coming months I look forward to sharing our mutual gratitude at having been part of this chapter of Westminster's history. In the meantime, let us continue to love God and love God's people, to serve God and serve God's people.

Grace and peace,



Tim Hart-Andersen  
Senior Pastor

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612.332.342 | [westminstermpls.org](http://westminstermpls.org)

