



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

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

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June 2022

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

OLD BUSINESS

Covid Protocols: The current covid protocols will be continued at this time.

Policy Updates: The Building and Grounds Committee is still working on the Building Use policy. A draft of a proposed policy has been sent to Consistory for review and input. The Building and Grounds Committee is also talking about church security. They are working on a plan covering access to the church building and plans for emergency egress. The Consistory Decision Making Between Meetings policy and the Spending policy were both tabled until the Building Use policy is finalized.

Angel Mission: The mission staff and volunteers are busy packing everything and it looks like they will be able to move to the new building by May 31st. Consistory approved a motion to adjust PLUC direct payments to Angel Mission and to cancel the waste management and the electric contracts.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee: Since PLUC no longer sponsors a youth group, the Finance Committee asked about contacting the people who had donated \$1,000.00 to be used for youth activities about transferring this amount to other purposes. After a discussion about possible future plans, the Consistory tabled this request.

Music Director Susie Byykkonen has been arranging for wonderful special music during our Sunday Worship service. People providing special music who are members or friends of PLUC are not paid, but other musicians are paid. However, there is no money budgeted for this purpose. Consistory approved a motion to ask the congregation for sponsorships of special music. A friendly amendment was made to use vonBatchelder funds if sponsorships do not cover all the cost of special music.

The Finance Committee asked for guidance regarding ESG funds. The Consistory recommends that “based on” the mission of PLUC that the Finance Committee move forward with moving the ESG funds at their earliest convenience.

Office Manager: Office Manager Smock will be taking three days of her vacation time June 21-23. The Office Manager receives three weeks of “vacation” time per the position description. Office Manager Smock asked if sick time and bereavement time counts toward vacation time.

Consistory approved a motion to refer this question to the Personnel Committee.

Audit Committee: Consistory approved by unanimous consent that PLUC not reimburse Angel Mission FICA funds. The Audit Committee also recommended that PLUC establish two accounts with Jim’s Foodmart, one for Helping Hands and another for all other purchases (PLUC currently has only one account to cover all costs). The Consistory instructed that Pastor Peter, Office Manager Smock, and Treasurer Lowther set up these two accounts.

Committee structure: Pastor Peter began a discussion about the work of the church and how the congregation can become more involved. Ideas for possible committees were discussed.

Meeting time: With the change in Consistory membership in mind, a discussion was held regarding the best time for Consistory to meet. It was found that the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM continues to be the best time. The next Consistory meeting will be on June 16, 2022.

Other: A request was made to have the headphones available to assist those with hearing challenges during Worship service. A request was made to instruct the Treasurer to cut two \$1,000.00 checks for those continuing to need help with bills from the 2018 floods. (These requests were approved by Consistory at the April 2022 meeting.)

Financial Report

Received in May (thru May 22nd)

Pledge	\$2221.00
Unpledged	\$791.92
Loose Plate	\$00.00

In Other News

Church Rummage Sale - June 11

submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

If you haven’t already started spring cleaning, it’s time to start. Our church rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 from 10 am to 2 p.m.

Please bring your gently used cast offs to the church by 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 7, or for you last minute people, by Friday, June 10 at 2 pm.

On June 5, after the church service, we need your help to set up tables at the side and back of the sanctuary. That’s a good day to bring in your rummage - anything in good condition, but NO clothes. If you have furniture to donate, please send a picture to Bobbie at rbdalqui@gmail.com so it can be advertised ahead of time.

On June 7 from 9 to noon, we need your help sorting through and pricing the donations. June 10 from 2 to 5 we will move items in the Fellowship Hall. More help is needed then and also on sale day.



2022 Distributions from the PLUC's KCF Endowments

Submitted by Terry Monson, co-chair Finance Committee

This year, the Church will receive \$5,809 from its three Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) endowments –the PLUC Endowment, the PLUC Agency Endowment, and the Wagner Endowment. Individual donations funded the PLUC Endowment. The Committee believes that some of the proceeds from the sale of the manse funded the PLUC Agency Endowment. Proceeds of the John and Grace Trust funded the Wagner Endowment.

