

Eastminster Presbyterian Church



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New Member Connection Booklet

2014 - 2015

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Connections Program Outline

Session 1 – Introduction: Our Sacred Journey – Faith always begins with a story

Everyone comes to faith in a different way. We all have significant people, experiences, and events in our lives that have formed and shaped our faith. The Apostle Paul met Christ in a dramatic experience that literally knocked him off his high horse. His protégé Timothy learned about Jesus on his mother's knee. In this class we will explore our individual histories in order to understand how Christ has brought us to this place and where he may be leading.

Session 2 – Core Christian Convictions

The many denominations and Christian churches of various flavors reveal a diversity that tells us unity is not determined by uniformity. God seems to allow and even encourage different points of view. St. Augustine, a fifth century theologian put it this way: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." In this class we will explore some of our bedrock convictions using the Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith.

Session 3 – Discipleship: What it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ

Faith is a journey and like any journey it can be fraught with problems. Sometimes, we can get stuck and sometimes lose our way. Sometimes we just run out of gas. Discipleship is the process of moving forward and "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus" so that we can get to where we want to be. God has given "means of grace" to help us along the way. This week we will seek to grow in Christ.

Session 4 – Worship / Sacrament

Worship is the one thing the whole congregation does together and every church seems to do it a little differently. Identity is shaped during that time. We will identify the key elements of worship and study the sacraments and liturgy so that our worship experience may be deepened and become more meaningful.

Session 5 – Presbyterian History and Polity

Every generation builds upon what those who have come before have done. We are links in a long chain. Understanding that history can help us understand where we have come from, who we are, and where we are going. In this session, we will go back to the beginning of our church and learn how our church is organized and how we may decisions.

