

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



Who is
God
calling us
to
become
?

The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. *All* congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee – the more participation, the better!

Rachel Hackenberg

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Portage Lake United Church
Houghton, MI

Part-Time Pastor

Wisconsin Conference, Northwest Association

September 16, 2018

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
- Who Is Our Neighbor?
- References
- Consent and Validation

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work.”
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

INSTRUCTIONS

The new Local Church Profile supports the calling and discernment of United Church of Christ congregations with their current or future pastoral leadership.

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the preparation of a Local Church Profile. Using the Profile, the church can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known together as the “Discovery Document,” these three sections can be completed by a visioning group, a governing body, a transition team, or other group – not just the search committee – in order to draw forward the gifts and imaginative possibilities of a congregation. The church's engagement with the “Discovery Document” might not have the same sequence as the completed Local Church Profile that is read by candidates.

Some questions are easy to answer. Some are not so easy. Prompts are provided to stimulate narrative response if needed; these italicized prompts are merely examples from which to choose or to inspire your own. Efforts to answer the questions will prompt conversations and explorations and story-tellings and many prayers. As the Spirit moves throughout the process, congregations will shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading (WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME). This last question to be answered becomes the first section to be read by searching ministers in the Local Church Profile, and it is boldest and most actionable piece for faithful leadership into the future.

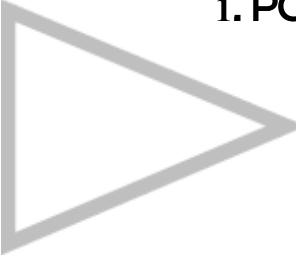
Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorate in the United Church of Christ can be found in the Call Agreement Workbook. Be sure to use the Call Agreement Workbook's Scope of Work to describe in this Local Church Profile the position being sought.

When it is time for ministerial search, the conference can counsel you on posting the Local Church Profile together with your public listing at UCC Ministry Opportunities (<http://oppsearch.ucc.org>).

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of

the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.

1. POSITION POSTING

- 
- a. LISTING INFORMATION
 - b. SCOPE OF WORK
 - c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
 - d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: Portage Lake United Church

Street address: 1400 E Houghton Ave, Houghton, MI 49931

Supplemental web links: pluc.org

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*):
Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ

Conference: WI Conference

Association: Northwest Association

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Name, Title, Phone, Email):

Rev. Rob MacDougall

Associate Conference Minister

WI Conference UCC

715-308-6120

rmacdougall@wcucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

Portage Lake United Church is growing and striving to meet the needs of our community. We open our doors to everyone, sharing our space and resources with multiple organizations and meeting groups. We continually strive to collaborate with our local universities, fellow churches

of all beliefs, and international students and families. We promote outreach by serving others and providing a welcoming space for all.

Photographs:







What we value about living in our area (2 – 3 sentences):

- It's a university community with Michigan Tech University in Houghton and Finlandia University in Hancock. The result is a diverse mix of people with residents who grew up in many different parts of the country and world.
- The community is close knit. When you meet someone new, chances are they know people that you know.
- The outdoor activities and natural beauty of the area - hiking, biking, golfing, boating, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing.

Current size of membership: 82 members (78 active participants, including children)

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): none

Position Title: Part-Time Pastor

Position Duration (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

Settled – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association

Compensation Level (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

½ to ¾ Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? yes

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

The pastor of Portage Lake United Church serves as a spiritual leader for our congregation, point of contact for surrounding churches and organizations, and mediator/facilitator for thoughts and ideas from the church body. This is a small-town, big ideas position. We hope a new pastor would be passionate about collaborating through our existing community partnerships while providing spiritual leadership to our current members and committees.

Core Competencies:

1. Builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom they work and serve
2. Accepting of people with divergent views/backgrounds
3. Effective in planning and leading worship

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis (*from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/Housing Allowance*):

Cash salary	\$31,000
Housing allowance	\$10,000
Medical	\$3,500
Pension	\$4,920

Benefits (*choose one*):

Salary plus Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister (*e.g. parsonage, living nearby with a housing allowance, living elsewhere to commute as needed*)?

The minister can live in any of the surrounding area (rural or in town) that they choose in order for them to feel they have a sense of “place” and a healthy lifestyle. Housing in the area is very affordable. The minister will receive a \$10,000 housing allowance.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister:

We do recommend living within a 15-20 minute “summer driving distance” of Houghton, so that during the winter, the commute doesn’t exceed 40 minutes in case of a Sunday morning snowstorm.

