



Great Commission Committee

ESTABLISHED: July 24 1968¹; October 6, 1968²; 2000

HISTORY:

The Great Commission Committee (hereafter referred to as “Committee”) can trace its roots to the former Missions and Evangelism Committees, two of the original Session standing committees established by Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1968. In 2000, Session combined the Missions and Evangelism Committees into one and established the Great Commission Committee. The Committee 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 five (5) Ruling Elders**, one of whom shall serve as Chairman
- **Recording Secretary** (either a Ruling Elder another member of the Committee)
- Up to **twelve (12) members-at-large** from the congregation whose names have been approved by both the Committee and Session.
- Up to **two (2) youth members-at-large** with parameters as defined in Addendum I to this document.
- **Great Commission Coordinator** (ex-officio)
- **Associate Pastor of Missions and Outreach** (ex-officio)
- **Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach** (ex-officio)

The total number of active Session members and church 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 guide the local Body of Christ in fulfilling the calling to proclaim the gospel locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally (Acts 1:8).

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Great Commission Committee oversees and facilitates the missions and outreach efforts of Westminster Presbyterian Church. It is responsible to 1) foster the congregation to remain passionately motivated by God’s heart for the lost, which leads to both members and those whom Westminster Presbyterian Church directly supports, to spread the Good News of faith in Jesus Christ to the local community and the nations of the world, and 2) the prudent and wise administration and distribution of the portion of Westminster Presbyterian Church’s budget designated for mission and outreach efforts.

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.

Addendum I

Youth Membership

As approved by Session, April 20, 2023

M/S/A:

To approve youth to serve as members of the Great Commission Committee with the following terms and conditions. The youth members shall be:

- Approved by both Great Commission Committee and Session.
- Sixteen (16) years old or older.
- Limited to no more than two (2) youth members serving simultaneously.
- Serve a term from September-August of the current year; a second term may be approved by the Great Commission Committee.
- A full voting member of the Great Commission Committee.
- Allowed to choose which subcommittee he/she will serve.