



Annual Report 2025-2026

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**Rev. Dr. Christine
Chakoian**

Dear WPC Members and Friends,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

–Ecclesiastes 3:1

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ... Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. ... Respect those who labor among you; ... esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ... Hold fast to what is good And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5, selected verses

In this season, as I retire from ministry, Paul’s parting words to the church at Thessalonica capture my hopes for this beloved community.

It has been a sacred privilege to walk alongside you in your times of grief and joy, faith and doubt, unity and disagreement. I am grateful for your care for me and my family. And I will cherish memories of your many expressions of faith: your generous care for our neighbors in need, through many mission endeavors ... your tender love for one another, regardless of your diverse perspectives ... your diligent pursuit of learning and spiritual growth ... your moving commitment to worship and music ... and your joyous commitment to gather in fellowship.

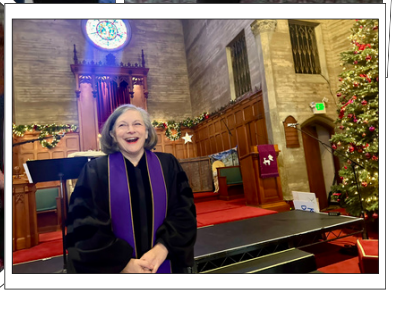
Now a new season is unfolding. As the Rev. Dr. Michael Morgan begins his call as your new Pastor/Head of Staff, I trust him to shepherd you every step of the way. I have no doubt that you will continue to pursue your calling *“to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God”* (Micah 6:8). I trust that the good work of Vision & Planning will continue to bear fruit – not only that you seek to fulfill your particular areas of ministry, but to appreciate and collaborate with each other. I pray that the delightful hope of “more Jesus, more fun” might be realized as well. And I pray that the long-awaited building project will break ground in these next months!

You are in good hands, my friends! Your staff’s, elders’, deacons’, and other leaders’ gifts are strong and diverse, and – most importantly – in all things faithful. Pray for each other, and continue to build each other up for the strength of all.

John and I want to thank you for your generous welcome to us in these seven years. As we prepare for our new season of retirement, we are grateful beyond measure for you all!

**- Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Pastor/Head of Staff**

Thank You for Seven Wonderful Years of Leadership Pastor Chris!



DEAR WPC MEMBERS & FRIENDS,

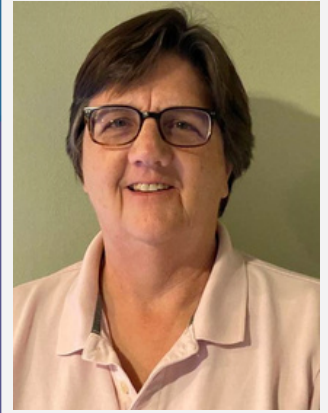
Another year of ministry has come to a close, and I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you as your Executive Associate Pastor. This year has been one of both celebration and transition as we gave thanks for the faithful ministry of Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian while preparing for the next chapter in the life of Westwood Presbyterian Church. Through every change, I have been reminded again and again of the faith, generosity, and commitment that define this congregation.

My ministry continues to include leadership with the Finance, Personnel, Nominating, and Building Committees, along with support for the Session and the many commissions and task groups that help guide our life together. Much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is essential to the health of the church. This year we continued strengthening our personnel policies, financial practices, and long-term planning while making significant progress toward our building project. Together, these efforts help ensure that WPC is well prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead.

I also continue to find great joy in leading worship, preaching, praying with you, celebrating the sacraments, and sharing in the pastoral moments that mark the lives of our congregation. Whether in times of celebration, sorrow, discernment, or hope, it is a privilege to walk together in faith.

As you read the reports that follow, I hope you will see the remarkable dedication of our members, staff, and volunteers. The ministry of WPC is possible because so many people generously share their gifts, wisdom, and compassion. Thank you for your partnership, your encouragement, and your trust. It is an honor to serve this congregation, and I look forward with hope and anticipation to all that God has in store for us in the year ahead.

-Rev. Paula Mann
Executive Associate Pastor



Rev. Paula Mann



DEAR WPC MEMBERS & FRIENDS,

Dear WPC Members and Friends,

When what has become an unimaginable medical saga of delayed spinal surgery and arduous recovery that could not have been scripted began, I would never have thought I'd still be restricted to ministry from home a full year later – but here I am! Thankful, nonetheless, for God's blessing me with good medical care, a deeper, profound love and appreciation from my WPC family, and my wife, Romana—a caregiver second to none!

The Deacons, Elders, and committee members of WPC continue to outdo themselves no matter the challenge. As Scripture tells us, *"Let those who rule well be considered worthy of double honor."* (1 Tim. 5:17) I have high praise for the officers, staff, and committees of WPC as I have grown to appreciate their resolve from my strange vantage point.

Despite various physical setbacks and challenges, I was blessed to continue my ministry as staff support for the Mission & Outreach Committee (M&O) and the Board of Deacons (BoD). I thank God for the faithfulness and enthusiasm I've witnessed of them from what last year I called a "bird's eye view" that has evolved into an "eagle eye" outlook with an appreciation for the marvelous growth and enduring commitment of the members of each body as their service benefits the WPC congregation and the larger community.

Throughout the 2025-26 fiscal year, I continued to serve as a Board of Directors member of People Assisting The Homeless (PATH), the Westside Coalition (WC – 80+ Supportive Services Agencies), and as a member of the LA County Mental Health Department – Clergy RoundTable (partnership of the Mental Health Department and Faith Based Organizations). With their focus on access to health, housing, and hunger services, these three organizations are invaluable resources that continue to provide urgent and long-term sustainable supportive services that benefit WPC members and friends and other individuals and families from surrounding communities in need of assistance. We must thank God for providing this incredible network of services.

In addition to this network, I served on the Pacific Presbytery Anti-Racism Task Force whose work resulted in ten recommendations overwhelmingly approved by vote of the Presbytery. One of the recommendations established the Commission on Equity and Justice (CEJ) – charged with creating policies and protocols to be implemented through collaboration with the committees of the Presbytery. I am a member of the CEJ.