State any incentives (*e.g. school debt reduction or retention bonus after a certain number of years in position*): As many wild thimbleberries, bilberries, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries as you can pick/eat.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: Due to our location (250 miles from Conference offices), we have a strong network of local church leaders surrounding the university campuses who often provide support for one another (namely from Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Unitarian backgrounds). Rich in theological training and open-minded concepts, these church leaders are always looking for ways to support each other’s efforts.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister’s bi-vocational employment:

As is the nature of a part-time position, we fully support our pastor in seeking other part-time employment. There are many potential avenues to explore when it comes to employment, and we would use our church's community connections to help facilitate networking. Potential opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Course Instruction at Michigan Tech or Finlandia Universities
- Administration/Outreach at Michigan Tech or Finlandia Universities
- Personal Training/Fitness course instruction through Michigan Tech
- Health Care (Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital and UP Health Systems - Portage Hospital, amongst other smaller rehab facilities)
- Land conservation work through multiple community organizations
- Manual labor work (year-round wood chopping is common ... very common)

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

1. Continue to provide high-quality worship experience for regular members through word and music.
2. Foster open-minded questions and ideas that draw the community to take part in.
3. Provide confirmation/Sunday school courses for our young people.
4. Develop strategies to help guide energy from our "core group" of members to facilitate high-impact actions (not spread too thin), as well as nurture new members to engage in larger church planning.
5. Promote a welcoming, open space for marginalized individuals, specifically: international friends/family, LGBTQIA persons and allies, people of low socioeconomic status, and persons coping with personal or familial addiction/substance abuse.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

1. We need our pastor to be welcoming, thoughtful, insightful, and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.
2. Our pastor does not need to play a primary role in all outreach efforts, but rather a supporting role by staying engaged in conversation and asking others how they can best serve them in their existing efforts.
3. We strive to have high visibility (both physically and socially) in our community. Our members are highly invested in organizations that fit their passions/strengths, resulting in

widespread impact. Similarly, we hope our pastor takes interest in local efforts to better our community, secondarily providing increased visibility of our church.

Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling:


In short, our minister should be fluent in welcoming language. Sunday morning worship is spoken in English. Knowledge of other languages would be welcome as well, as there are 50+ countries represented on Michigan Tech's campus, just across the street.

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

We have identified the following four areas of excellence:

1. Caring for all of creation
2. Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice
3. Engaging sacred stories and traditions
4. Strengthening inter- and intra- personal assets

2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

God is calling us to be faithful, energized, peaceful, and hard working.

God is calling us to be an open space, waiting readily to welcome new groups, theoretical frameworks, information, people, and initiatives.

God is calling us to be a voice of love.

God is calling us to be a link between others.

God is calling us to be substantial and sustainable.

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Congregation:

Our congregation is focused on living out our new ONA identity. We have members of our congregation who identify as LGBTQIA and we support visitors and friends who also support and identify as such. Within our congregation, we have many members who face sickness, stressful family situations, frailty, and loneliness. Together, we support each other through acts of service, prayer, and words of encouragement to help abate these challenges.

Community:

Here are a few challenges our community is facing, as well as how the church continues to try to facilitate change and address the needs:

1. Poverty
 - a. Angel Mission Free Store - helps manage daily operation, clothing drives, winter coat giveaways, and backpack drives
 - b. Helping Hands fund: provide gas/food cards to anyone in need
 - c. Adopting and supplying Christmas list items for families
2. Decreased mental health/counseling resources

- a. Providing a space and leaders for groups such as Nar-Anon, Overeaters Anonymous, Centering Prayer
3. Substance abuse/opioid addiction
 - a. Housing daily support groups for NA and AA
4. Abuse and exploitation of community's natural resources
 - a. Members join and are active in Keweenaw Land Trust, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, and Stewards of Beta Grise, as well as take part in land clean-up efforts and leading educational programs
5. Hunger among students
 - a. Acute needs: hosting progressive dinners, finals week snack packs
 - b. Chronic needs: helping to facilitate the formation of a food pantry on Michigan Tech's campus
6. Families of international students/professors feeling alienated or losing a sense of community upon arrival:
 - a. Housing ESL tutoring and mealtimes

3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation's life of faith.

For example, what beliefs and commitments are stated in your congregation's purpose statement or membership vows? How is God most often described in worship liturgy? In what ways would you describe the Holy Spirit in your midst?

Jesus Christ is God with humanity. He is the eternal Word of God, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. Christ is present in the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, to continue and complete the work of God. This work of reconciliation, expressed historically as the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity and the world. Therefore, the Church calls us to become reconciled to God and to one another.

