



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

47 JEFFERSON SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

616-456-1456

[westminstergr.org](http://westminstergr.org)

## Who is Westminster?

As a dynamic and evolving faith community in the heart of Grand Rapids, Michigan for 160 years, we are a diverse congregation drawn from all parts of the metropolitan area. With 1,100 members, we are a community of Christians committed to worshiping God, serving Christ through mission in our local community and world, and listening for the Spirit's transforming movement in our midst.

Because God in Christ welcomes all, we strive to provide an inclusive community for people of all genders, races, sexual orientations, backgrounds, questions, and doubts. We are a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

## What is our music and worship ministry like?

We believe music is one of God's greatest gifts, and is foundational to Westminster's worship, expression of faith, and theology. Westminster services feature traditional, strongly liturgical worship with music that touches the soul, illuminates our faith in God, and unites us with God and one another. We enjoy great music by inspired composers from a wide range of musical genres.

At Westminster, we have a long tradition of extensive opportunities for those of many talents and of all ages to participate. Music opportunities include:

- **A 55-member adult Sanctuary Choir** which provides an anthem and offertory at most worship services throughout the program year
- **A graded choir program with four children's and youth choirs** for ages four through senior high school
- **The Westminster Winds** provide worship music three to four times per year
- Soloists, string ensembles, and other instrumental groups

Our weekly worship services garner strong engagement both in-person and through our live stream. Society's ever-changing context challenges us to continually discern what worship and music look like in the "church now" and the "church next."



# Westminster's Instruments

Our Sanctuary organ is an Æolian-Skinner Opus 965, built in 1937 with updates by the Lauck Organ Company and the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It features three manuals and 58 ranks.

Our other keyboards include a beautiful Flemish single harpsichord built by Ernest Miller with chinoiserie decoration, two Steinway grand pianos, one Yamaha baby grand piano, and two upright Yamaha pianos.

We also have a fine collection of wind instruments, timpani, chimes, Orff instruments, other percussion instruments, and seven octaves of Schulmerich handbells.

## How else does Westminster serve the community?

Westminster has three core missions: Westminster Child Development Center provides childcare with a sliding payment scale. Camp Henry is an all-season camp that provides life-changing experiences in a positive Christian environment. The Downtown Food Pantry provides emergency assistance to people in need. The congregation is committed to justice through our membership in Together West Michigan, the area's new broad-based organizing effort, and in partnership with other local ministries. The PCUSA Matthew 25 initiative compels us to dismantle racism, eradicate poverty, and grow congregational vitality.







## What is life in Grand Rapids like?

Grand Rapids is located between Chicago and Detroit, and the region is home to over 1.5 million people. It is one of the fastest-growing economies in the country, and young professionals are flocking to the area to take advantage of our exceptional quality of life and reasonable cost of living. The median age of greater Grand Rapids is 36.5 years. The city is home to five colleges and universities, and six other colleges and universities have campuses in our region.

Westminster is located in our thriving and growing downtown area, which is home to several other vibrant churches. The city has a strong arts culture with:

- The Grand Rapids Symphony performing at DeVos Hall
- The Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus
- Opera Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids Ballet
- St. Cecilia Music Center
- West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus
- Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys
- Music, arts, and cultural opportunities at nearby colleges
- Broadway Grand Rapids
- The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
- The Grand Rapids Art Museum
- The Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- The Grand Rapids Public Museum
- The Gerald R. Ford Museum
- Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

Notably, Grand Rapids is the nation's craft beverage capital and a top 20 U.S. Foodie city.

With six airlines and 140 daily nonstop flights, our international airport was recently voted the best small airport in the country by USA Today readers.

Grand Rapids is a 30-40 minute drive from beautiful Lake Michigan beaches, The region includes exceptional hiking and biking trails, golf courses, kayaking, and boating. In the winter, we ski, snowshoe, and enjoy WinterFest.



Photo Credit: Michael Deemer

Learn more about life in Grand Rapids: [experiencegr.com](http://experiencegr.com) [rightplace.org](http://rightplace.org) [grsymphony.org](http://grsymphony.org)