



WEEK 4 COVENANT PARTNER CLASS VIDEO SCRIPT

Vow #4 (Community) By God's Grace, I will share my gifts, time, and talents to serve God in partnership with this community of believers and to extend that belonging to others.

- I will partner with this family of faith to support and encourage our mutual and ongoing transformation by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4)
- I will partner with this family of faith in God's mission to redeem the world (Matthew 18:16-17, Romans 12:9-21).
- I will seek opportunities to be a wise and compassionate steward of all God has entrusted to me (time, talents finances, resources) to advance God's gospel mission in partnership with this family of faith (Romans 12:4-8).

Outline

- Who is Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Being a Covenant Partner
- My Role in this Family of Faith
- Final Steps

It is my pleasure to join you for this video, discussing vow #4, I will share my gifts, time, and talents to serve God in partnership with this community of believers and to extend that belonging to others. I am Sherry Ettlich and pleased to be back with you for the final video in our series.

As discussed in the last three videos, once we make that initial step of faith, we begin a process of continual transformation by the Holy Spirit, deepening our relationship with Jesus, solidifying our faith, expressing it in our daily lives, being God's hands and feet in this world to carry out His mission of rescuing the world and drawing people to embrace and follow Jesus.

In the second video, we focused on the importance of joining with a community of believers to truly flourish and grow as a follower of Jesus. This video will focus on one such family of faith, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and what it means to be a Covenant Partner serving God in partnership with us.

Who is Westminster Presbyterian Church

Take a moment to pause this video and think about what first comes to mind when you think about WPC. What have you come to value? Where do you still have questions?

Westminster is a Presbyterian Church, meaning we are part of a long history of reformed churches seeking to faithfully follow God's mission in the world. We are partners with ECO, the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians to bring growth and accountability to our church and strengthen our impact in the world through this partnership of like-minded churches.

Our church brings together individuals from a number of different religious backgrounds: Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Mennonite, Pentecostal, you name it! Our teaching arises from the Reformed theological perspective, based solidly on the Bible. Our pastors and officers pledge to uphold ECO's "essential tenets" that were crafted when the denomination was created in 2012.

As a Presbyterian Church we have a representative form of governance. Our congregation selects our leadership, calling Pastors and electing Elders and Deacons — individuals we believe God has called and gifted with the spiritual maturity, talents, and abilities to serve as an officer of our church and that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will prayerfully and thoughtfully lead this church in the direction we believe God is calling it to go.

The Pastors and Elders serve on the Session (Board of Elders) in a partnership as the spiritual leaders of the church that seeks to carry out God's mission for WPC. The Deacons fill a number of leadership roles serving the

needs of the congregation and beyond. Both Elders and Deacons provide leadership to various Commissions and Committees that oversee various ministries of the church, including Finance Commission, Missions Commission, Personnel Commission, Facilities Committee, Care Ministries, Community Outreach Events, Connections Ministries, Discipleship Ministries, Hospitality Ministries, Prayer Ministries, and Worship Design Team.

Westminster's website (wpcmedford.com) has a lot of information about our church and what we believe. Click on the "Who We Are" link at the top and explore the pages in the drop down on, "What We Believe," "Our Story," and "Our Leadership."

ECO also has a rich website (eco-pres.com). To get started, you may want to click on "About ECO" and explore the pages in the drop down. If you choose ECO Theology, you'll find a link to the Essential Tenets mentioned above. It will discuss the following tenets:

- I. God's Word: The Authority for Our Confession
- II. Trinity and Incarnation: The Two Central Christian Mysteries
- III. Essentials of the Reformed Tradition
 - God's grace in Christ
 - Election for salvation and service
 - Covenant life in the Church
 - Faithful stewardship of all life
 - Living in obedience to the Word of God

We won't go into these now, but you are welcome to seek out any of the Pastors or Elders with any questions you may have.

Being Covenant Partner

The term "Covenant Partner" is a newer, and kind of awkward phrase. It is our attempt, with ECO, to more clearly describe what it means to be part of a local church, which is different from membership in other organizations.

"Covenant" indicates a serious promise, a commitment. Throughout the Bible, God makes a covenant with His people. It's God who initiates. God who reaches out to us first. God who offers us salvation as a free gift – not because we did something to earn it, but wholly out of God's great and powerful love for us. We receive this free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and promise to serve God with our whole life.

"Partner" indicates we are making a serious commitment to this body of believers, called Westminster Presbyterian Church. We promise to serve God and Jesus Christ, giving our our time and resources with and through this family of faith, partnering with this group of believers to accomplish God's mission and purposes in this Valley and around the world.

As a Covenant Partner, we are saying publicly, "This is my team. This is my tribe. I belong here. I want to serve here."

We hope that Covenant Partners will commit to deepening their relationship with Jesus and furthering God's Mission through this family of faith while they live in the Rogue Valley. When the time comes to move to a different place, we pray they will find a community of believers to partner with and flourish there.

My Role in this Family of Faith

The church's role from the beginning in Acts was to be a flourishing community of believers who could partner with God fulfilling His mission to rescue the world and make followers of Jesus. That is not accomplished by a building or an organizational structure, but by the people who come together to partner in fulfilling God's mission.

