



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

The Ministerial Vocation Committee and the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are responsible for denominational vocational services. As part of the process of “matching” ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and ministers to complete information forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the individual pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for self-study and for evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and commitment to open communication.

The Church Information Form presents the local congregation’s history, challenges, and goals. It is our hope that this will be of help in facilitating the search process, assisting the church in focusing on future directions and pastors in gaining some sense of the nature and uniqueness of this congregation.

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Please return completed form to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATTN: OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

Phone: 407-930-4239
Fax: 407-930-4247
E-mail: info@epc.org



**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***CHURCH INFORMATION FORM****Part 1: Church Information**

1. Church Name Eastminster Church

Address 1958 N. Webb Rd

Wichita, Kansas 67206

Telephone (316) 634-0337 Fax (316) 634-1496

E-mail jgarrett@eastminster.org Website eastminster.org

2. Presbytery: Great Plains Presbytery

Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison Kent Mathews

3. Search Committee Chairman Charity Schaulis

Address 6 N. Stagecoach St

Wichita, Kansas 67230

E-mail cschaulis@gmail.com

Telephone (316) 619-9690

4. List all paid staff positions (use additional sheet if necessary)

Senior Pastor

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Associate Pastor

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Assistant Pastor (Missions)

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Assistant Pastor (Young Adults and Digital Ministry)

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

CAFO

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Director of Technology

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Director of Accounting

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Communications Director

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

Kids Director

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

16 Additional Full Time Staff

☒ Full time ☐ Part time

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***CHURCH INFORMATION FORM****5. List all vacant positions**Position Available Associate Pastor Date of Vacancy 1/2023Position Available Director of Communications Date of Vacancy 2/2023Position Available Lead Pastor Date of Vacancy 1/2024**6. Membership (state approximate numbers and percentages)**

	Five years ago	Currently
A. Number of church members	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>
B. Number of family units	<u>800</u>	<u>800</u>
C. Worship attendance	<u>776</u>	<u>520 / Online: 486</u>

7. Community Growth ☒ Increasing ☐ Static ☐ Declining**8. Profile of church members****A. Age:**0 % 0-11 5.9 % 12-18 12.8 % 19-24 11.5 % 25-34
12 % 35-49 19.8 % 50-64 38 % 65+**B. Occupation:**25 % Business 25 % Professional _____ % Trades
_____ % Agriculture 25 % Stay-at-Home Parent 25 % Retired
_____ % Other (Please Specify) _____**C. Educational level of adults**_____ % some high school 30 % high school 60 % college 10 % graduate school**D. Percentage of members belonging to the congregation**Less than one year 1.4 %
5 years or less 13.9 %
6-10 years 25.3 %
10 years or more 59.4 %





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D. Style of liturgy used in your worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

traditional and contemporary

E. Type of music used in worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

8 & 9:30 - traditional with hymns; 9:30 - traditional with choir; 11:00 - contemporary with band

12. Church Programming—Sunday School

A. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years) 90

B. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday) 107

13. Church Programming—Organizations/Committees

List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
(see attached)				

*Indicate leadership role expected by using the number below:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility.
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility.
3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.



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13. Church Programming—Organizations/Committees

List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
Session	Seated Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders	26	Twice a month	2
Deacons	Oversees the ministry of caring for church members, serving the sick, homebound, bereaved, and members away from home.	33	Once a month	3
Board of Trustees	Administer Church Property	5	Quarterly	3
Eastminster Church Foundation		8	Quarterly	3
Council Leads	Council lead ruling elders, Senior Pastor, CAFO	10	Monthly	2
Worship & Prayer	Support the Senior Pastor by facilitating corporate worship-related activities to the glory of God and by encouraging prayer in the councils and congregation.	9	Weekly and as needed	2
Administration Council	To support all aspects of conducting and funding church activities, including communications/technology, facilities, finance, governance, and personnel in an orderly and transparent fashion.	10	Monthly	3
Congregational Life Council	Church membership. Congregational care and all-church events.	7	Monthly	2
Discipleship Council	Encourage the congregation to enjoy the fullness of knowing, loving and becoming like Jesus through discipleship ministry by participating in grow groups.	10	Monthly	2

