

Westover Baptist Church

2330 62nd Street

Des Moines, IA 50322

(515)279-1751

www.westoverdsm.com

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A Brief History

Westover Baptist Church was established in 1955 by a group of people from Calvary Baptist Church, First Baptist Church and Forest Avenue Baptist Church. They desired to form a new American Baptist Church on the west side of Des Moines.

This group of people signed a charter in a cornfield at the corner of 62nd and Hickman Road and dedicated that ground on May 1, 1955. The new church building was then dedicated on October 8th of that same year.

In 1965, a Christian Education wing was added. This seemed not only logical but also somewhat necessary, seeing how in a twelve month period during 1962 and 1963, twelve babies were born into the Westover Family. In 1981, all twelve of those little babies graduated from various local high schools, and all were still members. Even today, one of them is still a very active member.

In 1988, Westover Baptist Church was blessed to be able to build a beautiful new sanctuary, narthex, parlor area and additional office space. In 2010, at Westover's annual All Church and Neighborhood Picnic, the church was able to hold a symbolic burning of the mortgage. In 2020, Westover embarked on a major renovation of much of the church building, including the kitchen, fellowship hall, classrooms, offices and youth room.

Throughout the church's history, Westover has put a high value on missions.

This includes international, national, and local missions. Some of that has included supporting missionaries around the globe, America For Christ, One Great Hour Of Sharing, camp scholarships for children and youth, Community Fellowship Offering, local food pantries, and many more. This commitment to missions continues to this day.

About our City & Neighborhood...

Des Moines is the capital and the most populous city in the state of Iowa. It is also the county seat of Polk County. It was incorporated on September 22, 1851, as **Fort Des Moines**, which was shortened to "Des Moines" in 1857. It is located on, and named after, the Des Moines River, which likely was adapted from the early French name, *Rivière des Moines*, meaning "River of the Monks". The city's population was 214,237 as of the 2019 population estimate. The six-county (Polk, Dallas, Warren, Madison, Guthrie & Jasper) metropolitan area is ranked 83rd in terms of population in the United States with 699,292 residents according to the 2019 estimate by the United States Census Bureau, and is the largest metropolitan area fully located within the state.

Des Moines is a major center of the US insurance industry and has a sizable financial services and publishing business base. The city was credited as the "number one spot for U.S. insurance companies" in a Business Wire article and named the third-largest "insurance capital" of the world. The city is the headquarters for the Principal Financial Group, the Meredith Corporation, Ruan Transportation, TMC Transportation, EMC Insurance Companies, and Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Other major corporations such as Wells Fargo, Voya Financial, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, ACE Limited, Marsh, Monsanto, and Corteva have large operations in or near the metropolitan area. In recent years, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, and Facebook have built data-processing and logistical facilities in the Des Moines area.

Des Moines is an important city in U.S. presidential politics; as the state's capital, it is the site of the first caucuses of the presidential primary cycle. Many presidential candidates set up campaign headquarters in Des Moines. A 2007 article in *The New York Times* said, "If you have any desire to witness presidential candidates in the most close-up and intimate of settings, there is arguably no better place to go than Des Moines."

**Information pulled from Wikipedia*

Westover Baptist Church is located in the northwestern Merle Hay neighborhood. The Merle Hay neighborhood has a population of 15,658, and is a dense suburban neighborhood with most residents owning their own homes and lots of restaurants, coffee shops, and parks. Many families and young professionals live in the Merle Hay neighborhood, and residents tend to lean conservative.

**Information pulled from Merle Hay Neighborhood Association*



**Picture courtesy of Douglas E Lambert*

Our Beliefs

- We believe that God is a triune being – three in one: God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We believe that He is eternal, omniscient and omnipotent. We believe that Jesus was sent to earth, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to pay the penalty for each person's sin, and rose again on the third day, conquering sin and death for all who believe in Him and accept His free gift of salvation. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers, communicating God's will, revealing scriptures and spiritual truths, and bringing about the work of sanctification within us.
- We believe that the Bible is inspired, holy and inerrant Word of God to us as believers, revealing God's character and will to us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- We believe that Baptism is a public profession of personal faith in Christ and His salvation. The symbolism of being immersed and brought back up represents the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. While immersion baptism is a requirement of membership per Westover Baptist Church's by-laws, we do offer associate membership to congregants who choose not to take this step.
- We believe that Communion or the Lord's Supper is a time of solemn remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. It is a time to examine our own heart, confess any unconfessed sins to the Lord, and celebrate the unification we now enjoy with God through the blood of Christ. We have an open table at Westover, all believers are welcome to partake, whether member, regular attender or guest.
- We believe that it is our mission to present the gospel to all people, discipling them as followers of Jesus Christ and helping them develop to Christ-like maturity. We are called to be salt and light to our neighbors and community.