The proverb, "Every dark cloud has a silver lining," was borne out this past year in my life. While restricted to working from home by pain and lack of mobility, the restrictions resulted in the blessing of time for pastoral calls, emails, and text exchanges that enhanced my ministry and strengthened relationships in ways normal mobility and on-campus ministry would have limited. I was also reminded that caring for others, prayer, and keeping my mind focused on Jesus, kept my focus off of myself—including my pain—which often worked more effectively than my pain medication.

The steady stream of cards, calls, visits, fruit baskets, the expressed desire for my return to on campus ministry, and the outpouring of affection my family and I have experienced from our WPC family, has been proof positive that what Jesus declared in Mark 3:31-35 about who are the true members of His family holds true for our sisters and brothers in Christ today — for which I will be eternally grateful! Thanks be to God!

~ **Pastor Mark**



Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.



SESSION



The governing constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) holds Session responsible for guiding and governing the life of the congregation. Session leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church, and the glory of God.

During this past year, the Session has continued to support the work of the Administration Commission as it pursues the Belmont Village building project. It has been an honor for the

Session to hear of the plans that have been fleshed out to provide for the community improved church facilities, as well as the building for Belmont Village. The Session eagerly awaits with the congregation and preschool as the plan unfolds to start the building of Phase I, the church offices, chapel and preschool, with a current starting building date in early 2027.

The Session has also supported this fiscal year the visioning and forecasting work of the Financial Planning Task Force during approximately four months of this fiscal year, as it looked at the financial future of the next several years as the Belmont Village building project progresses. The feedback received regarding congregation and preschool reaction to the building progress, along with the realistic financial impact as the project facilities build-out takes shape, has proved, and will prove, most helpful as the Session makes decisions to better navigate the course to be taken to operate Westwood Presbyterian over the next several years.

It was with sadness, and at the same time happiness, that the Session received the announcement early in this fiscal year of the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian as Pastor/Head of Staff of Westwood Presbyterian Church, effective July 31, 2026. Over the course of this year, the Session has supported the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee elected by the congregation to review the related planning of the process to efficiently seek and find the most qualified candidate possible to fill this important position in the WPC community. As we bid farewell to Pastor Chris', the Session eagerly awaits the arrival of the new Pastor/Head of Staff, with the goal of helping this leader of the church to confidently support the ongoing, vibrant work of the WPC church community.



The Session of Westwood Presbyterian Church has worked throughout the year to guide the various committees and participants towards continuing to support the overriding goals of the church - to walk humbly with our God, to practice kindness through welcoming and including all of God's people, to pursue justice through our collective and individual relationship with our neighbors in the community and the world, and to care for the earth that God gave us.

- Tracy Cluss-Harmeyer, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order charges "The Session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness." [G-3.0201]

Moderator:

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament:

Rev. Paula Mann

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.

Ruling Elders:

Ellen Caldwell

Tracy Cluss-Harmeyer

Lucy Cook

Breen Frazier

Cami Hamilton

Scott Hartle

M.C. Haslett

(July - December, 2025)

Peter Helm

Dale Larson

Sheila Lawrence

(January - June, 2026)

Heather Leatherwood

Emma Puglia

Anne Louise Rice

Kelly Sheridan

(July, 2025 - January 2026)

Kathryn Welch Howe

Brett Whelan

Ken Williams



The Deacon ministry is one of kindness, compassion and service after the example of Jesus Christ.



Tom Clark and Sara Walsh

Moderators:

Heather Leatherwood,
Moderator

Scott McDowell,
Co-Moderator

Deacons:

Kate Branaman
Tom Clark
Gabby Esunge
M.C. Haslett
Peumi Jayyasuriya
Camille Morris
Robyn Paris
Connie Price
Anne Louise Rice
Alisa Stewart
Cindy Trangsrud
Sara Walsh
Jann Williams
Erin Zemet

Staff Resources

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian



BOARD OF DEACONS



Deacon Sunday

congregant in need who may be celebrating a milestone, recovering, grieving, or just in thankfulness for them. This year, we lost a few very important and longtime members and walked along with several of them on their journey as well as with their families. This is so very important and always an honor and a privilege.

One of our practical roles is to prepare the sacrament of the Lord's Supper each month and seasonally for the congregation. We also extend this feast to our homebound members and were able to deliver home communion two times this past year. It is always a pleasure to serve our members at home along with a family member or caregiver. We continue to assist to beautify the sanctuary during important events like Christmas and Easter with poinsettias and lilies.

We love outreach. If there is someone we haven't seen in a while in worship, we send a text, email, or call to check in. If we see or hear of a need - we assist to help fulfill it or to ask for assistance of someone who can. Examples of types of service provided this year are praying, and in-person visits, clearing out a loved one's belongings, giving rides to Sunday worship, bringing dinner or groceries to a homebound member, helping a member set up to watch services online, driving one to an appointment, attending a concert of one of our members in support, sending cards of encouragement, and so very many other tasks large or small. It is our goal that the connection to the church of our members is deeply felt and remains strong.



The Deacon ministry is one of kindness, compassion and service after the example of Jesus Christ and within our WPC mission - we are to love kindness. And Romans 12:10 says *"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."* This is what Deacons "do" and this past year was no different. For example, we continued our weekly goal to deliver the chancel flowers to a



We had a few challenges this year such as some shifts on the board as some members developed other commitments within the church but God provided mid-year and we now have a strong team with which to move forward in the year ahead. Many hands will make light work and continued joyful participation.

As Deacons, we are always ready to be a light to the world as we serve the WPC community and beyond.

- Heather Leatherwood,
Moderator Board of Deacons

The Adult Education Committee offers education and feeds the life of the mind, providing regular and periodic opportunities for Christian learning that bring faith to bear on contemporary issues.

ADULT EDUCATION



Coach Cori Close

This year's Faith Conversations invited us to listen deeply at the intersection of faith and public life. These gatherings created meaningful space for learning, reflection and dialogue across some of the most pressing questions facing the church and world today.