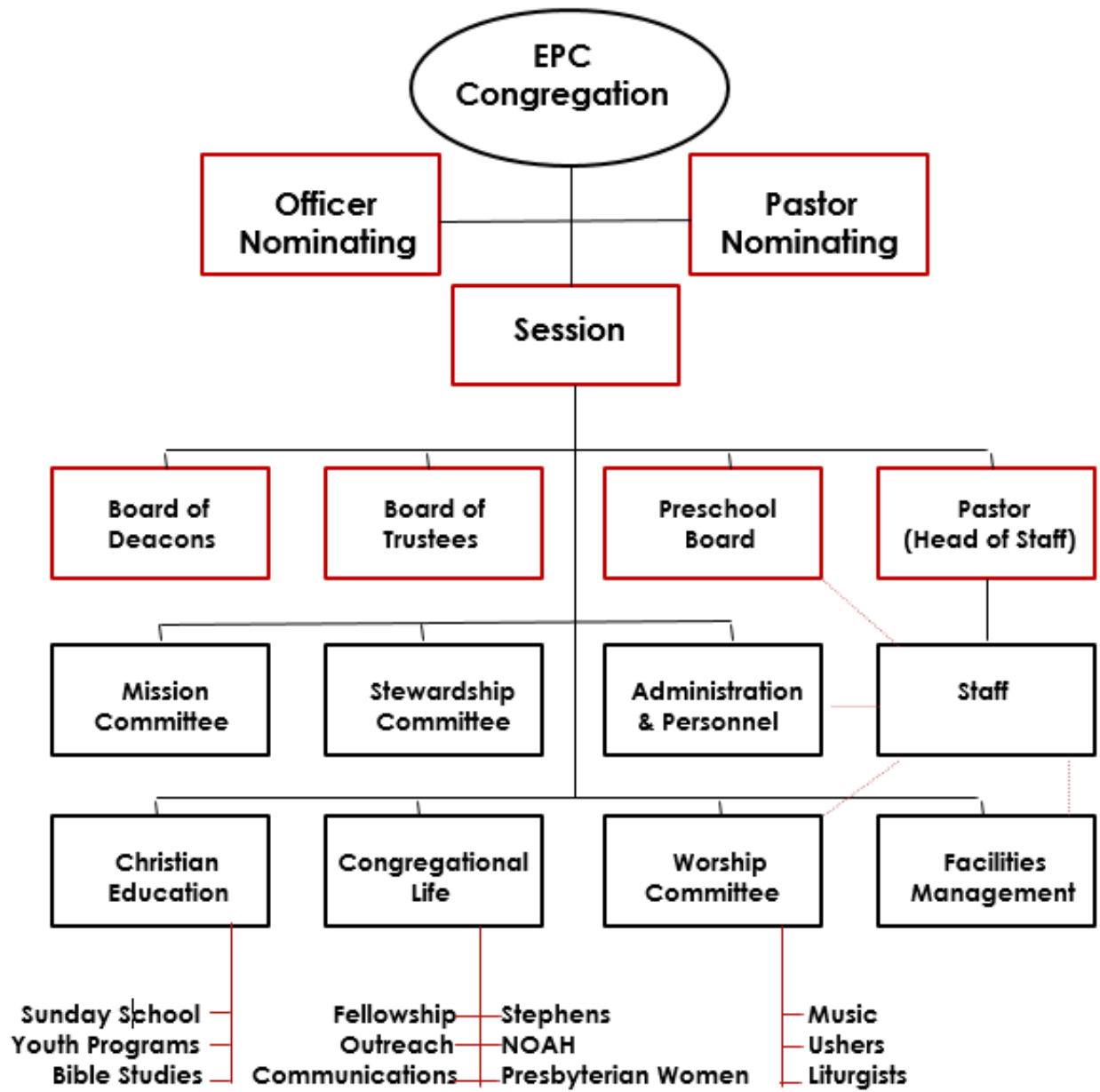
Session 6 – Questions and Answers

Have you ever read or heard about a verse or story from the Bible which you found confusing? Have you ever wondered why churches do one thing or another? Do some Christian beliefs just not seem to make any sense? In this session, we can get the Pastor's perspective on any questions you might have.

Session 7 – Brunch

On the final meeting of the class, you will be invited to a brunch with Pastor Seckman and other church leadership. The brunch will be held in Fellowship Hall during the normal class meeting time. Immediately following the brunch, any participants that desire to join the congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church will be received into membership during the 11a church service.

Organizational Chart



Denomination

Eastminster is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the oldest Presbyterian Church in America – and the denomination from which those who founded our country took the model of a constitutional democracy of representative leadership elected by the people. In fact, the only minister to sign Constitution of the United States was a Presbyterian.

The Constitution of the PCUSA is divided into two major parts. The first is the Book of confessions which consists of 11 separate and diverse theological treatises that attempt to express what we believe. The second is the Book of Order which describes the foundations of our polity, our form of government, our directory of worship, and the rules of discipline.

Congregation

The New Church Development Program of Donegal Presbytery and The First Presbyterian Church of York were instrumental in the initial founding of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. An organizing committee was formed and, through the support of the Presbytery of Donegal, an organizing minister and property were secured. The first official church service and Sunday school classes were held on September 8, 1957. In November a Petition for Charter was approved by the Presbytery with 157 signatures and in December Eastminster was formally organized. On March 2, 1958, Reverend Ray Rossnagle was installed as the first Pastor.

Since then our congregation has shared times of sorrow and joy, of peace and difficulty. In all these shared experiences there has been the common factor of our concern for the people of York, the surrounding neighborhoods and communities, and for one another. The same commitments that were evident in the building of Eastminster Church are visible today as the congregation faces new challenges and opportunities to share God's love and fellowship as a congregation of people who reach out to those in the community and world. As a congregation Eastminster is committed to demonstrating to all, the values they hold as people who follow Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ.

Pastor

Eastminster Presbyterian Church has identified itself as a leader driven church rather than a Pastor driven church. What does the Pastor do then?

Reverend Greg Seckman has been called as the installed Pastor (Teaching Elder) of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He is responsible for commending the gospel to all persons and communicating its joy and justice. He is also responsible for studying, teaching, and preaching the Word, for celebrating Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and for praying with and for the congregation.

