



## a new oversight structure at westminster

STARTING JUNE 2016

### Background

Presbyterian churches are overseen by elders who are elected from and by the congregation. At Westminster there are 10 elders, including the pastor. They meet monthly to oversee the well-being of the church and prayerfully make decisions about its direction.

### What is an "oversight structure"?

For several months, the elders have been working on a new oversight structure as a part of how the church operates. It is a system where each elder is responsible for overseeing one area of the congregation's life. This was adopted in June 2016.

### Why is this helpful?

This is helpful because, as Westminster grows, it will provide the congregation with a clearer sense of who oversees certain areas. It will also help the elders in their leadership because it clarifies responsibilities and streamlines discussion at the monthly elders' meetings. This is a part of a congregation's healthy evolution.

### What are the areas?

**Worship** – Rev. Ruttan. Content and coordination of worship and services.

**Communications** – Rev. Ruttan. Corporate communications, online and offline.

**Education** – Wanda Anderson. General educational opportunities.

**Care** – Cathy Clark. The pastoral care of the congregation, including the Leading with Care program.

**Youth and Family** – Colin Leonard. Ministries that take a special interest in youth and families.

**Building and Maintenance** – Judy Pringle. The upkeep and maintenance of the church building and grounds.

**Finance** – Bethany Touchette. The stewardship of the finances in the congregation.

**Congregational Life** – Don Hickey. The shared congregational life of the congregation, with a focus on groups (such as Stitch and Chatter, Adult Social Club, etc).

**Neighbourhood and Community Liaison** – Jim Bewick. Our relationship with the neighbourhood and community.

**Newcomers** – Jim Bewick. A guide for newcomers in the congregation.

**Administration and Human Resources** – Wayne Hope. Administrative functions, management of certain records, and working with the Human Resources team.

**Presbytery Representative** – Rob Adamson. Represent Westminster to presbytery, and presbytery to Westminster, as a part of our work with the wider church.

When we elect new elders, how is this impacted?

Under our current system, 3 elders will be elected every 2 years (and 3 will step down from active service). When that happens next (the end of 2017) the elders will discuss how to re-shuffle the oversight areas.

There isn't a 'mission' area. Is that an oversight?

No. Our mission should permeate every area of the church's life, not just one.

We have a new vision statement. How does this relate to that?

Our new vision statement is: "**Alive with the Holy Spirit, Westminster is a Christ-Centred, Family-Friendly Church.**" This new oversight structure is set up in a way that will help us stay focussed on our vision in a regular, accountable way.