This season's conversations included:

- **Coach Cori Close** - on faith, leadership, vocation and the pursuit of an "uncommon" life
- **Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather** - on South Sudan, peacemaking and the human cost of war
- **Dan Redfeld** - on the beauty, history, and meaning of beloved Christmas music
- **Dr. Daniel Wehrenfennig** - on navigating congregational change with wisdom, courage and care
- **Dr. Katharine Hayhoe** - on Christians, climate and faithful action in a changing world
- **Dr. Reinhard Krauss** - on the rise and danger of Christian nationalism



Dr. Katharine Hayhoe

Our Sunday classes, Adult Bible Forum and Faith, Search, & Support, had another strong year with participants in-person and online. Adult Bible Forum did an extensive study of Genesis and also delved into the New Testament with studies of Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter, and 1, 2, and 3 John & Jude. Faith, Search, & Support studied *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary*, an engaging collection of essays revisiting the figure of Mary as a vibrant theological presence, Rubén Rosario Rodríguez's engaging retrieval of John Calvin's theology, *Calvin for the World*, and Roger Olson's *Against Liberal Theology* which looks at some forms of modern liberal Christianity and what it means for the church to remain recognizably Christian. Everyone is welcome at our classes and encouraged to attend whether they are a regular attendee or not.

The goals we accomplished this year were to continue to focus on advance calendar planning to allow for stronger planning, promotion and congregational engagement. We also continued to look at how we can best support Faith, Search, and Support and Adult Bible Forum and collaborate with other church committees. We were mindful of opportunities to **not** have meetings if we feel they're not necessary or could be handled via email. We used a systematic approach for Faith Conversation suggestions from outside the committee inviting members of the congregation to present their suggestions at committee meetings. We also used a "Less but Better" approach to Faith Conversations. Keep the same budget but pay higher honorariums focusing on 5 higher-quality events with increased honorariums rather than 7 events. We tried shorter studies in Faith, Search, & Support in order to have greater engagement.

This year we learned to be intentional about our programming, listening to the church, collaborating with other committees and having fewer events and shorter studies to create greater engagement have all increased the strength of our committee. We pray that we continue to collaborate and communicate with each other and grow together.

- Scott Hartle, Adult Education Committee Chair

Committee Chair

Elder Scott Hartle

Committee:

David Kadue
Leslie Owens
Koorosh Yeganeh

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



The Children & Family Ministries Committee carries out the church's commitment made in the vows of baptism, to assist parents in raising their children to a deep and loving relationship with Jesus Christ, by providing infant through elementary school age children opportunities to grow in faith.



**A Friend for Zaccheus
Claymation Video**

Committee Chair

Elder Lucy Cook

Committee:

Lucy Cook
Kate Ellis
Kimberly Gallant
Kristyn Humphreys
John Langfitt
Brooke Larson

Staff Resource

Marin Miller



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (CFM)



**Skirball Center Field Trip
March, 2026**

Nature Vacation Bible School (VBS) and the Skirball field trip deepened our love and commitments through intergenerational experiences aligned with our mission to provide "open fellowship, curious learning" and grow faith-filled caretakers of the earth and each other. Other CFM justice-oriented pursuits include greening Manna Bag contents and creating the *Noah's Ark Musical* set entirely out of recycled materials. The Christmas and Summer pageants empowered children to contribute meaningfully in worship and children also worked passionately on their claymation video, *A Friend for Vaccheus* - screened during Thankfulness Sunday. Our Sunday School program nurtures empathetic, courageous and faithful servant leaders-in-training as they imagine Bible stories and bring them to life.

For our children, Sunday mornings when we come together to learn, pray, play, create, belong, and practice our faith. It looks like being good to one another, welcoming the stranger, listening for Spirit at work within us, and doing the next-right-thing as a living-and-loving testimony to a living-and-loving God.

We launched Nature VBS- two-years in the making and garnering enthusiasm to repeat the event next year. We successfully hired new childcare workers, really teaching assistants equipped for our project-based learning model, who have impacted the children so much as they've become beloved guides in our children's faith journeys. Lastly, CFM aimed to provide "more fun" with our Jesus-ing via one family field trip and two movie nights! The latter also served as bridge-building events with fellow Westside PC(USA) churches. We hope these continue and bud friendships in childhood that carry over into a robust Westside Youth Collective (6th-12th grade.)

A question emerges: how do we minister to genuine overwhelm and need for communal connection/support while avoiding over-programming or relying on the muscle of worn-out families to make the offerings happen? The answer may involve lowering each lift to ensure easeful times of restoration while providing naturally playful times for children when they're less instructed and more encouraged to discover what is in them to do/create/be as children of God in a community of faith.

Our children crave agency and connection, which we can see they're getting in healthy, heart-expanding experiences via Westwood Presbyterian Church, thanks be to God! We'll stay the course and keep listening for Spirit's guidance along the way. This past year, our children came to this church for community, for lessons of faith, for hands-on culminating projects, for singing and music, for performances marking each season, for exhibitions, for a nature-immersed VBS, for movie nights, and more. We pray that something of it remains, quietly, and becomes part of who they are.

We are thriving. This program stands on a foundation of Spirit-led, hands-on learning, and on friendship and connection substantial enough that children carry it with them long after they've outgrown the Sunday School room. All of this came from sustained effort, from people who care about these children, and from a committee willing to challenge one another while drawing on our own distinct creative gifts.

- A collaboration between Marin Miller and Lucy Cook

CYAM exists to provide a sanctuary for college students and young adults on the Westside.

We desire to create a space for curiosity and connection, where faith can bloom into acts of justice, love, humility, and peace for the sake of our neighbors and our world.

Committee Chair

Elder Emma Puglia

Committee:

Gabby Esunge
B'anwi Fomukong
Charlotte Howley
Jim Louie
Scott McDowell
Gabby Price

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT (CYAM)

The phrase “curious learning” really sticks out to me in relation to the College & Young Adult (CYAM) Committee. Our group of individuals expresses an innate curiosity about our faith that is beautiful in its sincerity. A safe space to learn together, Ember encourages an atmosphere where it's easy to ask questions, to express opinions, and admit ignorance. It feels like an act of humility, walking humbly alongside God in a quest to greater understand His word. This committee comes up with various talking points that address widespread subject matters, from interpretation of text, to historical theology, to the personal perspective. It's a continual mission amongst our committee, and one that makes me happy to be part of it.



