

Frequently Asked Questions

Fernwood Neighborhood Association - Sunday, August 18

1. What “problems” are we trying to address?

- a. The recent, current and projected growth of our congregation, especially young families.
- b. Growth of our children’s Sunday School and programming
- c. Space constraints of adult classrooms, hallway and gathering area.

2. What have been the trends in attendance over the last few years?

- a. The congregation of Westminster has grown at 3% annually over the last 10 years.
- b. Our attendance spiked when we joined ECO, but our historical average is around 3%.
- c. The analysis is based upon 3% growth of Sunday worship attendance.
- d. **The church’s leadership voted to maintain the Westminster Day School enrollment at its current capacity of 130 Children. Note: WDS Current enrollment has 27% member’s children and 73% Non-Member’s Children. They also have 5 need-based children on half or full scholarship.**

3. What are the recommendations for building upgrades/additions?

- a. The number one priority the Master Steering Committee identified was the Children’s Education Building, which would include renovating and reallocation the existing children’s space for additional Adult Education space.
 - i. The Design Committee gathered input from church members, staff and all committee members, and extensively analyzed of our future growth patterns.
 - ii. Additional factors included facility needs, priority of need, construction sequence, cost, and funding.
- b. The Children’s Education Building will match the appearance of the existing WPC buildings. (see attached architectural renderings.)

4. How has WPC communicated these plans with its neighbors?

- a. Our Neighborhood Relations Committee has been in regular communication with the Neighborhood Association since 2018, and we have presented plans at two neighborhood association meetings.
- b. We are committed to providing updated renderings and plans as soon as they are approved by church leadership.
- c. All shareable information is available to download at <https://wpcspartanburg.org/masterplan/>

5. What about the “change in use” from residential to church use for 112 Pineville?

- a. We plan to move the church offices to the 112 Pineville Road house and to maintain its present residential appearance to the neighborhood with added landscaping to enhance it (see LandArt’s renderings). Our master plan includes a landscaping allowance on the entire project of up \$250,000.
- b. The office move to 112 allows us to remove the present church office building making room for the relocated and expanded *playground* space on that lot.
 - i. The two large Oak trees will remain within the new playground for shade and preservation.
 - ii. Security for the children next to the street area and noise abatement are critical in our design and the architect has included all this in his conceptual design planning.
 - iii. The playground will continue to be accessible to the neighborhood after Day School hours.
- c. WPC will submit all necessary plans to the city to request the change of use on 112 Pineville Road and show how our Master Plan will fit into the neighborhood.

6. How will construction affect our continuing use of the church?

- a. Construction will be done in phases to try to minimize major disruptions to all of the church's worship education activities.
- b. Consideration will be made to minimize neighborhood disruptions and our neighborhood team will continue to communicate with neighbors and neighborhood leaders.

7. How will parking be affected during construction and after?

- a. The lower parking lot at Spartanburg High School will be utilized along with our current parking along the street. Parking will be at a premium and the lots at the high school will be used to accommodate the parking.
- b. Shuttle transportation will be provided from offsite parking lots to/from church.
- c. Permission from District 7 has been given to WPC for this offsite parking.
- d. Consideration will also be given to our church service times being adjusted to accommodate a better flow of parking.

8. What if we outgrow our existing and our new space?

- a. A **10-year planning benchmark** is being used by the Building/Design Committee, which accounts for the projected future growth of Westminster.
- b. Our leadership (the Session) will remain vigilant and maintain communication with the neighborhood.

9. Is there a timeline for the project?

- a. Regarding the use of 112 Pineville Road as our *new office*: We hope to go to the Zoning Board for a "change of use" in October 2019. At this meeting, we plan on presenting the plans attached to this PDF as well as referencing our intentions to maintain a residential exterior.
- b. Regarding the overall master plan: Fundraising for the project will commence in early 2020 and we will know more about the construction timeline once fundraising is complete. Thank you for your patience!

Thank you for being our neighbor!

Please contact any member of our Neighborhood Relations Committee for any additional questions:

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Two Views from Pineville Road Entrance



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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