Local & US Mission Council	To nurture and grow the missional heart of our members. Come alongside mission partners in our city, state and nation through encouragement, support and prayer to see lives transformed with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We encourage and equip Eastminster members to actively engage in outreach opportunities.	6	Monthly	2
World Mission Council	To nurture and grow the missional heart of our members. Come alongside global mission partners through encouragement, support and prayer to see lives transformed with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Eastminster's vision is to facilitate disciple making movements and the planting of sustainable, Gospel-centered, reproducing churches in strategic regions. The council will pursue this vision by focusing primarily on unreached and unengaged people groups with particular attention to areas influenced by Islam. We strategically partner with EPC missionaries and indigenous leaders whenever possible.	8	Monthly	2
Wichita Christian Forum / Theology for Life	To engage our culture and community with Christian witness by public presentations. (Funded outside of Eastminster's operating and mission budgets.)	10	As needed	3

*Indicate leadership role expected by using the number below:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility.
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility.
3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***CHURCH INFORMATION FORM****Part 2: Financial/Church Campus Information**

1. Current annual budget: \$ 3,768,529 Last year's annual budget: \$ 3,600,000
(Attach a copy of current budget)
2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 105 %
3. Amount contributed for year 3,763,653 (most recent complete reporting year)
 - A. EPC Per Member Asking \$ 33,143
 - B. EPC World Outreach Global Workers \$ 71,609
 - C. EPC Special Projects \$ 78,638 (Tirana Christian School - Albania)
 - D. Presbytery Per Member Asking \$ 21,615
 - E. Other Missions/Missionaries \$ 963,256
4. Property owned by church
 - A. Describe buildings and property (other than manse).
 - 1 - Main church building
 - 2 - North building
 - 3 - 21st & Webb Residential & Commercial Lots
 - B. Are your buildings adequate for your present program? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, please explain:
 - C. Is a building program projected? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, describe what, when, and projected cost
 - D. Does the church own a manse? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Condition: ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor # of Bedrooms _____
Pastor's Office/Study: ☐ In Church ☐ In Manse ☐ Not Provided
☐ Other _____



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6. Compensation:

A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:

Position: Associate Pastor of Discipleship \$ 60,000 - 80,000

Position: _____ \$ _____

Position: _____ \$ _____

B. The average annual increase over the past three years is:

Position: Associate Pastor of Discipleship \$ _____ or 2 %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

Position: _____ \$ _____ or _____ %

C. Housing

☒ Housing Allowance

☐ Manse Only

☐ Either of the Above

D. Benefits and expenses

X _____ Pension (minimum 10% gross effective salary)

X _____ Medical insurance

X _____ Life insurance

_____ Social Security

X _____ Travel/mileage

X _____ Book allowance

X _____ Study leave allowance (minimum 2 weeks)

X _____ Annual vacation days (minimum 4 weeks)

_____ Number of worship services per year for which pastor is provided relief
(in addition to vacation and study leave)

_____ Other (Specify: _____)

**EPC**

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Our congregation...	Currently				Goal			
	Agree		Disagree		Agree		Disagree	
1. Supports the pastor.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2. Readily shares their gifts with the rest of the congregation.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
3. Places a high priority on sound biblical preaching.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
4. Gladly welcomes visitors and new members.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
5. Is involved in local evangelistic ministries.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
6. Is often found living their faith in their communities.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
7. Has a spirit of unity.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
8. Cares about each other.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
9. Looks to its Session for leadership.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
10. Ministers well to members who are hurting.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
11. Uses members' gifts in its worship.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
12. Contains people willing and able to lead the congregation.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
13. Is capable of change when and where appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
14. Is spiritually alive.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4



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15. In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

World Impact	Wichita Prayer Breakfast	Wichita Prayer Movement
HopeNet	Raise My Head	Young Life
Love in Action	Washington Elementary	Union Rescue Mission
Navigators	Youth Horizon	World Impact
TUMI	Oaks Fellowship	Embrace
Westminster Woods	Boy Scouts Troop	Hope Ranch
I.S.I.	Perspectives	Love Them Both
Kansans for Life	F.C.A.	

16. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

(see attached)

17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

(see attached)

18. List major goals that the congregation has set for itself.

(see attached)

Question 16. Describe the Strengths of your Congregation:

- We care for our pastors financially, and deep and lasting friendships often develop.
- Eastminster holds a high view of Scripture and Biblical authority.
- Traditionally, reformed theology has been held in high value and widely understood.
- The current enthusiasm for the “theology for life” program is encouraging.
- We financially support many effective evangelical ministries located here in Wichita.
- Supported ministries share the Gospel as a requirement for our financial contribution.
- Many members live out their faith with integrity vocationally and as volunteers in our communities.
- When individuals share in one-on-one conversations or in small groups, they receive compassion, prayer, understanding, and specific support.
- Those who make their needs known are met with personal presence and prayer.
- There is a solid infrastructure in place to respond rapidly with help and prayer for those in need.
- Those with musical talents are utilized in worship. Members serve as ushers and greeters and small group/class teachers.
- There is a very large pool of gifted leaders in our congregation.
- We equip our children and youth with sound Biblical teaching and programming. Eastminster’s development and nurture of a strong children’s ministry values and develops engagement between multiple generations.
- We are a very generous congregation.
- We have a strong commitment to local and global missions. We know our missionaries and they know us.
- We have an excellent worship music ministry.
- We have many long-standing, committed members.
- We are blessed with a strong staff.

Question 17. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

- We have very high expectations of our pastors and a history of struggle when a deficit becomes apparent.
- We are an EPC Session-led church, meaning Session and Pastors co-labor as a team. Staff, Session and the congregation need help understanding the outworking of these particular roles and ways to do them well.
- The congregation has room for growth in its understanding of the essentials of the Reformed faith and Presbyterian polity.

- We need a discipleship pastor who can provide leadership focused on:
 - Understanding and employing spiritual gifts
 - Intentionally developing a culture of engagement
 - Providing encouragement and training for volunteers
- We are often perceived as a formal and “settled” church that lacks diversity and warmth and is not currently growing in numbers the way we would like to be.
- We desire to develop a greater focus on evangelism.
- We do not bear the fruit of unity or oneness as described in James 3:17-18. We have three different and distinct worship services that challenge our unity.
- A lack of effective communication hinders us from caring well for one another. We care about what we know about, but it is currently difficult to know about everything.
- We need greater effectiveness engaging younger generations and an enhanced understanding of how to share the truths of the Gospel authentically with them.
- We need change in the culture of our church – more authenticity, vulnerability, humility, sense of community and sensitivity to the broken.
- We desire a greater sense of belonging and community.

Question 18. List major goals that the congregation has set for itself:

- Repentance and healing for the church leading to spiritual unity and wholeness.
- Transformation by the Holy Spirit, characterized by lives that demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit.
- Salvation decisions and believer baptisms as a result of members sharing the Gospel and their faith with friends and family.
- Call and receive a new Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor of Discipleship and support them faithfully.
- Gladly welcome visitors and intentionally seek to grow membership as we grow spiritual vitality.
- Re-create and implement a leadership/governance structure that is well understood by the church with a robust degree of member participation and lay leadership.
- Develop future generations of spiritual church leadership.
- Find new ways to engage more people within the congregation in missional lives of service.

(This list reflects our #1 prioritized goals)



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19. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

20. Has there ever been any disciplinary action against an elder or deacon of your congregation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If you answered "Yes" to either 19 or 20, please explain.

(see attached)

21. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement, and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, Date completed initial study in 2018/ revised March 2023

If yes, attach copies of each statement or strategic plan the church has completed.

Question 19. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Even though we have answered this question in the negative based upon specific Book of Order ecclesiastical judicial procedures, we feel led by the Holy Spirit to expand on some of the history of pastors at Eastminster Church. Over the past thirty years, Eastminster has had five senior pastors with multiple Interim senior pastors. During this same period, numerous Associate Pastors have served the church. Many of these fine men and one woman served Eastminster well. Some were led by God to minister in different locations, and some were asked by Session to resign their positions.

This PSC feels strongly its responsibility to discern God's will in calling the next Senior Pastor and in exercising due diligence in that endeavor. Competency, character, emotional intelligence, and spiritual vitality are values we humbly and prayerfully seek in pastoral leadership for Eastminster.

Question 20. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against an elder or deacon of your congregation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Over the same period as for the pastor discipline question above, Eastminster has had many elders and deacons faithfully serve the Lord and the congregation. We have had church officers resign from the respective boards primarily due to job relocation issues, but we have also experienced resignations due to unresolved conflict based upon spiritual and theological differences. These officers have counseled with pastors and have concluded their resignations were in the best interest of all parties.

Question 21. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?

☒ Yes (initial study in 2018/ revised March 2023) ☐ No

MISSION, VALUES, DISTINCTIVES, AND VISION

Mission Statement

To encourage people to enjoy the fullness of knowing, loving, and becoming like Jesus.

