



**westwood  
community  
church**

# Church & Senior Pastor Profile

We are asking God for a visionary, Christ-centered leader to embody and advance Westwood's Way: to be and love like Jesus. Building on a thirty-year legacy of generosity and impact, we are looking for a biblically-grounded Senior Pastor to humbly inspire and guide our church family to our next chapter.

[WESTWOODCC.ORG/PASTORSEARCH](https://westwoodcc.org/pastorsearch)





## About Westwood Community Church

We are BLESSED to be a BLESSING. The result is a rhythm of life that pulsates through our manner of incarnational ministry—it begins with God. God gives, we receive. From the abundance of His blessings, we give. God is glorified—and the rhythm continues.

Senior Pastor Joel K. Johnson founded Westwood in 1995 as part of a church planting strategy of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Westwood grew rapidly, from a church with a novel beginning in a dinner theater to one today with community expressions that vary from weekend gatherings on three campuses and online, to micro-sites in prisons and a growing network of micro-churches.

Westwood established the Open Hands Foundation (OHF) to create and support solutions to meet critical needs of vulnerable people, provide hope to our neighbors, and make a lasting difference in our community. OHF and Westwood support Hope House, a shelter for youth in crisis located on our Chanhassen campus.

For a celebratory overview of Westwood's exciting 30-year journey, [view this video](#).

In 2018, a ten-year Here, Near, and Far vision for making disciples and multiplying church environments was cast, along with a "10-10-10" strategy of planting churches, sharing the Gospel, and meeting felt needs, inspired by Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8. [View progress](#) made toward our 2028 goals.

Westwood is part of a network of churches called Converge Worldwide. Converge has more than 1,300 churches in the United States, but works internationally; helping people meet, know, and follow Jesus.

3,200

Weekend Attendance  
(in-person and online)

1,583

Members

110

Staff  
(full & part-time)

## Our Theology

Our statement of beliefs is [\*available here\*](#). We promote the Christian virtue of love: in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.

Westwood believes the approach needed to best move forward in the world today is “beautiful orthodoxy.” Anchored firmly in the power of the resurrection and the gospel, our orthodoxy is expressed in a language, and with lives, that model the unconditional love and bloodstained beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ. We seek to infuse culture with the mercy of God and the values of the Kingdom. It involves Christ-followers living out their faith, actively seeking to bring the “shalom” of God into their circumstances, and, through redemptive relationships, influencing and transforming their workplaces, families, and communities.



## Core Values

*Jesus*

We share, speak, and teach about Jesus so that all may know Him.

*people*

We choose to love people wherever they are at in their journey.

*rhythm*

We live with open hands, gratefully receiving from God, and joyfully giving it away.





## Way of Life

*Be and love like Jesus*

## Our Heartbeat

*purpose*

*mission*

To know God and share Jesus — through loving others here, near, and far



## Where We Are Going

- **WITH JESUS** | Westwood will remain steadfast in its Way of Life: be and love like Jesus.
- **WITH A FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP** | Westwood will provide support and practical resources to inspire, equip, and release the body to utilize their gifts, to live out their calling with clarity, collaboration, and purpose through a Christ-centered, lay-led, and staff-resourced model of ministry.
- **THRIVING UNDER GOD'S MERCY** | Westwood will continue to meet people where they are, knowing that everybody is welcome, nobody is perfect, and anything is possible under God's mercy.

## Westwood's Next Leader Will Be a...

- **LEAD TEACHING PASTOR** | Serving as the congregation's principal communicator of God's Word, the Senior Pastor will thoughtfully design and deliver sermons that integrate theological depth with practical application. Committed to biblical fidelity, the Pastor will collaborate with Westwood's teaching team to address complex topics with Christ-centered conviction, grace, and compassion. The Pastor's teaching will instill Christ's love while it elevates the proclamation of the gospel.
- **VISIONARY** | The Senior Pastor will catalyze innovation and strategic growth, imagining ministry and discipleship methods for current and future generations. With prophetic imagination and holy curiosity, the Pastor will seek fresh expressions of Westwood's heritage and mission, inspiring the congregation to embrace new possibilities while staying grounded in faith.
- **LEADER AMONG LEADERS** | As the primary steward of Westwood's mission, the Senior Pastor offers visionary leadership and clear direction for the church body. The Pastor will humbly partner with the church staff and Leadership Board to instill trust and collaboration, sharing significant decisions. As the "first among equals," the Pastor will prayerfully make the hard calls where needed. By cultivating a flourishing servant leadership ecosystem, the Pastor will enable staff and volunteers to develop their own gifts and grow in ministry effectiveness.
- **CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SHEPHERD** | Committed to holistic care and spiritual formation, the Senior Pastor has a heart to nurture, guide, protect, and come alongside the congregation and faith community here, near, and far. As an approachable leader, the Pastor will create a culture where people feel seen and known, safe in navigating the trials and triumphs of life. The Pastor will advocate for sustainable and compassionate pastoral care systems for the Westwood congregation and ministry beyond Westwood's walls. The Pastor will value and continue our commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships with churches representing various cultural backgrounds, including those serving immigrant and refugee communities.

## Key Senior Pastor Requirements

- A clear call from God to the ministry
- Seminary degree required; Ph.D. or Doctor of Ministry preferred
- Direct ministry leadership experience (5 years preferred) in a large or multi-church environment
- Ordination in an evangelical denomination
- A character that reflects the leadership qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7





BAPTISM 2024



## Our State and Area

Minnesota is consistently ranked as one of the happiest, healthiest, and most prosperous states. It is a place where you can go from “big cities to big nature” in less than half an hour. Considered one of the best places to raise a family, Minnesota has world class health care, seven major sports leagues, a nationally-ranked park system, and a vibrant arts scene. The Twin Cities metropolitan area is the most ethnically diverse region in the state, with a growing population that includes significant Black, Asian, Hispanic, and Indigenous communities, alongside a rich tapestry of cultural identities.

Our sending campus is located on 55 acres of land in Chanhassen, a third-tier suburb on the southwest side of Minneapolis. It is an area with easy access to lakes and recreation. Home to both the Chanhassen Dinner Theater and Paisley Park, Chanhassen and the surrounding communities are known for rolling hills and lakes, strong schools, and beautiful, safe, family-focused neighborhoods. Both Chanhassen and neighboring Eden Prairie have been selected as “#1 Places to Live” in the country by Money magazine.



## Future Plans for Our Outgoing Leader

Pastor Joel Johnson will be transitioning from his position as Senior Pastor and assuming a new role as Founding Pastor. While he will no longer be on the Leadership Board, have any day-to-day operational leadership, or have staff responsibilities, he will be available to provide insight, support, and make introductions to the extended Westwood family to the new Senior Pastor.



## The Next Step

To be considered by our Senior Pastor Search Committee, send a resumé and a letter of no more than three pages describing how you fit our profile to [seniorpastorsearch@westwoodcc.org](mailto:seniorpastorsearch@westwoodcc.org) by our priority deadline of **August 15, 2025**.

2024  
RECAP



30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
MAGAZINE



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