



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

United Church of Christ & Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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May 2021

March Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Clerk's Report: Per the Presbytery, once Consistory begins to meet in person they will need to approve all decisions that were made virtually.

Financial Secretary: The Financial Secretary thanked Bobbie Dalquist from the Finance Committee who has been working with the Financial Secretary and Treasurer to reconcile our numbers. Bobbie has developed several spreadsheets which will help us keep more accurate records. Financial Statements have been sent as we have already complete the first quarter of 2021. This year, the Finance Committee is including a Quarterly Report of the General Fund Income/Expenses with individual Financial Statements. Once Per Capita amounts from our two denominations have been verified, letters regarding Per Capita payments will be mailed.

Office Manager: As everyone knows by now, a small health issue has caused the Office Manager's knee replacement surgery to be postponed. In the meantime, she will

be working from the office, even though the office is not officially open. She has received both Moderna shots (a month ago) so she is fully vaccinated.

Angel Mission: Angel Mission continues to be of great assistance to local members of the community in need. They assisted a young man who was just able to get his own apartment with needed items to stock the apartment. They also assisted a family whose newborn baby required medical treatment in Marquette with transportation and hotel accommodations in Marquette. Jill Hodges has joined the board and will provide valuable assistance as the board moves forward. The Board is obtaining an evaluation of the Rose and Thorn building from an engineer. A Memorandum of Understanding between PLUC and Angel Mission has been written. Consistory will review and discuss this at the May meeting.

Finance Committee: The Revised Investment Policy was presented. The original policy was written in 2017 and is now obsolete so revisions were necessary. The Finance Committee recommends that the Endowment and Memorial Committees become a subcommittee of the Finance Committee

instead of stand alone committees. Consistory approved the Revised Investment Policy, including the Endowment and Memorial Committees become a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Finance Committee member Terry Monson continues to explore ESG funds Consistory approved moving the General Fund and Memorial Fund savings to the checking account.

Pastor: Pastor Norland reported that communion in March and April was celebrated both in person and over ZOOM. We received information from “More Light Presbyterians” regarding our church’s continued support of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. Consistory approved a donation of \$250.00 for our continued support. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was decided that Consistory will next meet on May 27th.

Old Business: In-person worship was again reviewed. Consistory discussed the ongoing Covid state guidelines and related CDC guidance on congregational gatherings. We will continue our current guidelines and review in-person worship again at the May Consistory meeting. Building use was also reviewed. Recovery Groups only will be continued, to be reviewed again at the May Consistory meeting. Pastor Norland will work with Greg Campbell and Barb Brookhouse on their ordination (Greg) and installation as the 2021 class of Elders.

New Business: The possibility of another outdoor worship service was raised. This will be explored further at the May Consistory meeting. The Spring church clean up will be on Saturday, May 22nd beginning at 9:00 AM. Director of Music Susie Byykkonen requested to use the church on Saturday, May 22nd for a small recital by her music service (Office Manager Smock has checked with Byykkonen and this will not conflict with the church clean

up.) This request was approved with Byykkonen instructed to follow state and CDC Covid guidelines. Consistory voiced their appreciation to Finance Committee members T. Monson and B. Dalquist for all their work on managing the PLUC budget.

Financial Report

Information received from Financial Secretary

Received In April

Pledge	\$7689.86
+Fellowship Guild	3,000.00
Unpledged	392.00
Loose Plate	00.00

May Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
May 2	Christina N.	Lois J.
May 9	Lois J.	Carl V.
May 16	Nancy B.S.	Terry M.
May 23	Sherry M-B	Sherry M-B
May 30	Greg C.	Jim N.

In Other News

Spring Clean up

The flowers are starting to bloom (even if they do have to stick their heads up through the snow). Even better news, people can start to be around each other again, especially outdoors.

Therefore, our annual church outdoor spring clean up will be held on May 22nd, beginning at 9:00 AM. Yard needs to be raked, at least as best we can around the pipes the city “stored” in our yard. Let’s hope most of those are gone by the end of May. The flower bed will need to be cleaned up and windows washed, and whatever else we find that needs cleaning.