We are united as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in people a consciousness of our relations and duties to God, and to inspire in ourselves a love of truth, a passion for righteousness, and an enthusiasm for service.

We will provide for the education of ourselves and our children through worship and study to increase our understanding of God's will.

We agree to work and pray toward the day when our lives, and the affairs of our community and world, are guided by the Holy Spirit.

We acknowledge the Consistory's role to oversee the spiritual and material welfare of the church. We agree to participate in developing and understanding the missions and goals which are adopted by this fellowship. We accept a personal obligation to give of our time, talents and resources to achieve those ends.

We promise to sustain each other in sickness and distress and to remember each other in our prayers. We agree to growing our understanding of the world's needs and to work both

individually and collectively to meet those needs. We agree to seek out and unite with a church in which we can continue to carry out the spirit of this covenant, if we should leave this church.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

[Quotes taken from our May 2018 church survey.]

“Significant group/individual community impact”

“Very friendly and welcoming”

“Location and sound facility reduce the obstacles for members to volunteer their time and talents in ways that build community and further spiritual development. This results in a thoughtful, reflective, inclusive group that welcomes new visitors and responds to local issues.”

“Intelligent, thoughtful worship”

“Excellent music”

“Lacking territorialism”

“Tenacity”

“Humble”

“Determined to be an asset to the community”

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

We have one worship service on Sunday morning. We highly value music in our services. As a church, we are invested in music and arts, as it seems to illuminate the Holy Spirit in our midst. We often have our choir, guest singers, and guest musicians highlight special pieces, in addition to having a phenomenal pianist who accompanies us each Sunday. (We hold to the tradition of sitting all the way through the postlude, as we enjoy listening to the specially selected songs. Many times we can't help but finish with applause.) Our services are traditional, following the book of common worship and usually based on the Common Lectionary. Our sound system accommodates those with hearing impairment. Our removable seating allows wheelchair seating anywhere in the sanctuary, and the church meets ADA guidelines. We record services for persons that are not able to attend. The congregation values intelligent, linear, and relevant preaching that applies the Bible and associated historical events to daily life and current events. The pastor usually has led in confession, affirmation, offertory prayer, reading the gospel, and presenting the sermon. We are flexible in this regard and have a good core of lay readers who normally lead reading of the scripture, prayers of intercession, and children's sermon.

Describe the educational program/faith formation vision of your church.

We have weekly adult bible study, led by a member of the congregation. We also have a youth Sunday school class, which doubles as confirmation for those old enough, that has been led by the pastor. We have a new youth group that meets on Wednesdays and is led by a church member.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

We have a very committed group of members who are sincere in their efforts to make church services and events welcoming. We have small committees that tend to vary over the years, based on what we see as priorities for our church and the community. Our congregation does its planning very inclusively and transparently. Our congregation size allows participation by all. Congregational meetings present budget suggestions to the membership, and ensuing discussion results in a budget that everyone accepts. The congregation or the Consistory makes decisions by consensus.

- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

~1-2 hours per month, per committee

- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?

Houghton County recently experienced massive flooding that severely damaged multiple church family's homes. The Sunday after the storm, a small group gathered and held a prayer service, then all people who were able immediately began working on community cleanup (multiple weeks of labor and disaster relief followed, including a luncheon to raise money for flood victims). We are hard working and determined to help others in their times of need.

- Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance? [yes]

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church#: 861425 Schedule: 0 Portage Lake United Church Houghton MI 49931

