



Worship Committee

ESTABLISHED: July 24 1968¹; October 6, 1968²

HISTORY:

The Worship Committee (hereafter referred to as “Committee”) is one of the original Session standing committees established by Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1968. It is equal in authority to its fellow standing Session committees and subordinate to Session.

COMPOSITION:

The Committee shall be comprised of the following:

- **Up to two (2) Ruling Elders**, one of whom shall serve as Chairman
- **Recording Secretary** (either a Ruling Elder or another member of the Committee)
- **One (1) Deacon Representative**
- Up to **six (6) members-at-large** from congregation whose names have been approved by both the Committee and Session.
- **Director of Music and Organist** (ex-officio)
- **Organ Assistant** (ex-officio)
- **Music Administrative Assistant** (ex-officio)
- **Choir Director** (ex-officio)
- **Floral and Seasonal Decoration Coordinator** (ex-officio)

The total number of active Session members and full-time staff members on the Committee shall not exceed 50% of the Committee’s total membership.

Senior Pastor: The senior pastor is an ex-officio member of this Committee. He may attend regular and/or special meetings as necessary. Because the senior pastor is an ex-officio member of all standing Session committees of Westminster Presbyterian Church, his attendance does not affect the above Committee membership composition, nor does it count toward determining a meeting quorum.

Term Limits: Unless otherwise determined, Committee members serving as lay-leaders shall serve up to two (2) consecutive three-year terms before a mandatory one-year furlough.

GOVERNANCE:

Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*. A simple majority (51%) determines the Committee’s action; however, a super-majority (80%) is preferred. The Committee’s quorum is 50% of the members.

Ex-Officio members are members of the Committee by virtue of the position he or she holds. Ex-officio members of the Committee shall have full voting rights as term-limited members, and their attendance at Committee meetings counts towards determining a quorum.

PURPOSE:

To oversee current worship practices and elements and to ensure the balance between the biblical guidelines of scriptural worship and an accessible worship service is maintained.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Committee is Session’s entity tasked with aiding and/or improving congregational worship as the church continues to strive to keep the balance between the biblical integrity and the accessibility of the worship service, working within the paradigm of the congregation’s mission statement to *Glorify, Nurture, and Proclaim*.

The Committee serves as the administrative oversight committee for Westminster Presbyterian Church’s Music Department. It oversees the Director of Music/Organist and Music Department activities including, but not limited to, the creation of the annual concert series, special worship services (e.g., Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, etc.), the format of the Sunday worship guides and announcement sheets, semi-annual Music Camp, Christmas Eve Candlelighters, children’s choirs, and music ensembles. The Committee collaborates with the Deacons to 1) maintain adequate communion supplies and protocols and 2) ensure efficient ushering. The Committee also is responsible for the administration of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Music Scholarship.

¹*Officers, Staff, and Committees of Westminster Presbyterian Church*; Wilbur A.R. Siddons papers, Westminster Presbyterian Church Archives.

² Congregational meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church joined the RPCES and at which Session and its standing committees were formally established by the congregation. *A Good Work Begun* (2018), page 64.