



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 14, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Late Monday afternoon, the Grand Rapids Police Department informed Westminster Presbyterian Church that it was listed as a “target” alongside other faith communities within a suspicious package discovered in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

Westminster is working closely with local and federal authorities regarding this open investigation. To err on the side of caution until more was learned about the nature and severity of the threat, the onsite Downtown Food Pantry, church offices, and the Westminster Child Development Center were closed today.

At this time, the Grand Rapids Police Department has not indicated that Westminster is in immediate danger. In close collaboration with law enforcement, Westminster’s offices and programs, including the child development center, will be open as usual tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15.

“We are proud to be a congregation in the heart of Grand Rapids that keeps our doors open to the community during the week,” says Rev. Chandler Stokes, lead pastor and head of staff since 2008. “We are always seeking to balance hospitality and security, and we’re grateful to the police departments in Grand Rapids and Dearborn Heights for their concern and communication with us.”

Westminster is a PC(USA) congregation that has been worshipping in downtown Grand Rapids for more than 150 years.

All further updates will be on our church’s Facebook page. Please direct any questions to Heather Colletto, Director of Communication and Mission (616-717-5536 / heatherc@wpcgr.org).

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