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2007	82	41	0	0	0	5	5	18	-18	
2008	71	35	11	0	0	3	5	9	-11	
2009	67	33	10	0	0	3	6	1	-4	
2010	59	31	13	0	0	0	7	1	-8	
2011	56	30	12	0	0	1	1	3	-3	
2012	52	30	13	0	0	2	0	6	-4	
2013	53	26	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	
2014	51	25	5	0	0	0	2	0	-2	
2015	45	25	11	0	0	0	1	5	-6	
2016	51	25	16	0	0	9	2	1	6	
2017	51	35	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	
CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPP UCC GIVING	TOT OTHER	TOTAL OCMW	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS	
2007	\$103,937	\$0	\$2,855	\$3,897	\$6,752	\$3,207	2.75	\$113,896	\$88,108	
2008	\$101,004	\$0	\$2,025	\$2,106	\$4,131	\$8,635	2.00	\$109,639	\$99,475	
2009	\$101,004	\$0	\$2,650	\$0	\$2,650	\$2,650	2.62	\$103,654	\$0	
2010	\$87,286	\$0	\$2,650	\$680	\$3,330	\$6,864	3.04	\$97,480	\$76,609	
2011	\$77,710	\$0	\$1,988	\$1,987	\$3,975	\$14,892	2.56	\$96,577	\$84,865	
2012	\$75,989	\$0	\$1,988	\$827	\$2,815	\$6,573	2.62	\$85,377	\$81,445	
2013	\$76,977	\$0	\$0	\$318	\$318	\$20,768	0.00	\$98,063	\$74,311	
2014	\$70,683	\$0	\$1,863	\$799	\$2,662	\$464	2.64	\$73,809	\$55,575	
2015	\$121,660	\$0	\$1,863	\$1,830	\$3,693	\$340	1.53	\$125,693	\$63,682	
2016	\$97,920	\$0	\$1,800	\$2,927	\$4,727	\$2,830	1.84	\$105,477	\$78,716	
2017	\$114,938	\$3,821	\$1,800	\$1,146	\$2,946	\$4,790	1.57	\$122,674	\$82,870	
% CHANGE 2012-2017	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCMW	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
2012-2017	-1.92	16.67	-23.08	50.00	-50.00	51.26	4.65	43.69		
2007-2017	-37.80	-14.63	0.00	-40.00	-86.96	10.58	-56.37	7.71		

Please note: Zero values (\'0\' or \'\$0\') may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Numbers are based on a list actual people; age, occupation and education are educated guesses.

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	50	
Number of active non-members:	22	
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	72	

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	58.3%	based on 60 adults
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	6.7%	
Less than 5 years:	35%	

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
7	4	7	5	9	2	9	15	14	educated guesses

Percentage of adults in various household types - based on 60 adults:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	11.7%	based on 60 adults
Single adults age 35-65	6.7%	
Single adults over age 65:	10%	
Married adults under 35	6.7%	
Married adults age 35-65	26.7%	
Married adults over age 65:	38.3%	
Households with no minors:	82.5%	based on 40 households

Households with minors	17.5%	
------------------------	-------	--

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	3%	educated guess. :)
College:	39%	
Graduate School:	51%	
Specialty Training:	30%	
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	52%	(including full-time students)
Adults who are retired:	46%	
Adults who are not fully employed:	2%	

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation. Includes occupations of retired adults:

College student	9.84%
Homemaker	9.84%
Laborer	4.92%
Minister	3.28%
Elementary/High School Educator	13.11%
Medical professional	4.92%
University faculty	24.59%
University staff	14.75%

Financial professional	8.20%
Professional-other	6.56%

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

The majority of our formal church membership is white, educated, and middle class to upper middle class. We have active members from Africa, Asia, and Europe. We often have international student visitors (such as from India), who are curious about Christian customs and come to learn more about religion. We have church members who identify as gay and transgender. Everyone is equal.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one in the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

Our church recently went through the formal process of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. Although we have been supportive for many years, we now have small decals on our outside doors so that those who identify as LGBTQIA know that they are welcome. We also are active in the community conversations regarding Black Lives Matter, Love Your Muslim Neighbor, etc.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? <i>(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</i>

Adult Groups or Classes	3-5 (theology group)	Church member
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	4	Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	6	Pastor/Church member
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	61	Pastors from multiple congregations
Church-wide Meals	30	Church members
Choirs and Music Groups	10-15	Church musician
Church-based Bible Study	6-9	Church member
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	1x/mo,	Pastor
Community Meals	109 (Let's Eat - housed at another church, hosted by PLUC) 40 (Student progressive dinner)	Church members
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	2	Pastor
Drama or Dance Program		
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	4	Pastor
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship		
Prayer or Meditation Groups	1 (Centering prayer group)	Church Member
Public Advocacy Work	many, but individual efforts	Church members
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)		
Worship	37	Pastor and church members
Young Adult Groups or Classes		

Youth Groups or Classes	to start again fall 2018	Youth group leader
Other		

Additional comments:

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Peter Norland	No	PLUC	Church transitional pastor	N

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

None hold current membership

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staffperson serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Office Manager/ Financial Secretary	Beth Smock	part time	Personnel Committee of the Consistory	5+ years
Minister of Music	Susie Byykkonen	part time	“ “	3 years
Custodian	Christy Kertuu	part time	“ “	5+ years

Treasurer	Edward Lowther	part time	“ “	3+ years
Youth Leader	Eric Byykkonen	part time	“ “	Less than 1 year

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation’s overall ministry?