Our Church Covenant

As followers of Jesus Christ, living a life of grace, we at Westover Baptist Church covenant before God and each other:

1. We will seek to exalt Jesus Christ as our Savior, Lord, and example, as we live in the light of His grace & mercy.
2. We will study, preach, teach, and live by the truths revealed in the Bible as our final authority for faith and practice.
3. We will seek the will of God as the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and helps us demonstrate the "Fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
4. We will seek to demonstrate the caring love and grace of Christ.
5. We promise to pray for each other and to encourage each other in the faith, in the use of our spiritual gifts, and in Christian growth.
6. We will share the Good News of Jesus Christ: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day.
7. We will be good stewards by cheerfully giving of our time, talents, and money as God leads and provides.

Our Vision for Westover Baptist Church

Strengths & What we do Well:

Our People/Members

Very Friendly Congregation
Generous Givers – Financially Sound
People of Prayer
Able & Willing Workers/Volunteers
Dedicated Leaders
Delicious Potlucks
Greeters

Bible Based

ABC-USA Affiliation

Missions Centered

Music Choir

Praise Team
Men's Quartet (The Proclaimers)
Women's Ensemble (Grace Notes)
Great Musicians and Singers

Dedicated to Children & Youth

Lots of great tools & training materials
for all ages

Facilities

Plenty of Parking
Accessibility (no stairs for Adult Classes)
Large Building / lots of room
Plenty of Land
Nice Landscape / Dedicated Mowing Team
Wifi/Internet Access & Web-site
Audio/Visual System
Attractive Décor – Updated monthly
Building/Grounds Maintenance Prioritized

Weekly Bulletin & Monthly Newsletter

Lots of Activities & Opportunities for Involvement

American Baptist Women, Legacy Builders,
Women's Bible Study, Friendship Chain,
Wednesday Night Meal, Work Days,
5th Sunday Breakfast, Choir, etc...

Our Needs:

A Full-Time Pastor

Growth – More People, Young Families & Youth
Evangelism/Neighborhood Outreach

**Especially to Youth in the area -*

Make them Welcome on our campus

Add Part-Time Youth Minister for Summer Program

*Bring in more youth & activities to keep
them involved and engaged*

Church Van(s) – Possibly Rent w/magnetic Signage

Improve Gym – for better indoor play for Youth

Better Recognition within our Community – P.R.

Better/more Visible Visitor Parking

**More Prominent & Welcoming*

List Service & Sunday School Times on Church Signs

Membership Class

Welcome Packet for Guests

& Follow-up after Visit

Discipleship/ABC Theology Class for Youth

Add AWANA Program on Wednesday nights

Invitation at the End of Service – to:

*Accept Christ, Rededication, Prayer or
to Join the Church*

More Corporate Prayer Opportunities

Up to Date Photo Directory

What Our Neighbors Need from Us:

To know who we are & what we are about

Prayer

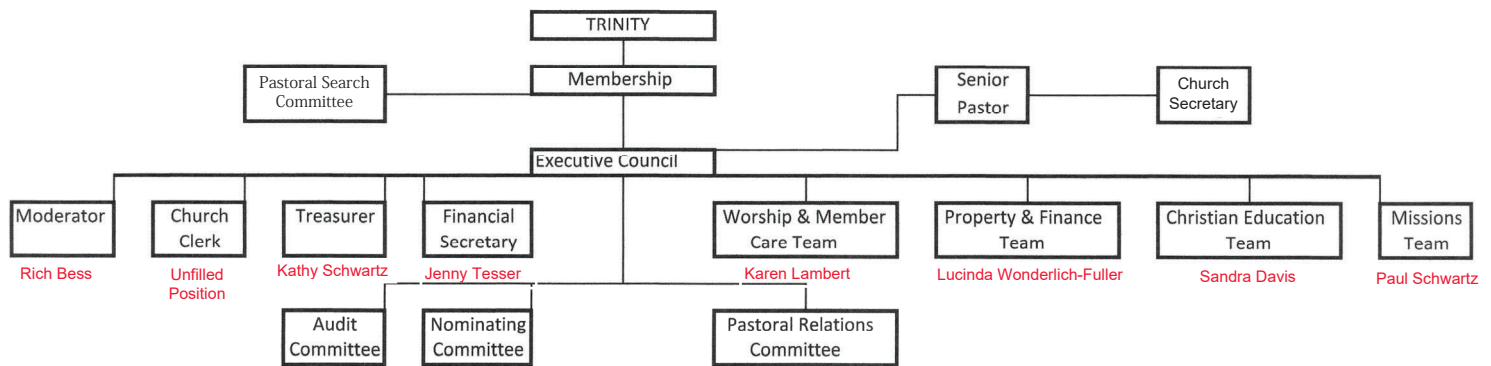
Physical Needs – Our CFO Funds help to provide