These distributions are \$590 less than budgeted (\$6,500) because the KCF Board limited distributions to 4% of endowments' twelve month rolling average values. In the past several years, distributions have ranged between 3% and 5%. Had distributions been 5%, they would have totaled about \$7,260. The Finance Committee will use 4% to estimate KCF distributions in the 2023 budget.

The balances of each endowment as of March 31, 2022 were \$20,424 for the PLUC Agency \$26,446 for the PLUC Endowment, and \$119,998 for the Wagner Endowment. They totaled \$166,868.

A reminder: The Church does not own these endowments. Rather, it is their beneficiary. So they are not recorded on the Church's balance sheet.

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

May was a very busy month! WE CLOSED ON THE PURCHASE OF OUR NEW HOME ON 29 APRIL and dove right into finishing the interior and getting ready for the move. Jim Northey loaned us his go-to painter and supplied the paint for the

walls and ceiling of the main floor. Greg Campbell worked with Paul Tuoriniemi to install lighting and finish electricity. Rob and Sherry Middlemis-Brown installed tile in the bathroom and sorting room and carpet squares in the main store area. Rob then installed the bathroom and door knobs/locks.

Our managers, Mike and Terry, along with volunteers, including our own Barb Brookhouse and Lois Jambekar, packed up the materials from the old store for the move. The store is more organized and ready for this move than it has ever been before. Mike had already moved many totes and display racks out of the store by mid-May.

While all of this is happening, Angel Mission continues to serve the public. The managers assisted a patient's travel to Ann Arbor for medical care and also assisted with a utility shut-off. After having provided Easter eggs and Easter baskets for families in April, Mike donated years of accumulated Easter eggs to Calumet Theater. We also met 24 food pantry orders last month that fed 51 adults and 36 children with five new signups. We are seeing an increase in need as prices continue to rise.

Volunteers gave more than 460 hours in April. May hours will be even higher with all the work at the new building and moving efforts. We will probably be closed during the last week of May and into the first week of June as we set up the store in the new location. Not everything in the building will be complete, but enough of the finish work will be done to house the store and food pantry. We are continuing fund-raising efforts for the roof and siding.

We hope to have an open house for church members, donors, volunteers, and the community once we are settled into the new space. We'll get back to you with information later.

Helping Hands

submitted by Beth Smock

We have all experienced the rise in prices during the last year. While we have had to do a little re-figuring of our budgets, this has been especially difficult for those on fixed incomes or with little or no income. All social service agencies are working hard to meet this increased need, including our Helping Hands program.

At this time we currently do have a few hundred dollars in our Helping Hands account, due a large anonymous donation received earlier this year. However, funds are again quickly running low.

During 2021, PLUC gave out 23 regular food vouchers, 1 \$20.00 produce voucher (after we ended our partnership with the Trinity Episcopal Church's food pantry), and 6 gas vouchers. Through May 24th of this year, we have given out 7 gas vouchers (which have been increased to up to \$50.00), and 14 food vouchers. This included 3 gas vouchers and 6 food vouchers in May. While each voucher is worth up to \$50.00, not everyone spends the entire amount, though most are close.

At this time, we are again asking people to help with this ministry if they are able. As you can see, Helping Hands provides a great service to our community. Thank you for all you do.

June's Funny

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

Editor's note: I heard on the radio that the average hourly babysitter pay is now \$18.30. I got \$.50. I need to send some people a new bill.

Special Music

submitted by Beth Smock

We have been blessed by beautiful special music during Worship recently thanks to the efforts of our Music Director, Susie Byykkonen. While PLUC members and friends volunteer their talent, we do pay "outside" musicians. However, there are technically no funds budgeted for this purpose. Therefore, we are asking if there are members and friends who would like to sponsor special music (\$60.00 per Sunday). If so, speak with either Susie or Pastor Peter.



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(USA)

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General Office Hours:

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Tues, Thurs-Fri

Pastor Office Hours:

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

**Portage Lake United Church
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June Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
06/05	Beth	Christina	Terry	TBD
06/12	Nancy & Dianne	Nancy	TBD	Liz & Harold
06/19	Lois	Jim	Carl	TBD
06/26	Liz & Harold	Greg	Greg	TBD



Our Great Spring Cleaning Crew



Christina Gets Everything Washed Down



Amos and Our New Battery Lawn Mower