We are looking outward, focused on the needs of the community, while ensuring to care for one another in our times of need and to help each other celebrate during times of success. We are a small church body who is strongly networked with organizations whose missions are to serve and promote equity.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$83,952
Endowment Proceeds <i>(as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return):</i> 5% of principal distributed annually, of which \$1,210 is unrestricted and \$4,900 is restricted for “mission” purposes.	\$6,100
Endowment Draw <i>(beyond what is permitted by spending policy, “drawing down the principal”</i> The Church has an investment account with Vanguard with a balance of \$90,213 (08/14/18) that may be drawn down to cover deficits that may arise.	\$8,000
Fundraising Events	\$0
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose: Flowers, special music, bereavement. Helping Hands, youth activities	\$5,364
Grants PCUSA grants to Helping Hands	\$5,000
Rentals of Church Building	\$2,750
Rentals of Church Parsonage	n/a

Support from Related Organizations <i>(e.g. Women's Group)</i>	\$745
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$106,011

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$

Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here.

Church's Wider Mission **5,634**

Local Expenses **108,614**

Total Operating Expenses **114,248**

Net Income (Expense) **-11,940**

Earmarked funds Income **16,132**

Earmarked funds Expense **11,747**

Net Income (Expense) **4,385**

Total Net Income
(Expense) **-7,555**

Angel Mission Income **14,899**

Angel Mission Expense **12,184**

Net Income (Expense) **2,715**

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? **45%**

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church? **NO**

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (*indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year*)

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthen the Church

Neighbors in Need **Helping Hands: Part of the Church's annual budget supports modest donations to neighbors in need. The Church also sponsors (but does not own) the Angel Mission Free Store in Calumet, which provides clothing, food, and other items to those in need. The Angel Mission is not Church owned and enjoys support from the PC-USA and others. As such, the Finance Committee is in the process of separating the Angel Mission from the Church's balance sheet and profit-loss statement.**

Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (*recommended 10%*) **about 5% divided between the PCUSA and the UCC.**

What is the church's current indebtedness? **\$0**

Total amount of loan debt: **NA**

Reason for debt:**NA**

Are capital and other payments current? **NA**

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget. **NO**

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: **NONE**

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe: NA

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign. NA

Does your church have an endowment? **YES**

What is the market value of the assets?

Two unrestricted Keweenaw Community Foundation Endowments = \$24,650; annual distribution = \$1,210 (5% of principal)

Wagner Keweenaw Community Foundation Endowment = \$93,212; annual distribution = \$4,897 (5% of principal designated for “mission” purposes.

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? 5% of principal distributed annually.

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)?

5% annually on Keweenaw Community Foundation endowments; Wagner Endowment was transferred from bank management in 2017 to improve earnings..

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: **\$1,000 - \$1,200 annually**

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? **In perpetuity**

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

Reserves: Savings account = \$317; checking account = \$20,845 as of July 31, 2018

Investments (other than endowment): **\$90,213 (Vanguard Account) as of August 14, 2018**

Does your church have a parsonage? **NO**

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: **NA**

How is the parsonage used? **NA**

Street / City / State / Zip: **NA**

Finished square footage: **NA**

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: **NA**

Assessed real estate value: **NA**

Available for minister residence: **NA**

Expected minister residence: **NA**

Condition of structure, systems and appliances **NA**

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs **NA**

Describe all buildings owned by the church: **Church premises**

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: **NA**

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (*worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.*) **Entire Church is handicapped accessible.**

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

For example, when was a time the church made a major budget change? How is the budgeting process done? What new ministry initiative has your church financed?

The Finance Committee prepares a preliminary budget for the following year for congregational approval in November of the current year. Once accounts are closed for the current year, the Committee adjusts the preliminary budget that it presents for congregational approval usually in February.

The Church has been running an annual deficit for the past several years that it finances by drawing down its reserves. Obviously, that cannot continue forever. The congregation grew modestly under the previous minister, which has helped its financial situation. In the longer run,

the congregation must grow in order to relieve the deficit. In the short run, the Church’s reserves can continue to finance its annual deficits for the next decade.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

- 2017: PLUC formally became an Open and Affirming congregation
- 2015: Significant forward movement of the church energized by a new pastor arrival, resulting in increased attendance by families with young children
- 1972: Uniting of Presbyterian and UCC churches

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past. Within the past 5 years, we newly welcomed a number of families with children, inspiring us to perform upgrades to our common areas including the front lobby, lounge area, and nursery room. We also re-initiated programs such as nursery, confirmation, youth group, Sunday school, and the Christmas program.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. “Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement....” Describe your congregation’s values and practices when it comes to conflict.