*Groceries, Utilities, Gas, Money, Rides
(We have even provided a job once)*

Listen to them / be their friend

****Ultimately, we have decided that we don't know
enough about the specific needs of our specific
neighbors, and we would like to work a little
harder to get to know them and what needs
actually exist right here around us/our church.***

Westover Baptist Church Organizational Chart



Note: Pastoral Search Committee assumes the role of Pastoral Relations Committee for the first six months after the Pastor is called.
Officers of the church are: Senior Pastor, Moderator, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

Church Staff - **Pastor** - Currently open position & **Church Secretary** - Kathy Graves

By-Laws effective January 1, 2020

Westover Baptist Church

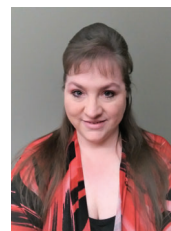
2021 Budget

**Interested Pastoral Candidates can Contact Church Office for Financial/Budget Details*

Westover Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA

Pastoral Search Committee

Chairperson: Karen Lambert
Worship & Member Care - Executive Council



Committee Members: Rich Bess
Moderator - Executive Council



Paul Borchardt



Tod Davis
Youth Leader Team Member



Jeff Fuller
Chairman - Legacy Builders



Harold Reed
Praise Team / Worship Leader



Officials: Kathy Graves
Church Secretary
Office Ph:(515)279-1751
Email: WESTOVER2@msn.com



Executive Minister: Rev. Jacqueline Saxon, Mid-American Baptist Churches
2400 86th Street, Suite 15, Urbandale, IA 50322
Office: (515)278-1411 / Email: exec@mid-abc.org

Expectations of our next Pastor...

We are looking for a full-time pastor to lead our congregation both in weekly Sunday sermons and also Bible Study on Wednesday night and various other personal involvement opportunities, such as calling on the sick and shut-ins, as well as small group(s) participation. It is the number one priority to our congregation that our pastor be grounded in scripture and able to clearly communicate Biblical truth without watering it down in an attempt to please people rather than God. As a small congregation, we need a pastor who wants to be involved and lead in many different areas of the church, from youth outings, to Legacy Builders men's group, to Friendship Chain. We need a servant leader who can embrace the existing traditions of the congregation while still bringing in fresh ideas and a focus on reaching out to our neighbors, and still also focusing on the needs of those within our existing congregation; being able to be a counselor, confidant and peace-maker, helping to resolve any conflicts that may arise with God's wisdom and grace.

- **Interpreting the Faith:** Communicating a comprehensive understanding of the Bible and Christian theology in terms that people understand and feel are relevant to their lives.
- **Preaching:** Preparing and delivering sermons so that the Word of God is proclaimed with clarity and conviction, bringing its power to bear on the needs of individuals, the congregation and the world.
- **Church Growth:** Developing programs and activities which result in growing the membership and/or vision and ministry of Westover.
- **Pastoral Care:** Showing by word and actions an empathetic understanding and concern for persons in everyday life as well as during times of crisis and transition, giving assistance where appropriate and feasible.
- **Nurturing Fellowship:** Creating an atmosphere in which individuals feel accepted, included and valued, and in which they are able to use their individual talents for the benefit of the whole.

****Will sign and abide by the ABC-USA Ministers Council Covenant & Code of Ethics**

Compensation Package:

**Interested Pastoral Candidates can Contact Church Office for
Compensation & Relocation Expense Details*

How to Apply:

If you are an American Baptist Clergy: Please apply using the Ministrelife platform:

<https://ministrelife.org/>

If you are not an American Baptist Clergy: Please do the following:

Send your Resume, including references to:

Rev. Jacqueline L. Saxon – Executive Minister

Mid-American Baptist Churches of Iowa and Minnesota

2400 86th Street, Suite 15

Urbandale, Iowa 50322

exec@mid-abc.org

*Please include links to sermons online, if available.