

Westmoreland, Who Must We Listen To?

At the November 2010 Congregational Conversation on Interim Ministry, participants were asked “Who are important to listen to during this interim time?” This session was only the beginning of our listening to the friends and members of Westmoreland. Below are listed the responses organized around themes that seemed to emerge.

How to listen -- with respect and transparency to members

- How do we really listen?
- Concurrency vs sequential process
- Focus too much on process
- Listen with respect
- How should we do it?
- Transparency to church members

Families, especially those with children

- Families with children
- Families with younger children - different settings.
- Families with young children
- Let's hear from young families, single people, children, and youth.
- All families

Those who have left Westmoreland

- The fallen away
- Those who have left the church, completely, or partially.
- Those who have left Westmoreland
- Folks who have left the church
- Talk to those who left. Find out why, what disappointed.

Members who are not coming

- Those not in church regularly
- Listen to people who are not here today
- “Old” members who aren't coming
- The fallen away

Children and Youth

- Let's hear from young families, single people, children, and youth.
- Teach our children well

Children and youth

Inner voices, "still small voice"

Our own spirit
Our inner voices
The still small voice

Those with strong feelings about end of the former Senior Minister's ministry

People in the church with strong feelings about the end of the ministry.
Hear what we each thought happened last time & what we may do better.
Those disenfranchised by the departure

Everyone, including those who are reluctant to speak up.

Everyone
Hear what we each thought happened last time & what we may do better.

God

God
God

Older members, especially those in retirement homes

Our members in retirement homes
Older members

Past leadership

Those in leadership over past 3 years.
Past leaders

Youth

Children and youth
Let's hear from young families, single people, children, and youth.

Current leadership

Those in leadership over past 3 years.

Neighbors

Neighbors

People who don't go to church anywhere

People who don't go to church anywhere

Singles

Let's hear from young families, single people, children, and youth.

The hurting

To those who are hurting and need to be healed.

Those who can build consensus

To those who can build consensus to take us forward.

Those who have returned to Westmoreland

Talk to those who came back - What made a difference.