Take a moment to pause this video and think about how you are currently involved at WPC. Does your involvement cross some or all of the areas discussed in the week 2 video: worship, teaching, fellowship, discipleship, and service?

We want this to be a place where you feel welcome and seen. We hope to see you in services, worshipping, being challenged to grow, and getting to know others you sit with or see before or after services.

We want this to be a place that impacts your life. We want you involved in Bible Study where you can learn more about Jesus and deepen your relationship with Him. Whether in a Bible study or other small group, we want you involved in discipleship, being discipled or discipling others, with mutual accountability, to better enable you to more faithfully follow Christ.

We want this to be a place where you feel you belong — a community, a home, a support in both good and bad times. We offer opportunities for you to fellowship with fellow believers where you can build friendships, sharing and supporting each other.

We want this to be a place that encourages your participation in God's mission in this world. We look forward to you getting involved in serving others. We believe all Christians are called to service and provide opportunities for you to serve, both within the church, in our local region, and beyond.

We want this to be a place you want to financially support. We look forward to you contributing to the work of the church through your tithes and gifts. We believe the Bible directs us to financially support God's work, primarily through the Church, but also through gifts to specific missional organizations He may lay on your heart.

Here are ways to begin looking for opportunities to start getting involved at WPC:

- WestLife often mentions one-time opportunities that would let you get to know people while serving. (Not getting the WestLife weekly emails each Thursday? Give the church office your email address by emailing office@westminsterpres.com, calling 541-773-8274, or putting the request on a connection card and dropping it in the offering bag.)
- The quarterly Pathways publication also talks about opportunities. (Not getting Pathways? Make sure the church office has your physical address by emailing office@westminsterpres.com, calling 541-773-8274, or putting the request on a connection card and dropping it in the offering bag.)
- Peruse the rack of cards in the Narthex, just outside the Gathering Space, or outside the entrance to the Worship Hall. There is a wide variety of options on the various cards.
- Peruse the monthly calendar of upcoming events on the church website by clicking on the "What's Going On" link at the top. Call the church office for more information on a particular event or to get contact information for the leader (541-773-8274).
- Also, check out displays in the Gathering Space, announcements on the screens before services, or reach out to individuals making announcements in services.

You may find just getting to know folks I meet before and after services can be effective as you learn how they are involved. This can also naturally happen when you volunteer at a one-time event and get to know your fellow volunteers as you carry out a particular task together.

Here are some things to consider as you think about ways to serve:

- Are there particular ways you have served in past churches that you'd like to do here? If so, talk to a pastor or elder to see if that is an option here and who to contact.
- Do you have particular spiritual gifts you'd like to use in serving God here? Again, you can reach out to a pastor or elder for ideas of how to use that gift here. If you want to learn more about your areas of

giftedness, google Five Fold Ministry Test (fivefoldministry.com) and click on the links to either “Take the Full Test” or “Take the Express Test”. You can take the test and get the results for FREE.

- Is there a particular local organization you are involved in or that God has laid on your heart to consider? Westminster partners with several in the community. You’ll find information about some of them on the cards in the racks just outside the Gathering Space, or outside the entrance to the Worship Hall. You could also reach out to the Mission Commission chair (the church office can get you the contact information) or speak with a pastor or elder.

Final Steps

Based on what you have learned over these four weeks, I hope you are excited about becoming a Covenant Partner! Here are the final steps:

1. Interview with an Elder

You should expect them to ask questions along the lines of:

“How has knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior made a difference in your life?”

“What is the Holy Spirit currently working with you on to transform in your life?”

“How are you seeking to partner in God’s mission to rescue the world and make followers of Jesus?”

“How are you seeking to partner with this family of faith?”

You want to prayerfully consider how you will respond. Your answer will need to be fairly short. The interview will be about 30 minutes and followed by filling out the forms listed below.

2. Sign the Covenant Partner Vows form
3. Fill out the Getting to Know You information form
4. Get your picture taken
5. Be received by the congregation

If you have any questions about these steps or want to postpone these final steps, please speak with the leaders at the Week 4 discussion or your Elder interview.

Closing

Thanks for watching this video! Your next step is to participate in the Week 4 discussion. You should get an email and/or text reminder. In preparation for that discussion, please spend some time reflecting on the six questions that came out of this video in the Week 4 Handout.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion Slide & Handout

- 1. What first came to mind at the start of the video when you thought about WPC? Was that what first drew you to consider being a covenant partner or was there something else?*
- 2. How you are currently involved at WPC? Which areas discussed in the week 2 video (worship, teaching, fellowship, discipleship, and service) does that involvement fit within?*
- 3. How has God gifted you? Are you using your gifts now as part of this family of faith? If not, how can we help you use those gifts here?*
- 4. Are there areas where you need help from others in this family of faith? If so, how can we help?*
- 5. How would you like to get further involved at WPC? What do you need to help make that happen?*
- 6. After exploring the WPC and ECO websites do you have any remaining questions about becoming a Covenant Partner or about WPC? If so, please ask in our Week 4 discussion or at your Elder interview.*