



January 18, 2026

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church Family,

For more than half a century, Westminster Presbyterian Church has been a place where faith has taken root, where generations have been discipled, and where God has used ordinary people to do extraordinary things. In this season of growth, both in Rock Hill and in the life of our church, I want to speak with you plainly and with deep gratitude about the road ahead.

Serving as your senior pastor for the past twelve years has been one of the great joys of my life. Together, we have watched God develop Westminster's ministry and mission in ways that continue to remind me how gracious God is to our congregation. From worship and discipleship, to care ministries, education, athletics, retirement living, local mercy ministry, global missions, and campus ministry at Winthrop University, God has entrusted us with a wide and faithful witness. Our campus, park, and outdoor chapel stand as daily reminders that Westminster exists not just for itself, but for the flourishing of our neighbors and the formation of the next generation.

It is precisely because this church is healthy, faithful, and strong that I want to share this with you now. After extended prayer, discernment, and conversation with the Session, I have decided to begin a transition from my role as Senior Pastor, with the intention of retiring in the summer of 2026. Over the next six months, I will continue to serve fully, while also helping prepare the way for a smooth, Spirit-led transition. This timing is intentional, not reactive, and reflects a shared commitment to steward this moment wisely and faithfully.

Seasons of transition in the church are sacred. This is not a season of crisis, but a season of preparation, one in which we honor what God has done, while prayerfully preparing for what God will do next.

At the same time, our leadership has been discerning another important step for Westminster's future. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about plans to invest in updates for our campus. These capital improvements are not about change for its own sake but about preparing our facilities to carry out the vision God has entrusted us with. Building on the past, but looking to the future, we want to ensure that our physical spaces reflect the vitality, invitation, and hope of the gospel we proclaim.

It is important for you to hear this plainly: the pastoral transition and the capital campaign belong to the same story.

Both are acts of faithful stewardship. Both are about preparing us for the next season of ministry God is writing at Westminster. Vision always involves optimism and hope, and I am deeply hopeful about what lies ahead. The Session has already begun careful planning for a national pastoral search, and McGowan Global Institute (MGI) will partner with Westminster to guide that process with wisdom, integrity, and transparency. You will have regular opportunities to learn, ask questions, and participate as these plans unfold. On our website, you will find a video message from elder Jim Petty which provides an overview of the transition and how our congregation will be involved in the process.

Throughout all of this, it is essential to remember who truly leads Westminster Presbyterian Church. The head of the church is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I, along with past and future pastors, am simply God's servant, called and led by the Spirit to shepherd His flock for a season. That calling is a sacred privilege, never to be taken lightly, always to be revered.

I also want to speak personally for a moment. Judy and I are profoundly grateful for the way you have embraced us and loved us during our time at Westminster. When we came to Westminster, we sensed a clear call from the Lord. Your care for us, your friendship, encouragement, and trust provided a powerful outward confirmation of that inward call. We could not be more blessed than to have completed this chapter of our ministry here, among you. For this, we will always be grateful and deeply indebted to you, our church family.

In the months ahead, I ask you to pray for our church, our leaders, and the pastor God is already preparing to serve this congregation in the future. Pray as well for unity, clarity, and generosity as we strengthen our mission, our facilities, and our future leadership through faithful discernment and stewardship.

God has been faithful to Westminster before. God is faithful now. And I am confident God will continue to be faithful in the days ahead.

With gratitude, hope, and trust in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Honeycutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "H".

Mike Honeycutt
Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church