Along with the Ruling Elders, the Pastor encourages people in the worship and service of God; equips and enables them for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world; exercises pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying; participates in governing responsibilities, including leadership of the congregation in implementing the principals of participation and inclusiveness in the decision-making life of the congregation and its task of reaching out in concern and service to the life of the community as a whole.

History of Pastors

HEAD OF STAFF / SENIOR PASTORS:

Rev. Raymond K. Rossnagel
Organizing Minister – 1957
Minister – March 1958 to October 1992

Rev. Graham W. Hardy
Interim Minister – November 1992 to April 1994

Rev. George R. Taylor
Senior Minister – May 1994 to September 1998

Rev. John Potter
Interim Minister – September 1998 to
September 2000

Rev. Charles Holsinger
Interim Minister – September 2000 to April 2002

Rev. James Crawford
Senior Minister – September 2002 to July 2008

Rev. W. Joseph Reggin
Interim Minister – November 2008 to January 2011

Rev. Guy Dunham
Temporary Supply – February 2011 to April 2011

Dr. Rev. Greg Seckman
Minister – May 2011 to Present

ADDITIONAL PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Guy D. Wingerd
Parish Caller – October 1963 to February 1973

Rev. William F. Emery
Assistant Minister – September 1970 to January 1974

Rev. Bruce D. Williams
Associate Minister – December 1977 to January
1985

Rev. Bruce E. Cadenhead
Associate Minister – September 1986 to
December 1997

Rev. Kathryn Willoughby
Associate Minister – November 1992 to April 1994

Rev. Christine Blackford
Coordinator of Pastoral Care – February 1998 to
August 2001

Rev. Diane Adams
Lay Associate Minister – April 1999 to July 2001

Rev. James Muir
Parish Associate – October 2001 to October 2002

Rev. Alicia Conklin-Wood
Parish Associate – November 2002 to December
2005

Session

The Session is the governing body of Eastminster Presbyterian Church whose members (Ruling Elders) are elected and ordained by the congregation. As such, it is responsible for all facets of our community of faith, especially the spiritual life and growth of Eastminster Presbyterian Church members. There are also many other significant areas of concern which it oversees. This is most often done by delegating responsibilities and authority to various standing committees and boards that report back to Session for final approval. The following is a description of what these standing committees and boards do. New committee members are always needed and their help, perspective, and input are welcomed.

Session meetings are open to the congregation and all are welcome to attend. In order to insure adequate seating and/or docket planning, please coordinate with the Clerk of Session. The Session meets on the third Monday of each month.

Administration and Personnel Committee

Administration and Personnel Committee acts as the Human Resource Department for the church. The Administration and Personnel Committee work to ensure that all staff members are treated and compensated fairly and in turn provide Eastminster with a high level of support so that the various groups within Eastminster may better perform their missions. This committee creates and maintains the Staff Handbook and Policies and Procedures, and the staff job descriptions. It also leads the effort when hiring new employees. This committee is somewhat behind the scenes but very important to the overall function of Eastminster.

The committee meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is responsible for all areas of education for members and friends of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. The committee plans the Sunday school programs for children, youth, and adults. Along with establishing curriculum, the Christian Education Committee recruits teachers and helpers to implement each program. In addition, it plans special events such as Rally Day to kick off the Sunday school program in September, the distribution of nativity figurines to children in December, the Easter egg hunt in the spring and Vacation Bible School in the summer. The youth group is also a responsibility of this committee. We stress not only the extreme importance of education to strengthen our relationship with our Lord, but also the value of fellowship to maintain and strengthen our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All Sunday school classes meet at 9:30a for one hour. The children's classes are held in the Education Building and use lectionary curriculum. The Wired Word class for adults meets in the Haines House with discussion centered on contemporary issues from current news headlines. An adult Bible study class based on the lectionary and Presbyterian curriculum is held in the Education Building library. Periodically, there is a Tuesday Bible Study led by our Pastor which covers varying topics of faith and Christianity.

The committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Facilities Management Committee

The main function of the Facilities Management Committee is the ongoing maintenance of the Eastminster facilities by keeping the buildings and grounds updated, pleasant, and functional. The committee members assist the facilities manager with many jobs that have saved the church much money including carpet shampooing, painting, traffic directing, lawn mowing, general cleaning, security checks, weekly lockup, and overall help when and where needed. The committee sponsors work days in the spring and fall for cleaning outside and inside.

The committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee includes three areas that relate to all members and friends of our congregation: fellowship, communication, and new members / outreach. Fellowship includes social activities such as the birthday and anniversary celebrations (held the 2nd Sunday each month in the library following the 11a service), the Rally Day all church picnic, the Thanksgiving turkey meal, and the Teddy Bear picnic for the preschoolers and their families. The committee also oversees the NOAH monthly lunches, the Duffers golf group, the church sports teams, Stephen Ministers, and the Share and Care program which provides funeral lunches and meals or transportation to members in need of this assistance.

The communications team oversees the church website, the "Pew Points" newsletter and the outdoor bulletin board. It developed the Eastminster Presbyterian Church Communication Plan and published the Communications Handbook. The new members / outreach sub-committee takes a loaf of bread to first-time visitors, helps facilitate the Connections classes, and works to provide an updated packet of information for the new members.

The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee distributes the money budgeted by the church for missions. It raises funds to help support mission projects in various ways, including the annual Spring Yard Sale and the chicken BBQs in the summer. It oversees many church projects to help those in need. At Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter it packs and delivers food baskets to needy families in the York area. It collects brownies baked by church members and delivers them to Our Daily Bread soup kitchen once a month. The Mission Committee sponsors a 13 year old Vietnamese orphan girl through the Brittany's Hope Foundation. It joins with other Donegal Presbytery churches for projects such as building a church in Samatee, Ethiopia. The Mission Committee makes donations to many local organizations including the York Rescue Mission, Bell Family Shelter, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Access York, and other groups as well as individuals and families whose needs are made known to them. It supports the mission projects of the Presbyterian Church USA. The generosity of the congregation makes all this possible.

The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is responsible for the planning and oversight of the worship opportunities for the congregation and community. The committee schedules and arranges for all worship services and establishes policies regarding worship and the sanctuary. The Worship Committee oversees the music ministry while working with the Director of Music. Other responsibilities include ushering, communion preparation, sanctuary decorations and accoutrements, audio/visual recordings of services, the 8:30a summer outdoor worship services, and receptions. Volunteers work behind the scenes setting up for services, filling pew racks, providing floral arrangements for services through the flower chart, weekly flower arranging, and filling the children's worship bags. Several special services are planned throughout the year.

The committee meets on the 1st Monday of each month. Please confirm dates/times with committee prior to attending meetings.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the year-round financial stewardship of the church. Today stewardship is understood to be more than "making the budget" or even "fund raising". The Stewardship Committee is making an effort to utilize the time, talents, and resources of our parishioners on an ongoing basis and not just at pledge time. The Stewardship Committee has initiated a program "Stewardship, An Ongoing Commitment", in an attempt, on a monthly basis, to give value to the time, talent, and resources given by those members who participate in church activities, as well as showing others what they could add. This is done through articles in our newsletter "Pew Points". These articles try to explain what stewardship is and dispel some of the inaccurate impressions. Some of the articles are written by the Elders, who explain how their committee's year-round activities relate to stewardship. There is also an annual stewardship campaign in the fall.

The committee meets on an as-needed basis.

Staff



Rev. Dr. Greg Seckman, Pastor. Greg was called to serve as pastor in May 2011. As a former member of Eastminster and graduate of York Suburban High School he returns to us after an absence of 35 years. During that time he received a degree in Broadcasting from Penn State and worked for a short time at WGAL-TV in Lancaster. After completing his Master's degree from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary he served as a pastor in Western Pennsylvania, Gaithersburg Maryland and Springfield Missouri. His wife Charlotte teaches Nursing at the University of Maryland in Baltimore and they have two grown sons. He loves the outdoors and has been a faithful supporter of the Pittsburgh Steelers since his seminary days.