Values:

- God above All – We are determined that all we do and every decision we make bring God glory. We desire that our worship be pleasing to God and exalt Him in all ways.
- Ministry for Transformation – We preach, teach, and model the gospel of Jesus Christ for transformation of the heart and renewal of the mind. We proclaim the word of God from a reformed understanding. We emphasize discipleship through study of the Word and authentic relationship with other believers. We seek to live lives filled and in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Our teaching should provide not only head knowledge but equip us to live what we learn. We promote transformative, lifelong learning.
- High Grace – High Truth – Our interactions, conversation, and collaboration must be clothed in Grace at all times and always be based on truth and the love of Christ. We will never shy away from truth but ensure that it is always marked by compassion and love.
- Generation to Generation -- We value intergenerational relationships and an intergenerational church. We seek to equip parents to make the home the center of discipleship and our youth to participate in the full life of the church.
- Generosity and Responsibility -- God has blessed our church with significant material resources. We intend to exercise prayerful wisdom in the use of those resources and pursue abundant generosity with our time, talent, and treasures.
- We All Go -- We represent Christ wherever we go and rejoice in sending representatives of Christ to the end of the street and the ends of the earth, especially those places to which we are uniquely called.

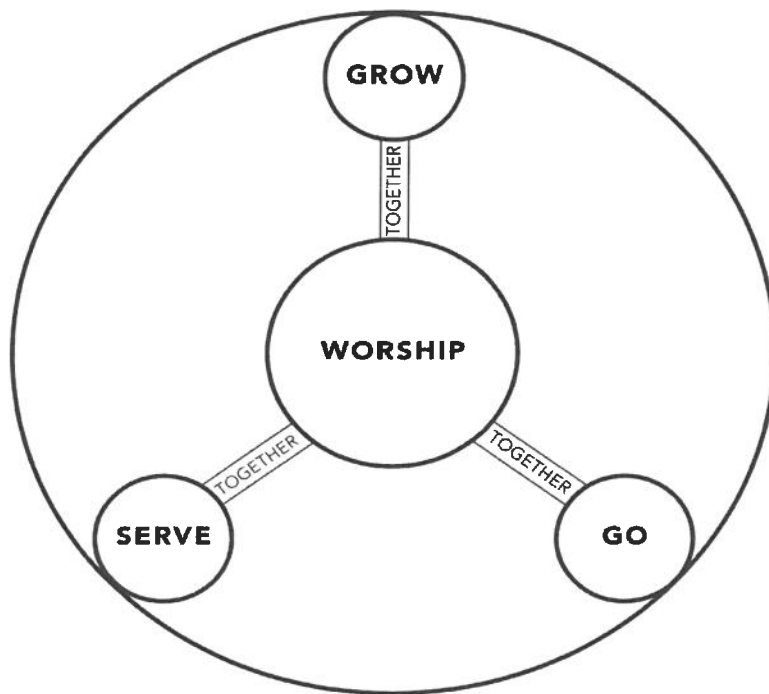
Distinctives:

- High View of Scripture -- We celebrate, protect, preach, and teach the word of God for the infallible treasure and authority that it is.
- Reformed Faith -- Eastminster has always valued and propagated a reformed understanding of the Christian faith.
- Discipleship -- Eastminster emphasizes and pursues the active discipleship of its members toward mature and transformative relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Call to Mission -- God called this church generations ago to the passionate support of world and local mission activities.
- Evangelism -- Eastminster desires to work with the Holy Spirit in the presentation of the gospel and conversion of people to faith.
- Resources -- Eastminster is mindful that God has blessed it with significant resources which it dedicates to the use of the Kingdom.

We All Go

- *We are representatives of Christ wherever we go, demonstrating his love and ready to share the message of his hope*
- As demonstrated by Giving, sending and going to take this gospel to the ends of the earth, especially in those places we are uniquely called
- Scripture: Acts 1:8, John 4:35

Strategy



Marks of Discipleship

- I Revel in the Father's Grace
- I Connect Daily With Jesus in Word and Prayer
- I Respond to the Spirit as He Leads
- I Do Life with Others who point me to Jesus
- I desire Jesus More than Sin
- I Pursue Justice, Show Mercy, Walk Humbly
- I am Investing in Someone Far From God

The Vision

Eastminster exists to glorify God as it impacts the city and the nations. Eastminster will share the Gospel and the love of God to the end of the street and the ends of the earth, among friends and family, in our neighborhoods, in service to Washington Elementary (an urban Wichita Title 1 school), working with supported local and global missionaries and agencies, and seeking to plant a church among unreached Albanian Muslims in North Macedonia.

IMMEDIATE AND MID-TERM VISION

The following reflects our church's aspirational vision to continue, expand, and invigorate our ministries which have built and sustained us since inception.