Renaissance Fair Outing

One of our overarching annual goals is to spread the word of our committee's existence and invite new members to attend Ember meetings. This year, we were able to fulfill this goal, bringing in about five new individuals, while still maintaining our flexible schedules for the busy college students. It's been a joy to experience new stories and perspectives from these individuals who have come in.

Ember and the CYAM committee have learned how to rely upon one another in close fellowship. We've leaned on each other in times of doubt and uncertainty, and communicated our feelings amongst one another to provide care and support. Additionally, we've utilized the power of prayer in a consistent manner, that strengthened our community as individuals overcame personal ordeals. This level of communication and vulnerability only deepened our connection, and also allowed for an easier welcome for new members.

I pray that the CYAM committee gathers fresh inspiration for expanding our community, while also maintaining our close-knit traditions and friendships. It's a careful balance to strike, and one that requires a continual amount of care and attention to pursue. I pray for the individual members of the committee and church, as we continue our work fulfilling God's mission, especially in times of change

- Emma Puglia, College & Young Adult Committee Chair

The Finance Committee establishes and oversees the church budget, ensuring careful, transparent management of all church funds and investments.

Committee Chairs

Elder Dale Larson

(February - June 2026)

Elder Kelly Sheridan

(July, 2025 - January 2026)

Committee:

Graham Beattie (Co-Chair)

Hugh Burton

Mundi Fomukong

Michael Sohigian

William Pierrepont

Investment Sub-Committee:

Matt Covington

Elizabeth Evans

Freeman Hall

Don Morrison

Todd Popovich

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

Rev. Paula Mann

Farrah Mikail

The WPC Budget is on the next page.

Detailed financial reports are always available to WPC Members.

Please contact the church office at
office@westwoodpres.org or
(310) 474-4535.



FINANCE

The mission of the Finance Committee is to "have our financial affairs done decently and in order." We did this by reviewing monthly financial statements, leading the annual budgeting process, and making recommendations to Session regarding financial and accounting decisions and policies.

We gathered for an in-person retreat in the Fall to discuss our hopes and plans for the year. Aside from our regular monthly work reviewing and discussing the church's financial statements and reporting to Session, we developed some big picture priorities to pursue.

Our most significant accomplishment was to incorporate the work of the Finance Plan Task Force into the budgeting process. Based on recommendations from the Finance Plan Task Force, we developed a process designed to ensure that the church operates in a fiscally responsible manner while continuing to support our excellent staff and programming. We created a set of budgeting recommendations that reflected our current financial circumstances while allowing flexibility as those circumstances evolve.

We are truly grateful for the care with which the other committees followed this framework during the budgeting process. Their cooperation enabled the Finance Committee and Session to conduct a smooth and efficient process that culminated in Session's adoption of the 2026-27 budget.

After receiving an external financial review, we concluded that an internal review process could provide more thorough and attentive oversight. We therefore developed a rigorous internal financial review process and incorporated it into the Finance Manual. This annual review will provide comprehensive oversight of the church's financial procedures, and we look forward to implementing it in the coming year.

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful staff support provided by Farrah Mikail, Pastor Paula Mann, and Pastor Chris Chakoian, as well as for the outstanding administrative work that Sarah Davis, Linda Martinez, and Brianne Naiman perform for the Church and Preschool.

We pray for the church's continued financial health, for the success of our new leadership, and for continued care, transparency, and collaboration in all financial matters.

- Dale Larson, Finance Committee Chair

WPC OPERATING BUDGET: Sources & Use of Funds

Income	2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget	2022-2023 Fiscal Year Actuals	2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget	2023-2024 Fiscal Year Actuals	2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget	2024-2025 Fiscal Year Actuals	2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget	2025-2026 Fiscal Year Actuals	2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget
Pledge/Non-Pledge Contributions	725,000	734,996	725,000	685,251	725,000	635,984	675,000	702,220	653,000
Other Income	11,000	7,298	10,000	8,790	11,500	9,629	11,500	9,734	8,500
Fund Income	155,000	206,697	200,000	215,417	225,000	262,223	225,000	262,558	210,000
Preschool (1)	154,948	302,730	146,095	364,967	143,049	182,099	90,058	338,973	70,128
Church Rental Income	11,000	33,890	11,000	17,253	17,600	22,644	18,600	22,693	14,500
Property-Ashton House (Net of Expenses)	51,330	51,330	51,348	1,980	65,000	64,720	14,765	14,794	(3,220)
Manse Rental Income (Net of Expenses)	57,700	55,862	56,190	55,512	56,175	53,629	60,675	58,841	84,675
Belmont Income	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	187,500	235,000	235,000	240,540
Total Income	1,315,978	1,542,804	1,349,633	1,499,170	1,393,324	1,418,426	1,330,598	1,644,814	1,278,123
Expenses									
Personnel	747,578	762,628	813,361	787,814	872,796	857,043	901,717	916,637	926,925
Properties & Infrastructure	257,212	261,509	238,150	266,229	244,950	257,337	262,262	251,307	260,000
Session	15,000	15,787	15,250	16,381	16,750	17,079	17,750	18,646	17,940
Mission & Outreach	66,800	64,934	44,300	44,488	53,800	53,953	50,500	50,385	48,700
Pastoral Expenses	457,702	450,181	473,870	456,534	488,669	484,300	487,825	480,177	489,635
Administration	60,320	59,193	59,760	55,107	81,260	73,215	80,620	79,249	77,800
Fellowship & Membership	18,000	11,975	17,600	7,636	13,600	12,647	15,550	10,254	18,050
Communications	500	669	3,000	3,004	8,260	15,604	5,300	3,503	5,290
Adult Ministries	6,700	6,455	6,800	9,349	11,200	9,825	7,150	6,152	10,350
Spiritual Formation	5,525	5,007	5,725	5,848	5,350	4,198	5,300	5,466	5,000
Student/College/Young Adult Ministries	12,400	7,763	10,650	6,261	10,750	6,404	8,450	6,612	8,150
Children's Ministries	5,800	6,135	6,050	6,934	7,800	4,788	7,600	7,220	7,600
Music & Worship	44,350	48,739	33,850	30,859	47,600	47,655	51,050	47,868	49,100
Miscellaneous (2)	1,200	943	750	815	900	925	800	197	800
Total Expenses Net	1,699,237	1,701,918	1,729,116	1,697,259	1,863,685	1,844,974	1,901,874	1,883,674	1,925,340
Income/Loss	(383,259)	(159,114)	(379,483)	(198,089)	(470,361)	(426,548)	(571,276)	(238,860)	(647,217)
Contribution from Westwood Fund (3)	384,359	159,114	379,483	198,089	470,361	426,548	400,467	238,860	547,500
Employment Retention Credit							170,809	-	(99,717)

