

From Jacob

Since the earliest conversations with the APNC, there seemed to be a special energy that was shared among the people who call Westminster home. After meeting the Committee face to face, and worshiping with you “incognito” on a Sunday morning, it became clear that this special energy was indeed manifest and abundant. My excitement is that through discernment, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the sacred opportunity to guide that energy together toward new ministry opportunities.

Called to be the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, this position is right in my wheelhouse. My children fit right into the “Fifth Grade and Under” label, a vital demographic for the church everywhere. Personally, I am halfway through a doctorate, living out my own faith formation journey, fully aware it is a lifelong undertaking. Having served in large urban and suburban church settings, the renowned Westminster staff team is a group of saints I look forward to serving alongside. And if the entire congregation is half as open, generous, and full of joy as the APNC . . . then I am in for a treat!

In the words of the Apostle Paul, “Grace and Peace” to you Westminster! Here is to our time together!

From the APNC

Since April 2018, the APNC has met faithfully to seek a new associate pastor for our church. We soon realized that the candidate would need to be experienced and possess a unique skill set to help WPC create and execute its vision of Christian Formation. Equally important, the candidate would need a passion for children and families as well as the skills to build and support that ministry. To fulfill both of these important roles, the candidate would need to be a teacher, a strong collaborator, a good communicator, and a complement to our existing staff. Further, the candidate would need to be creative, visionary, engaging, motivating, and flexible.

Jacob has all of these skills plus significant experience in Christian Formation and in ministry to children and families. As you get to know Jacob, you’ll find he has a deep faith, a passion for learning and teaching, a strong connection with people of all ages, a special gift for providing pastoral care to children and parents, and a clear commitment to the care and nurture of God’s people. His unique gifts and leadership style will lead us in our desire for a cohesive approach to Christian Formation, foster community and continuity across all areas of our church community, and lead children and their families in building and deepening relationships with one another and our church. The APNC believes God has called Jacob to our Westminster community and we look forward to welcoming Jacob and his family in the coming months.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to present:

Jacob Bolton

Candidate for Associate Pastor for Christian Formation



Saturday, August 17

Meet Jacob! Two drop-in sessions:
9-11 AM (Preschool Playground)
4-6 PM (Johnson Parlor)

Sunday, August 18

Jacob will preach at the 10 AM service. Following the service, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on the candidate.

About Jacob

The Reverend Jacob Bolton grew up in Michigan and is a lifelong Presbyterian, spending much of his formative years in the church. Committed to family, Jacob is married to Susan (Sue) – they met in high school – and the proud father to Joseph (7) and Mary (3).

Jacob is a graduate of Kalamazoo College. He earned a degree in English and Creative Writing and played intercollegiate baseball. Jacob attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City and has been serving the church ever since.



Jacob is a Certified Christian Educator and a GreenFaith Senior Fellow. As a lifelong learner, Jacob is currently working towards his Leadership and Global Perspectives Doctor of Ministry degree and slated to be finished in the next year and a half.

Jacob served the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City for 4 years as their Director of Family Ministries.

Since 2010, Jacob has been the Associate Pastor of Huguenot Memorial Church in Pelham, New York where he has been known for his inclusive pastoral style that includes relationship building and intergenerational formation. He describes himself as an “includer” with a passion for bringing people together.

In addition, Jacob has written for many church and nonsectarian publications and been involved in the greater church on many levels. Some of the highlights include serving on the 218th General Assembly Task Force for Youth Ministry and co-authoring the final report. He is also the founder of the My Faith/Your Faith Interfaith Youth Program in New York City. Jacob has been a member of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, the Presbyterian Writers Guild, and the Pelham Interfaith Council, on which he served as President.



Fun Facts

Favorite Movies: Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Jesus of Montreal, Dances with Wolves, Newsies

Favorite TV shows: Outlander, Grantchester, Top Chef

Favorite books: Harry Potter, Sherlock Holmes, A Song of Ice and Fire

Favorite Sports Teams: Yankees, Michigan State Spartans

Favorite Music: Celtic Folk, Ska, Reggae, anything with trumpets

Favorite Church Memory: Worship at the Vatican, Worship at Iona Abbey

Your Perfect Saturday: Hiking with my family

Pets: Two dogs who are rescues

Worth Knowing: He is an Eagle Scout