Finance Committee May 2021

Submitted by Terry Monson, Finance Committee

The Committee met on Monday, April 5 to review the first quarter's financial statements and to discuss changes to the Church's Investment Policy.

Profit-Loss Statement: Bobbie Dalquist identified several minor errors - mainly mistakes in classifying transactions. She has spoken to Ed and had him send out a revised version prior to the April Consistory meeting.

Balance Sheet: Assets in the Balance Sheet include both checking and savings accounts at the Superior National Bank and Trust. Savings deposits earn only 0.05% per annum, so the Committee recommends moving the General Fund savings account balance (\$1,002) and the Memorial Fund savings balance (\$2,979) to General Fund and Memorial Fund checking accounts. This move will reduce the number of entries in the Balance Sheet.

Investment Policy: The Committee reviewed and revised Church's Investment Policy that was approved in the spring of 2017. Most of the revisions are cosmetic or reflect lessons learned since the 2017 Policy was approved.

a. The 2017 Policy delegated responsibility for oversight of our Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) endowments to the Finance Committee. The revised policy establishes and delegates this responsibility to the Memorial and Endowment **Sub-Committee** of the Finance Committee or delegates this responsibility to the Memorial and Endowment **Committee**. If it continues as a "Committee", then the Consistory needs to appoint a Consistory member to it (all Church Committees must have at least one Consistory member). In

contrast, a "Sub-Committee" does not require any Consistory member.

b. The revised policy also contains a clause (III D) that "As much as possible," the (Vanguard) account's assets should be invested in equities and funds that have high MSCI and/or other organizations' Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) ratings".

c. The revised policy retains some of the old policy's other conditions, including ranges for the composition of Vanguard assets between equities and bonds (III F), i.e., "the bond composition must range between 30% and 50% and its equity composition must range between 50% and 70% of the account's total value."

Angel Mission

Submitted by Lois Jamkekar and Sherry Middlemis-Brown

The Copper Country Angel Mission has continued to serve as an Angel helping people in the area. In early March they helped a young couple who had given birth to a baby with serious medical problems. The baby needed to be transported to Marquette General NICO unit right after birth. The Angel Mission was able to provide a gas card and pay for two night's lodging until the couple was able to receive other aid. They helped with an electrical shut off, helped provide a food packet for a young man who had lost his job and broken his ankle, helped a family set up a home with all the things they needed after the mother and three children left the Barbara Kettle Shelter home for a new place to live, and provided winter items for children of family who lost all their clothing in a fire. In March the Angel Mission food pantry provided food for 33 households, 58 adults and 29 children, besides the special food pack they gave the young man listed above. They are very thankful to Pete

Touriniemi and John Grieger for hauling a large order of food from the food bank for their food pantry. Tony's Country Kitchen and Pat's Foods in Calumet have donated food to the Angel Mission too which is much appreciated.

New Home???

Copper Country Angel Mission is looking at a property in Calumet as a potential new home. We are still in the EARLIEST stages of negotiation, but we have divvied up some tasks to look seriously at acquiring the storefront and land. The building will need a lot of TLC, the cost of which we must consider as well. We will keep you in the loop as this dream progresses.

We Will Miss You, Liz

It is with gladness, and some sadness, that we wished Liz Hoekstra "good-bye" on Sunday, April 25th. Liz has been worshipping with us for several years as she pursued both her undergrad and graduate degrees at Michigan Tech. She also shared her gift of music with us over the years.

On April 30th, Liz graduated from MTU with a MS in Chemical Engineering. She is currently pursuing job opportunities, with the possibility of a job in Oshkosh, WI.

While we are sad that Liz is leaving us (maybe not entirely, an advantage of ZOOM is that she can join us at any time), we are glad and excited for her as she takes this next step in her life.

We Still Need to Laugh

Humans are a resilient bunch. It is almost over, but even in hard times we can laugh.



And one to remind us how many of us took care of each other.



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Volume 24, No 4; Published 11 times/year

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General Office Hours:

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Wed, Fri.;

9:00-noon Thurs

Pastor Office Hours:

9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon Thursday or by appointment