- (1) The Preschool figure represents income in excess of direct expenses; WPC underwrites the indirect expenses.
(2) Miscellaneous combines committee spending on Preschool, Pastoral Care, Nominating, and Vision & Planning.
(3) To support operations, Session has authorized spending \$547,500 of Westwood Fund principal (up to 5% of unrestricted assets) and ERC receipts (up to \$99,717).

MEMBERSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



New Members Received in Worship

The Membership & Fellowship Committee has lived out the WPC mission in this year in all aspects, notable by practicing kindness through welcoming all of God's people during our nine traditional events:

- Monday Nighters (3);
- Homecoming (1);
- Thankfulness Sunday (1);
- New Member Seminars (4).

Additionally, the mission was deepened by establishing a weekly Visitor Table and new member mentor program and through formalizing our Side Porch greeting plan.

Our first goal of supporting new members was achieved primarily through our new member mentee program. Second, the Session approved our list of members recommended for removal from the attendance rolls due to lack of participation over a period of years. Finally, we exceeded our third goal by planning more than three events during the this transitional time. We have learned that taking time to do a deep dive into our committee's ministry statement every month during our standing committee meetings not only helps strengthen our commitment to our work but also to each other.

We pray that our forthcoming set of recommendations for how the Membership and Fellowship Committee can strengthen the WPC community during the construction project will be received joyfully.

- Anne Louise Rice, Membership & Fellowship Committee Chair



Homecoming, September 2025

The Membership & Fellowship Committee assists the congregation in being a welcoming and inviting community.

They welcome newcomers, provide new member seminars and walk with new members until they are established in the ministry and fellowship circles of the church.

Committee Chair

Elder Anne Louise Rice

Committee:

Stephan Ceci
Shari Godbold
Marilyn Robertson
Matthew Thompson
Erin Zemet

Staff Resource:

Anne Cioffi



The Mission & Outreach Committee seeks social healing and extends compassion beyond our faith community, providing opportunities for our congregation to care for the poor, the hungry, and the disenfranchised as Christ has asked us to care.

Committee Chair

Elder Ellen Caldwell
Lara Fedoroff, *Co Chair*

Committee:

Craig German
Kerry Jensen
Anne Mathews
Mark Meyer
Laura Scott
John Shustitzky
Jeff Stodel
Michelle Whelan

Staff Resource

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Jake Putich



MISSION & OUTREACH (M&O)

Members of the Mission and Outreach (M&O) Committee grew together in faith and pursued justice with our prayers, finances, and numerous work projects. As an Earth Care and Matthew 25 church, M&O continued mission grants to PATH, the Westside Food Bank, FosterAll, and Habitat for Humanity Greater LA. Monthly donations to the Westside Food Bank continued as well as our tradition of funding, filling, and distributing Christmas turkey boxes to 700 families. We also responded to new challenges, particularly housing & food insecurity, immigration, and international humanitarian relief. These included: Door of Hope (transitional family housing), Humankind L.A. (Housing the Homeless & Supportive Services), Project Hope (Palestinian Relief), and CLUE (Immigrant Bond Fund).

In response to the detention of many in LA's immigrant community, M&O collaborated with Adult Education in a 4-week study of immigration from a Biblical perspective. About 25 individuals engaged in the course offered by Fuller Seminary and World Vision. This study provided the foundation for more advocacy training through World Relief and the pursuit of legislative reform. Mission & Outreach also works with Dispensa, a Westside organization that distributes bi-monthly food supplies to families left behind by the ICE arrests.



Esperanza Elementary School Greening Project

M&O also collected backpacks and school supplies for the T-K classes at Esperanza Elementary School. Our semi-annual play days with the 3rd and 4th graders at the school brought games, books, and much needed one-on-one interaction. WPC's donations to plant mature trees for Esperanza Elementary School Greening project (in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land & LA Neighborhood Land Trust) has now come to fruition. Esperanza's leafy trees tackle one of many climate injustices that plague asphalt-covered playgrounds throughout Los Angeles.

M&O also sponsored a Mission Sunday which highlighted the work of PATH as well as RECONCILE, an international work for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.

- continued on the next page

(M&O) CONTD...



**Homeboy 5K,
September 2025**



**Turkey Dinner Box
Packing, December 2025**

M&O made progress on two of its stated goals:

1. Continue to lean into our pod structure.

The pod structure aligns M&O members into five working groups:

- International Mission and Immigration
- Food Insecurity
- Children & Youth
- Creation Care
- Housing and Supportive Services.

Members within each pod assume responsibility for monthly updates to the committee as well as planning various relevant "hands on" events. This year pod leaders significantly increased their leadership in planning and engagement.

2. Created a consistent communication strategy to inform and inspire participation.

Events and activities promoted by M&O were publicized online, in News & Concerns, and with a calendar on display on the side porch. M&O categorized the monthly financial statements within each pod providing a more specific picture of expenses and congregational contributions. The committee also tried to distribute its funds earlier in the year.



Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Mission & Outreach realizes the value of building relationships, collaboration, and caring for each other and for those with whom we work. Our faithfulness must come with openness to the Holy Spirit for discipline as we discern what issues and projects to pick up and what to lay down. Mission & Outreach is so grateful to all the members of WPC for their participation and generosity in this mission. When combined with M&O's budget allotment, WPC's total benevolence for FY 2025-26 was \$130,073!

Mission and Outreach prays that we will listen to the Holy Spirit's leading and remain rooted in our church's mission to *"pursue justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with God."*

- Ellen Caldwell, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

NOMINATING

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' - Isaiah 6:8

The Nominating Committee helps put into practice the value of belonging and application of spiritual gifts. WPC Community welcomes all and the act of asking individuals to serve to whatever capacity they can affirms this value.

The goals of the Nominating Committee included:

- Identifying more people to serve for the first time,
- accessing more data,
- expanding in thinking and practice the idea of "service" to a broader understanding of "participation",
- increasing the frequency of group communications, and
- communicating the Vision & Planning goals to those accepting Chair positions, in the process of installation.

We were successful as a team in enlisting numerous people (among members and friends) who have not served on a WPC committee before or within past 5 years. This year was out-of-the-ordinary for a committee that typically meets once a year, as we were called to assemble a Financial Task Force of 3 members and a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) of 7 members in addition to nominating season.



Pastor Nominating Committee

We enlisted the WPC office and Membership & Fellowship committee to leverage the data in Church Community Builder. We prompted committee leadership to provide feedback about what "service" looked like for their committees. We communicated the Vision & Planning goals to incoming committee leaders.

None of us is alone and serving does not have to be a solo activity. Creating opportunities for co-chairing and mentoring acknowledges the feelings of burn-out and the importance of the work we do. Passing organizational knowledge and wisdom from person to person through participation will help us all move forward in God's work.

Our prayers are for the leaders to reach out when frustrated, to share their joy with others that we as a community may grow. It is exciting to witness God's presence in those around us. May we all be empowered to feel belonging and give willingly of our gifts to each other.

- Cami Hamilton, Nominating Chair

The Nominating Committee serves as the church's Volunteer Resources Department, inviting each member to serve in some aspect of the church's mission and ministry.

Committee Chair

Elder Cami Hamilton

Committee:

Mundi Fomukong
Brooke Larson
Jim Lawson
Scott McDowell
Leslie Owens
Connie Price

Staff Resource

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Rev. Paula Mann



WPC Church and Preschool Staff

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian,
Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Paula Mann,
Executive Associate Pastor

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.,
*Pastor of Mission, Outreach,
& Pastoral Care*

Worship

JA' Michael Davis-Hoag,
Sunday Receptionist
(July, 2025 - March, 2026)

Laurel Sanders, *Organist*
Dan Redfeld, *Music Director*

Leadership

Tajmaya "Taj" Anders,
*Preschool Curriculum
Specialist*

Anne Cioffi,
Director of Membership

Sarah Davis,
Director of Operations

Farrah Mikail,
Financial Manager

Brianne Naiman,
Preschool Director

Marin Miller, *Director of
Children & Family Ministries*

Jake Putich,
*Director of Faith Formation &
Creation Care*

Michelle Whelan,
*Interim Director of Student
Ministries*

Support

Heidi Rudd,
Preschool Office Manager

Linda Martinez,
*Administrative Assistant &
Contributions Coordinator*

Javier Torres,
Maintenance

Lourdes Torres,
Custodial

Joshua Torres,
Custodial

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee serves as the church's Human Resources Department, overseeing all aspects of employment, staff development, oversight, and care.

The Personnel Committee has sought to provide continuity for our staff following the announcement of Pastor Chris's retirement. Through frank and open discussion with each staff member we were able to get a better picture of the joys and concerns experienced on a daily basis while they serve our congregation.

The Personnel Committee worked in conjunction with the Student Ministries Committee to fill the open role of Director of Student Ministries. While we were unable to find the perfect candidate this year, the Committee and indeed the Church as a whole have been so grateful that Michelle Whelan has continued to serve in that role in an interim capacity during this year of transition. Filling this role permanently will be the most urgent priority of the Committee in the 2026-27 Fiscal Year.

The rewrite of the Personnel Manual to comply with both California Employment Law and Church norms is nearly complete (with the assistance of the Church HR Network), and we are looking forward to rolling that out to staff of both the Church and the Preschool very shortly.

As we approach the groundbreaking of the construction project at long last, we have learned that our staff and community possess remarkable resilience and flexibility. Following several false starts in our search for a new Director of Student Ministries and setbacks in Pastor Mark's health journey, it has been so heartening to see people step up and take on new responsibilities. This becomes even more important as we welcome Pastor Mike as the new leader of WPC. We look forward to our current staff as well as Session and committee members providing important insight to the new Chief of Staff as he takes on this new Calling. The Personnel Committee will work diligently to ease his transition into leading our talented staff members.

We pray for wisdom and discernment so that we may best implement the will of God and our congregation. We pray that we will find the courage to understand and champion the needs of our staff, as well as the flexibility to find creative ways to make sure this time of transition leads to a stronger future for WPC.

- Peter Helm, Personnel Committee Co-Chair

Committee Chair
Elder Peter Helm, Chair

Committee Members:
Barbara Allen John Langfitt
Freeman Hall Dale Larson (July, 2025 -
Callie Kramer January, 2026)

Staff Resources
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Rev. Paula Mann

**Preschool Director**

Brianne Naiman

Curriculum Specialist

Taj Anders

Staff Resource

Marin Miller

Committee Chair

Elder Sheila Lawrence

(July, 2025 - January, 2026)

Elder M.C. Haslett

(July, 2025 - January, 2026)

LaJoie Ringquist

Co-Chair

Committee:

Kim Labinger

Brooke Larson

William Pierrepont

PRESCHOOL



Our committee has seen WPC's mission lived out in the daily life of the Preschool. Guided by our shared vision of welcoming everyone to grow in faith and care for the world and each other, we worked to ensure the Preschool remained a warm, inclusive place where families of all backgrounds feel at home. Community events planned both by the Church and the Preschool (the Family Picnic, parent talks, Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, etc.) also brought families together in joyful ways,

strengthening relationships. Monthly values sessions with the Children & Family Ministries Director, Marin Miller, along with the school's emphasis on values, gave children and families meaningful, age-appropriate opportunities to explore justice, kindness, and humility and other values that align with WPC.