- 1. Support the leadership and ministerial structure necessary to guard the mission and vigorously implement God's purposes for Eastminster.**
 - Foster and continuously emphasize a culture of godly communication and collaboration between staff and Session characterized by personal humility, grace, confession, and repentance.
 - Provide for the personal and spiritual well-being of Eastminster staff and their families.
 - Reduce the size of Session and establish an efficient and collaborative committee structure.
- 2. Advance a culture of discipleship which develops hearts, minds, and relationships with all ministries of the church and grow groups with special attention to intergenerational ministry.**
 - Recognize that many people in our church carry a heavy burden that can only be addressed and healed through a personal or needed relationship with Jesus and deep care from the body of Christ.
 - Develop opportunities that celebrate the centrality and wonder of scripture and our heritage in the reformed faith (e.g., theologian in residence)
 - Empower staff to pursue prayerfully, creatively and collaboratively all of the above.
- 3. Honor the power and centrality of prayer as the lifeblood for our ministry.**
 - Create opportunities that explain the biblical imperative for prayer and the desire that Eastminster be known as a house of prayer.
 - Openly admit, study, discuss, and engage in the spiritual warfare that plagues our church, our community, our nation and our world.
- 4. Promote the imperative of evangelism and the need for presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ within our spheres of influence. (e.g., through preaching and teaching about relationship evangelism)**
 - Personally mentoring new converts and believers onto a path of discipleship.
- 5. Continue to leverage Eastminster's passion for and history with missions.**
 - Expand programming for our own church mission. (e.g., Family retreats, relationship building events.)
 - Continue to seek God's call for missionary efforts in the U.S. and the world.
 - Continue to pursue strategic relationships and our church's own internal programs with missionaries and missionary organizations to maximize impact for the Kingdom.
- 6. Live in Gratitude. Eastminster is a gift. It belongs to God.**



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Part 4: Leadership Expectations

1. What five key characteristics, gifts, and/or skills should a person bring to the position?

- Engaging Authentic Communicator
- Creative Strategic Thinker
- Developer and Equipper
- Teachable Teacher, a life-long learner
- Passion for the Unreached



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Part 5: Church History

1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?

- February 4, 1976 Project Light
(details on attached)
- Pastoral Changes and Congregational Response
(details on attached)
- Denominational move from PCUSA to the EPC (October 2012)
(details on attached)

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

(see attached)

Part 5

Church History:

1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?

- **February 4, 1976 – Project Light**

Eastminster has a rich history of generosity as seen in its decision in 1976 to delay its own building project to rebuild Presbyterian churches destroyed by an earthquake in Guatemala. This shows the heart of Eastminster, its generosity to those in need, and the passion of a church dedicated to missions locally and globally.

- **Pastoral Changes and Congregational Response**

A steady change in Senior Pastors, Interim Pastors and Associate Pastors in the years between Bob Henley and Stan Van Den Berg led to a lack of confidence in church leadership. This was not one single event, but a series of transitions that confused those directly involved in leadership even as it forced those serving in leadership to confidentially deal with difficult and sensitive matters. Compounding those challenges, three young staff members in key leadership roles left Eastminster to begin a new church. This was a sudden and unsettling blow to many in our congregation. A group of about 40 young families who were very involved in the life of our church left with the staff. There were hurt feelings and lots of misunderstandings as a result. There were staff members who felt blindsided by this change. There remains a significant effect from those years.

- **Denominational move from PCUSA to the EPC (October 2012)**

The change of Eastminster from the PCUSA to the EPC was important in the life of our church. The decision highlighted the church's theological unity and energized the congregation as lay leaders on Session spearheaded the transition with the assistance of EPC interim pastor Bob Hopper. The commitment of the church to Scripture and sound Biblical teaching was appreciated and celebrated as we moved into a new denomination and established a new Presbytery of the Great Plains.

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

- The initial COVID disruption precipitated additional stressors in the life of Eastminster Church. Online church presented a mixed blessing. Community life was challenged and fellowship disrupted. A painful pastoral disagreement and resulting efforts at reconciliation introduced sadness, confusion, and suspicion into the congregation. This caused church attendance to decline, including the departure of longtime, deeply involved, and dearly loved church members, which further exacerbated the situation. Staff and Session were challenged in maintaining unity as the Body of Christ in the essentials and manifesting grace in the non-essentials. Coaching of both Session and the Senior Pastor has been introduced to assist as well as a renewed commitment to prayer by the congregation and leadership alike.