Our smaller size results in most conflicts or disagreements being worked out through discussion. If a disagreement arises in a meeting, members have a significant amount of patience in waiting to hear the other person's opinion and making sure they they feel validated, despite opposing views being present. Our pastors have historically done a wonderful job stepping into conversation only when needed, and providing gentle guidance in the conversation to bring to light the most important considerations of each side.

Ministerial History (*include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years*)

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Melinda Quivik	3	Yes
Cindy Method	3	Yes

Vicky Bethel	4	Yes - Presbyterian
Phil Nancarrow	6	Yes
Sandy Shaw	6	Yes

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

We have learned that we are a strong, faithful, and caring church family. We strive to live our lives as Jesus taught us to live. We are persons who work together with our ministerial leader. We have a commitment to communication and openness. We are a welcoming church family.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

Ask us - special circumstance

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

N

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?

N



1 WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

Our church’s doors are physically and figuratively open to everyone. Our weekly church calendar is filled with many groups that we collaborate with, including: Pine Mountain Music Festival, 12-step spirituality based recovery programs, ESL courses, campus outreach events, contemplative outreach groups, Lake Superior Strings, yoga classes, private music lessons, and others. Persons and groups are asked to provide donations, as able; set prices are not provided, as to maintain accessibility to all those needing an open space to foster conversation and creativity.

Our church members are highly involved in community and University organizations and events. Individually, we gather information from these sources, and then collectively bring conversations/announcements to our church tables for discussion and action. Driven by our personal callings and passions, we are active participants in the formation of local and regional policies regarding equality, environmental rights, social and environmental sustainability, and basic needs (food/water/shelter).

Describe your congregation’s participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting).

We are a united church, both Presbyterian and UCC. Therefore, our relationship to the wider church differs from non-united churches. We try to have representation at both denominations’ meetings, but our isolation (250 miles from Conference or Presbytery office), winter driving conditions, dualistic responsibilities (two denominations), and small congregation makes regular representations at meetings a challenge.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using

language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.)
Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future? We are continually investigating ways in which we can better support our neighbors and our natural surroundings. We recently became an ONA congregation. We have yearly hikes in the woods where we learn from a Forester/Ecologist (member of the congregation) about the intricacies of ecosystems. We participate in Orientation events for Michigan Tech, where we hand out “God is still speaking,” items and let students know that we are excited to meet them. We are active in community/university conversations and demonstrations regarding cultural and racial bias. We strive to make modifications to our services in order for everyone to equally access the information and the experience.

Describe your congregation’s participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

PLUC participates in the Cooperative Campus Ministry with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, The Canterbury House (Episcopal), and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Other groups that intermittently attend the meetings/events include the Jewish Congregation, the Muslim Student Association, the Indian Student Association, the African Student Association, and others. Large annual events include the progressive dinner, free food giveaways during Michigan Tech’s Winter Carnival all-nighter, and a spring outreach event. Together, the churches support one another’s advocacy efforts, often attending each others’ events as interests are generally similar.

In the past six years, PLUC and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have shared services, especially during Lent, Good Friday, and other special services. This has included alternating building/Pastor use during Wednesday evening Lenten services.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

PLUC Mission Statement:

Portage Lake United Church is
Rooted in the Trinity
Growing in God's Word
Branching out to those in need
Nourished by many waters

What our mission statement equates to:

Portage Lake United Church is
Rooted in the Trinity = Adhering to Lectionary and quality in Sunday Services
Growing in God's Word = Fellowship with one another
Branching out to those in need = Multiple forms of community action
Nourished by many waters = Ecumenical elements, drawing energy from nature and fellow faith communities

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time?

We hope a new pastor would serve in a supporting role to the many efforts of our congregation. We do not hope for or expect a new pastor to serve in a primary role on any specific mission, as energy and time would quickly become depleted. Rather, we would hope that, led by their own calling, they would willingly become active in our community, taking part in the complex conversations that the world is facing today. We hope that a new pastor would be passionate about collaborating with and continuing to bolster our existing partnerships. Through their interest in humanity and the natural world, we hope our pastor would naturally highlight how God is working through us, and our church, in today's world.

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation's MissionInsite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown?

**Our church was missing from the MissionInsite database - we are awaiting word back from UCC for access to the data. In its place, we have looked up data from the 2016 census for our county.