We set out to boost morale during our construction project, show appreciation to our teachers and staff, promote fundraising for financial sustainability, and improve visibility to bring in new families. The Preschool Committee hosted a lovely breakfast for the teachers. Bri's focus on social media has been a new way to reach prospective families and help them learn more about the program. Families told us this communication helped them feel more confident in choosing our school. Enrollment grew from 51 children in August to 68 by year-end, reaching 87% of capacity. Current families described the program as warm, nurturing, inclusive, and engaging, with high-quality care and a strong, trusted teaching staff.

We learned that clear, warm communication truly matters. Social media proved a wonderful tool for helping families understand and trust our program, so we'll carry it forward into 2026-2027. We were reminded, too, of the importance of fundraising and word of mouth promotion. We will continue to find ways for the Preschool to invest in our staff both financially and with ongoing professional development. We will work on getting families to share their stories about the program with others through social media and school reviews. We will also continue to support fundraising efforts and help motivate families and educators through as they navigate the building project.

We pray for guidance as we welcome our new pastor and continue growing together as a community. We lift up our hopes for financial sustainability, steady enrollment growth, and events that unite the Preschool families in shared celebration with each other and with the Church to strengthen the community and love that they feel. Above all, we pray for faithfulness to our shared mission, that we might remain steadfast in serving our children and their families, caring for the teachers and staff, and walking humbly with God through the changes that the building project and new facility will bring.

- Bri Naiman, Preschool Director



The Property Development Committee exercises stewardship of the church's properties, overseeing all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and enhancement.



Commission Chair

Con Howe

Commission

Betty Glick
Jon Stewart

Staff Resources

Rev. Paula Mann
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

Consultants

Rev. Dr. Lynn Cheyney
Turner Smith



SESSION ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT)



For many years, WPC has faithfully planned for our future through our building project. During this past year, we made significant progress in preparing for construction of Phase 1, which will provide new meeting rooms, offices, preschool facilities, and a meditation chapel that will serve our congregation and community for generations to come.

Our partnership with Belmont Village continues to provide an important foundation for the future of the church. Through the 99-year ground lease of our parking lot, the project, in Phase 2, will eventually provide a new assisted living community, a new Fellowship Hall, underground parking, and a dependable source of long-term income to strengthen the ministries of Westwood Presbyterian Church.

This year, the Building Commission focused on moving the project from planning toward construction. We worked closely with our architects, Belmont Village, and our construction consultant to refine costs, complete construction documents and permits, and prepare the financial and operational systems that will guide the project once work begins. At the same time, we continued planning for future Sanctuary refurbishment and maintaining our existing facilities so that they remain safe and welcoming throughout this transition.

As always, this work has required patience, flexibility, and faith. We are grateful for the dedication of Commission members, Church Staff, and the many consultants and partners who continue to move the project forward.

Our prayer for the coming year is that we will begin construction on Phase 1 early in the new year, communicate regularly with the congregation throughout the process, and faithfully steward the remarkable opportunity God has given Westwood Presbyterian Church as we prepare our campus for future generations of ministry.

- Con Howe, Administrative Commission Chair



Phase One Building Exterior

The Spiritual Formation Committee provides opportunities to nourish the life of the Spirit and deepen one's relationship with God through contemplative services and practices, and by enriching a sense of community with one another.

Committee Chair

Elder Kathryn Welch Howe
Emilie Nordhues, Co-Chair

Committee:

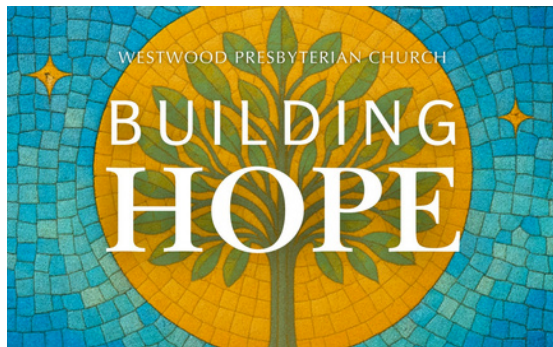
Ellen Caldwell
Kevin Cluss-Harmeyer
Elizabeth Myers
Bill Soldwisch
Claire West Orr

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

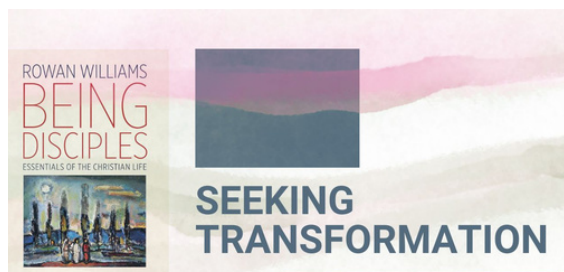


Fall 2025 Small Group Theme

The 2025-2026 Spiritual Formation Committee reflected on Westwood Presbyterian Church's mission and the changes occurring within our church and country and affirmed the theme "Building Hope." We brought reflection, strength and practice to our lives of faith at the Church and in the world.

The Spiritual Formation Committee reset its goal to continue to build a community of faith at WPC. Through three powerful Vespers services - Autumn, Advent, and Easter, a post-Election Fall Spiritual Retreat, and two Small Groups studying books with telling narratives of hope and faith (*Hope is Here!* by Luther E. Smith, J r. and *Being Disciples, Essentials of the Christian Life*, by Rowan Williams) we feel we conveyed the existence and value of faith in our daily lives, that faith can be different from beliefs, and that faith must have a community and practice.

We affirmed the complexity of faith, peace, hope, and love and the critical need to remain open in sharing and in faith. We wish to increase the congregation's involvement and present lively and accessible events focused on what spiritual formation is .



