

**Warrant for an
Administrative Commission
of The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
concerning
Westminster, Syracuse
Zoom meeting
September 23rd, 2020**

The Presbytery is given authority in our polity to: "...coordinate, guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of its congregations for the most effective witness to the broader community." (G-3.0303)

The Session of Westminster, Syracuse requests that an administrative commission be impaneled to discern and act on the request of the Westminster, Syracuse congregation to be dissolved.

Background: Over the last few years, Westminster has faithfully sought how best to serve their congregation and the neighborhood. They currently provide space for two immigrant congregations, house a daycare and work with partner organizations to provide food to their neighbors in need. Despite this, their numbers have dwindled, and the care and ministry of the building and their ministry has fallen to a few.

Proposal: It is unknown if a different type of ministry (community center, immigrant center, etc.) would thrive in the current building. A community exegesis during a time of COVID-19 would lead to false data, and false conclusions. It is therefore proposed that the dissolution of the church take place in two phases:

Phase 1: Dissolution of the congregation and thanksgiving for its ministry.

During this phase, the Administrative Commission (comprised of 4 members of Presbytery and 3 members of Westminster) meet to gather records, take inventory of objects and assets, arrange for pastoral care for church members following dissolution, and maintain the financial affairs of the congregation. September 23, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Phase 2: Maintenance of the building and support of current programs.

During this phase, the Administrative Commission works to make certain bills are paid so that the current tenants can continue to occupy the building. This includes the hiring of someone to make certain the building is secure on a daily basis. A real estate assessment is obtained. During this time, a community exegesis is done to determine if the building may serve as a potential ministry site. Options are weighed and a decision is made for a vote at the May Presbytery meeting to either sell, or move forward with a new ministry venture. January 1 – June 1, 2021.

Financial implications: Westminster, Syracuse would continue to pay all essential costs to allow their current tenants to continue using the building, including the hiring of a part-time building caretaker until July 1st.

Motion: The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse form an Administrative Commission consisting of three members of Westminster, Syracuse and four members appointed by the moderator to approve the dissolution of Westminster, Syracuse effective July 1st, 2021 and directs the Administrative Commission to oversee the dissolution of the Westminster, Syracuse Church to include:

- arranging for pastoral care for church members,
- planning a celebration of the life and ministry of the congregation,
- maintaining the financial affairs of the congregation,
- establishing the condition of the building and preparing it for re-use or sale,
- determining the disposition of personal property or memorials,
- distributing liquid assets in way that addresses the needs of the neighborhood,
- dissolving the corporation, securing the session records to be transferred the Stated Clerk who will grant letters of transfer for Westminster, Syracuse members for one year after dissolution,
- working with a realtor to place the property on the market for sale should it not be identified as a future mission site,
- transferring any remaining funds to the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse,
- reporting quarterly to the Stated Clerk concerning the progress of dissolution,
- and submitting a final report to presbytery.

If requested by the Administrative Commission, The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse shall secure Counsel for their work.

Rev. Karen Chamis, Resource Presbyter
Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Stated Clerk