We have an interestingly diverse population, considering the small size of our town. This is due to the University's influence on our population. Within Houghton (city), there is a large number of residents with post-secondary education, many of whom work for the university in some capacity. However, there are others who are not using their degree and are simply interested in staying in the area due to the location, community, and outdoor recreation. There is a large socioeconomic divide in this area - which is typical in more rural areas. As a church, we are very aware of the disparity and work to provide multiple forms of support to those who are seeking resources for food, shelter, clothing, safety, etc.

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

We are similar to the neighborhood close to our church, because we are directly adjacent to the university. Our demographics are college educated, majority caucasian, and middle to upper middle class. However, the surrounding communities outside of the Houghton area are less educated and lower socioeconomic class.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

We are constantly listening to what the various needs are of our many types of populations. Within a 15 minute radius, we have two college campuses, high end housing, multiple nursing homes, homelessness, rural self-designated hermits, and everything in between. As needs arise, we strive to begin conversations on how to best address surfacing issues. Specifically, through the New Beginnings Angel Mission, our community is provided free food, clothing, and household items. PLUC provides direct assistance with budgeting and management of the Mission. The region has a dichotomy in economics with a large portion of the population suffering from poverty, the Angel Mission serves this community, as well as students and the elderly. Our congregation supports the Angel Mission financially and with volunteer hours. Some members work at least one day a week at the mission. The outreach and accomplishments of the Angel Mission have been highly impactful and this mission has been recognized in the surrounding counties as a very valuable service to the community.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

Open, welcoming, inviting

Willing to help out whenever necessary

A safe place

A "staple on the landscape" (referring to how long the church has been in existence)

Very convenient location

Highly collaborative

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

“It was friendly - I felt welcomed right away”

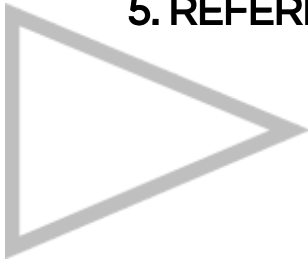
“They don’t judge”

“The music is wonderful”

“You can tell that love exists here”

“Everyone is warm and inviting”

5. REFERENCES



Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1

Rene Johnson / Servant Leadership Director, Assistant Professor Religion / Finlandia University
(906-487-7558 / rene.johnson@finlandia.edu / Friend, Substitute Pastor)

[Reference letter attached at end.]

REFERENCE 2

Bucky Beach / Pastor / Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
(906-281-0335 (cell) 906-482-5410 (office) / bsbeach@mtu.edu / Friend, Shares pastoral duties at Christmas/Lent)

[Reference letter attached at end.]

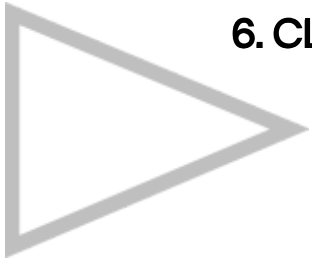
PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church’s ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church’s ministry.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this church’s ministry.

Anything else you wish to share.



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Include here any prayer or dream for the minister you imagine journeying toward you... a poem, for example, or a Scripture passage or a piece of music that is meaningful to your Search Committee:

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile? *(for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.)*

The pastor search committee, with help from the Consistory clerk, church treasurer, and church secretary for the financial information and some of the statistics.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Rob MacDougall". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Name / Title: Rev. Rob MacDougall/Associate Conference Minister

Email: rmacdougall@wcucc.org

Phone: 715-308-6120

Date: November 2, 2018

This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

"Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God!'" – Mark 11:22

STATEMENT

We are interested in the pastor serving a role of support and guidance. Committees are more enthusiastic if the pastor takes interest in them; They do not need to take a primary or active role, but need to be supportive and interested in development.

people involved in the service:

In addition to pastor and musician,

children's sermon (1)

prayer of intercession/prayer of people (1)

lector/reader (1)

ushers (2)

coffee (2)

nursery (1-2)

communion (2)

choir (6-20)

*sometimes people serve more than one role on a Sunday

Sincere, open, inclusive, welcoming, active, committed

Maturity, intelligence, community action, accepting of person of all backgrounds,

compassionate for the ill/elderly

We are growing: new families with young children - we are on an upward trend for membership and involvement

11 August 2018

To potential pastoral candidates at Portage Lake United Church, Houghton, MI:

My name is Dr. René Johnson. I am Assistant Professor of Religion at Finlandia University in Hancock, MI. I have agreed to serve as a community reference for PLUC, offering my own perspective on the ministry of PLUC and making myself available to pastoral candidates who wish to learn about PLUC during the congregation's pastoral search process. I can be reached via

email, rene.johnson@finlandia.edu, or by phone at 906-483-3932 (cell).