Lent 2026 Small Group Theme

We pray that Spiritual Formation continues to be integral to WPC with its emphasis on joy, accessibility, and expressing the known and unknowable of faith. We pray that we will work with our new pastor and the new campus to affirm the essential importance of a lively, loving community of faith. Our programs need to grow in attendance and number as companions to WPC's regular services as they appeal to the broader community. We pray that we can open ourselves and help our community welcome transformation in the season ahead.

- Kathryn Welch Howe, Spiritual Formation Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee saw Westwood Presbyterian Church's mission fulfilled through the congregation's willingness to sustain the worship, service, fellowship, learning, and community that define our church. This year's campaign invited members to consider stewardship not simply as supporting an institution, but as responding to God's call through participation, service, and financial generosity. Congregational speakers shared how WPC has shaped their faith, relationships, and service. Their stories demonstrated more clearly than financial information alone what members' commitments make possible and connected stewardship to belonging, gratitude, and shared ministry.

The committee's central goal was to conduct a meaningful and responsible stewardship campaign during an unusually complex period for WPC. The church was preparing for construction and pastoral transition while also facing longer-term financial pressures and possible future capital needs.



The committee established **WPC: Where People Are Called** as the campaign theme, and recommended an annual stewardship target based on recent giving trends and anticipated disruption, organized a multiweek campaign that incorporated WPC member's testimonies into worship, created a dedicated opportunity for members to make their

commitments, worked to distinguish annual pledging, which supports ongoing ministry and operations, from possible future capital requests, and began a more intentional process for pledge acknowledgment, follow-up, and review of giving trends.

Our most important thing we learned was that stewardship communication is strongest when it begins with people and ministry rather than budgets. Personal testimony gave the campaign authenticity and helped members see their giving as part of WPC's shared calling. Our post-campaign review also identified opportunities to begin planning and speaker recruitment earlier, assign responsibilities more clearly, improve Stewardship Sunday logistics, and make acknowledgment and follow-up more timely and consistent.

Dollar totals remain important, but they are only one measure of stewardship health. The number of pledges, participating households, and individual gifts can provide a valuable indication of congregational engagement. Tracking participation alongside dollars will help us distinguish broad involvement from results driven by a smaller number of larger commitments and will allow for more informed follow-up and planning.

We pray that WPC will move through construction and leadership transition with unity, trust, and generosity. May every member recognize that they are called to participate in the life of this church, and may our stewardship sustain a community that welcomes all people, practices kindness, pursues justice, and cares faithfully for the world God loves.

- Brett Whelan, Stewardship Committee Chair

The Stewardship Committee challenges our church family to respond to the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship, encouraging generosity through the Spring stewardship drive and year-round stewardship education plan.

Committee Chair

Elder Brett Whelan

Committee:

Don Morrison
Lou Moore
Caryl Carothers

Staff Resource

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian



STUDENT MINISTRIES

We fulfilled our mission to WPC by exploring it with our teen members. As they have matured, the program has matured with them, giving them opportunities for social justice, outreach to those less fortunate and fellowship with other churches.

Our biggest goal this year was to find a replacement for Michelle Whelan, who has stayed on as Interim Director of Student Ministries far beyond her tenure. We worked hand-in-glove with the Student Ministries Search Committee, helping draft interview questions. Although we held two interviews, the position remains open.

We have learned that finding the right person to lead our teens will happen on God's time table, not our own. One of the candidates we interviewed blew way past our expectations. We extended an offer, only for her to reject it at the last moment, due to circumstances outside of her (and WPC's) control. We are hopeful that our new Pastor/Head of Staff, Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan will be helpful as we continue this process next year.

As we look ahead, we pray to find a new Director of Student Ministries, one who can inspire our teens and give Michelle Whelan a much-needed break. We also pray that we can continue to lead our kids with opportunities that challenge both their intelligence and their faith, while keeping them engaged by simply having fun.

- Breen Frazier, Chair of Student Ministries



**Multi-Church Lock-In
February, 2026**

The Student Ministries Committee carries out the church's commitment, made in the vows of baptism, to assist in raising the young people of the church to a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ, overseeing all aspects of the Church's ministry with middle-schoolers and high-schoolers.

Committee Chair

Elder Breen Frazier

Committee:

Laurie Flenner
Jane Kinsey
Robyn Paris
Alisa Stewart

Staff Resource

Michelle Whelan



WORSHIP & MUSIC

The past year offered both the traditional settings for worship complimented with inspiring musical support, but also marked the return of the Music at Westwood Concert Series to its traditional three annual events, prior to the disruptions of COVID. The program year commenced with the eagerly anticipated *Messiah Sing-a-Long*, continued



Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem

with the performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël*. in worship, and ended with the triumphant performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, accompanied by full orchestra.

We seek to enhance the worship experience through well presented holiday classic music at Christmas, Easter and other notable church calendar events while selectively introducing exciting new repertoire from current artists composing sacred works.



When we began the year, we had a deficit financial situation which threatened to limit or even curtail our ambitious plans for a full restoration of pre-COVID performance and musical worship support. Through a combination of a successful annual appeal, several major donors, the collaboration of

the Musicians Union Pension Fund granting us a major subsidy, and a great deal of prayer, we ended up being able to bring our full hoped for program of music to our congregation and the greater community.

In the coming year, we hope to build on the momentum of this past year and provide an even richer spiritual setting for worship. Perhaps most challenging, we are charged with developing a recommendation for replacement of our aging 30 year old organ, which has begun to fail, as well as spearhead a fundraising campaign that will honor our beloved late organist, Namhee Han, with the "Namhee Han Memorial Organ."

- Ken Willams, Worship & Music Committee Chair

The Worship & Music Committee cares for all aspects of worship, providing excellent Sunday morning and special services, and guides the church's music ministry.

Committee Chair:

Elder Steve Hauser

Committee:

Andy Beer
Stephen Dawson
Cami Hamilton
Marylyn Robertson
Kathy Schreiner

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Dan Redfeld