Zoe Bordes, Administrative Manager. Much of Zoe's career was spent in the legal field and as a corporate officer in administration and compliance in the insurance industry. Prior to coming to Eastminster, she worked in the non-profit sector for The Outreach Foundation (PCUSA) in Tennessee and the Synod of the Trinity in Harrisburg, PA, respectively. She is an Elder of the PCUSA and a Stephen Minister.



Randy Yoder, *Director of Music*. Randy is a native of Lancaster County and loves being a part of the Eastminster family following 34 years of public school and private piano teaching. He earned a B.S. in Music Ed. at Susquehanna University, a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College and studied jazz at Berklee in Boston. Randy has been the Director of Music at Eastminster since September of 2006. He is the choral director for The York County Senior Honors Choir and Concorde Vocal Ensemble, a member of the music faculty at York College of PA, guest conductor for choral festivals and accompanist for numerous vocal recitals. He has been awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Music Composition for WITF-TV's production of "Historic Pennsylvania" and is the

President of the PA American Choral Directors Association. He is married to Leslee and has two step-children.



Harold Smith, *Facility Manager*. Before joining the staff at Eastminster, Harold worked as a construction foreman and later as a shipping supervisor at a local manufacturing company for 28 years. He is an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church and is a leader in the small group program. Harold is a trained Stephen Minister and volunteers at the York Rescue Mission. Harold and his wife, Jane, have six children and 10 grandchildren. In his free time he enjoys fishing with friends, traveling and the company of his wife.

Carly VonStein, *Pre-School* Bloomsburg University, where she degree in Elementary many years of experience as a preschool teacher, and assistant Carly has been an active Bible School, Girl Scouts, Safety church and school is not working, Carly enjoys three daughters, reading, and outdoors.



Director. Carly attended earned a Bachelor's Education. She has classroom teacher, director. In addition, volunteer with Vacation Town, and other various organizations. When she spending time with her hiking in the great

Deacons

The Board of Deacons or "Deacons" as they are often referred to are called and ordained as the primary caregivers to the congregation. The group consists of 15 Deacons who are elected by the congregation to serve a 3-year term or to fill a partial term. The Board meets monthly to discuss and make arrangements for over a dozen caring ministries that are administered. The largest of these is the care group ministry that breaks the church into six smaller groups so Deacons can concentrate on building relationships with those going through difficult times. For more information, ask for a copy of the Deacon's Handbook.

The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the financial and finance-related contractual obligations of the church. This includes negotiating contracts for services and loans, managing the various endowment funds that church has received over the years, reviewing monthly financials, and the annual budget process. The Trustees make recommendations on these matters to Session, who makes the final decision.

The Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month.

Preschool Board of Directors

The Preschool Board works under the authority of Session to support and facilitate the daily operations of the teachers and staff of our Pre-School. The Board meets monthly to direct the preschool personnel and budget, recommend actions to Session regarding pay and large expenditures, address staffing issues, and address parent and program issues of the preschool.

The Preschool Board is made up of three terms with two members for each term. There is an Elder who advocates, but does not vote. The Preschool Elder provides input as to Session's understandings and works closely with the Board President on important matters.

Eastminster Preschool

The Eastminster Preschool is a primary mission to the Springettsbury / York area. The preschool accepts children ages 2 to 4 and provides opportunities for social interaction, learning educational basics prior to entering Kindergarten, and takes fun-filled field trips. The classes consistently run close to capacity. The preschool also holds a summer camp for the students and their older siblings up to the age of 11. The preschool Director actively works with the preschool committees and Pastor, as head of staff, to establish connections with the congregation and coordinate programming. This is a very positive mission focused on the care and nurture of the students, the staff, and their families.

PCUSA Seal

The seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities. The seal is comprised of a symbol, the basic components of which are the cross, scripture, a descending dove at the upper part of the cross, flames on either side of the lower part of the cross, and the name of the denomination "Presbyterian Church (USA)" encircles the symbol.

