

Westmoreland, What Are Your Hopes?

At the November 2010 Congregational Conversation on Interim Ministry, participants were asked about "What are your hopes?" for Westmoreland and this interim time. This session was just the beginning of the listening that is so critical in this interim time. Below are listed the responses organized around themes that seemed to emerge.

Reach out to help each other, work together, and unite behind a mission

- Quit looking at small things (process)
- Not so much a pay for service - rather let's do service work together
- Activities that engage and go beyond Sunday service
- Return of old friends
- Identify the great possibilities we have
- Be open to transformation
- Type A - - - consensus
- Church where emotions are reconciled
- Recognize the journey is the destination
- Reach out to current members
- Resilient during disagreements
- Loving community
- Finds a process to allow us to heal and reconcile
- Church that is open, transparent, and sharing one's own viewpoint honestly and openly civilly
- Make it easy to help each other volunteer
- Church where we can unite behind a mission
- Work together without division and with unity
- Church is a place where we can help each other and look outward
- Non-mean spirited

Grow and be vital with strong participation in major church activities

- Connect to visitors
- Expanding membership
- Better attendance and growth - including Sunday School
- Identify the great possibilities we have
- Grow and be vital so we can live and spread God's message among ourselves and to others.
- Source of energy for work of gospel
- Church is a place where we can help each other and look outward
- Full participation
- Be the church
- Survival of the church
- Attract new people
- Welcoming ministerial spouse to take part in the activities of the church.
- Recognize the journey is the destination
- More people
- Grow in number

Strong worship experience, good attendance, good sermons, inspiration, spiritual growth

Listen to God
Inspiration on Sunday
Better attendance on Sunday
Let's hear lay people's take on the scripture readings and sermons
Full worship focus
Get somebody good!!
Social issues - leadership from the pulpit
A church that is known for social action and spiritual growth
Full participation
Inspiring place
Source of energy for work of gospel
Continue journey toward a spiritual/prayerful place
Reach out to "unchurched"
Good sermons - "food for the soul"
Place to experience God

Joyful, positive, hopeful outlook with comfort and safety

A minister who is always there when something happens and keeps in touch with the congregation
Focus on future
Comfort and safety
Finds a process to allow us to heal and reconcile
Be the church
Process more spirit filled (work thru past)
Positive hopefulness
Joyful spirituality
Laugh more
Recognize the journey is the destination

Strong service and outreach, look outward, reach out to community

Draw more from community around us
Source of energy for work of gospel
Food
Identify the great possibilities we have
Social issues - leadership from the pulpit
Build on social action
Activities that engage and go beyond Sunday service
A church that is known for social action and spiritual growth
Reach out to "unchurched"

Transparency and clear communication in all our dealings

Type A - - - consensus
Church that is open, transparent, and sharing one's own viewpoint honestly and openly civilly
Better communication
Transparency and inclusion (including search process)

Intergenerational, place for children and youth in worship, emphasis on children and

Place for children and youth in worship
Better attendance and growth - including Sunday School
Intergenerational

Welcoming and inclusive

Welcoming and inclusive
Reach out to “unchurched”
Welcome

Strong functional staff

A minister who is able to gather a staff that works well together.
Get somebody good!!

Strong music and arts

Strong music program (maintain & grow)
Music becomes pivotal

Strong pastoral care

Great enthusiasm for the recent pastoral visits, for lunch I believe, to Maplewood and Asbury --
and a hope that this would continue with a new minister.
Get somebody good!!

Fix the building

Fix building