

July 2, 2025

Dear Westminster Friends:

It is difficult to say goodbye to a church building to which we have grown so attached. For many of us, while we know the church is more than a building, it is nonetheless a special place; one that holds meaningful memories; a spiritual home where we gathered to worship each week.

The church building is that unique and sacred space where we joyfully celebrated Christmas, Easter, weddings and baptisms; the holy ground upon which we stood when we laid to rest loved ones committing them to the eternal care of God.

So, yes, we know it is just a building but at the same time we know it is so much more. Nevertheless, we made the decision, a difficult decision, but the right decision, to move forward as a community of faith.

As announced by Westminster's Trustees during worship last Sunday, our building has been sold and the closing date of the sale is July 29, 2025. The final service of worship in Westminster's sanctuary will take place on Sunday, August 3, 2025. Note: this is after the closing date. We are grateful to the new owners of 1680 Dougall for this additional Sunday to accommodate baptism and confirmation services.

Today, I invite you to mourn this loss but also to know that the process of disbanding the congregation takes considerable time, so starting on Sunday August 10, the Westminster faith-community will continue to gather over the next few months at another location for Sunday morning worship. Please stay tuned for further details about these new arrangements.

I close this letter with gratitude for your faith, generosity and loving contributions to Westminster's mission and ministry, and the positive impact our congregation has had on countless lives, and the wider community.

Blessings,

Rev. Del Stewart, Minister