My comments below are based on my experiences of either preaching or worshipping at PLUC during my thirteen years in the community. Over the years I've developed relationships with some of the congregation's members through whom I've gained some insight into the congregation.

Areas of strength in this church's ministry

1) Hunger for the word: In recent years the congregation has been blessed with a pastor who, in my mind, was the best preacher in the area. The preaching was theologically sound and she reliably delivered a relevant, well-crafted sermon. But the quality of the former pastor's preaching also says something about the congregation – that they appreciate and desire (and can handle) a sermon that is substantive.

2) Willingness to stretch their faith: This congregation is not dominated by a stale faith atmosphere. There are enough people in the PLUC community who are actively engaged in issues of social concern and will be a PLUC presence that takes action in the community. Also, it is an ecumenical group with a mostly progressive-leaning gathering of people.

3) Lay involvement: Another quality of the church that I've observed is there is lay involvement in Sunday worship. I certainly observed this when they were in transition and covering the Sunday worship, but even at other times there is great involvement in reading, ushering, announcements, fellowship, etc.

4) Hospitality: This is a welcoming congregation. The architecture of the worship space is helpful in setting up a shared experience of worship, but without the right people it would still be cold.

Areas for improvement in this church's ministry

1) Attracting new members: I don't actually have any statistics on this, but it's a small crowd whenever I've been there. This challenge is not unique to PLUC. Attracting new members (especially younger singles and families), I assume, needs attention. I don't remember seeing very many young people in the congregation. 2) Biblical literacy: Again, I don't have any data to draw upon other than conversations with members where it's evident that though they are really faithful members of the church, their biblical literacy is a bit slim. Of course, this is not a challenge unique to PLUC. Describe a significant experience you have had with this church's ministry Other than interacting with members in outside community activities, the only ministry of the church I've been involved with is worship. As such, this is not so much a specific experience, but the worship always seems to be engaging both the word and the world.



To: Pastor Nominating Committee

From: Pastor Bucky Beach

Date: Sept 14, 2018

Thank you for asking me to be a reference and to address some areas of ministry re: Portage Lake United Church. As I think back, I have had a significant relationship with the people of, and the ministry of, PLUC since about 2002, but my involvement goes back to about 1997. I have had good relationships with your clergy since Phil Nancarrow's days!

In recent times, the professional relationship with PLUC has revolved around the Cooperative Campus Ministry organization, the Canterbury House, working together on special community-social justice oriented matters, and doing joint worship services (with Good Shepherd) during both Advent, Lent and Holy Week (evening services).

Following are some thoughts that address the areas you asked me to respond to.

- There are a small number of congregations / denominations willing to reach out to minister to and provide both pastoral and prophetic ministry to individuals and the wider community in the areas of social justice, inclusivity and welcome to marginalized people. PLUC has been willing to do that, and our community needs that ministry to continue.
- For years I have advocated that the ministries of Portage Lake United, Trinity Episcopal and Good Shepherd Lutheran work together both formally and informally. We are better together than we are separately. In the area of campus ministry, Canterbury House provides a context for working together, as does Cooperative Campus Ministry. Members of PLUC have been supportive in many ways. Congregationally, it has become a custom for us to alternate locations for evening services during Lent and Holy Week, and to a lesser extent, Advent.

As far as actual formal relationship goes with other denominations, it is important to keep our minds open to whatever the future may hold. In the past, when it was suggested the Pastor at Good Shepherd possibly serve both places (early 2000s), the timing was not right for us. But

that is only one paradigm – there are others that could be explored in how we work together. Our denominations are in full communion status with one another, and the time may come for us to talk about what it could mean to blend our congregations, or do more together on a formal basis.

- PLUC is similar to most congregations these days. It has a small group of committed yet aging people. It has a mix of younger to middle age people and a handful of youth. It has a solid core upon which to build. The attention to “quality” at PLUC in areas such as music and worship is notable. The property is well cared for and strategically located, though it suffers, like many of us do, with inadequate parking.

- I believe the people at PLUC are open to exploring ways to be present and relevant to the community besides taking care of the needs of individual members. PLUC must find ways to “reach” people looking for a Christian congregation that offers a healthy and progressive theology. In the U.P. there are possibly not enough UCC and Presbyterian people around to maintain a congregation and clergy on a full-time basis who are just interested in traditional church. It will be important for the pastor and people of PLUC to be willing to explore new paradigms. It is difficult to grow with a part-time pastor. It is difficult to grow with a full-time pastor! Expectations must be realistic. Ministry must be shared by the congregation. (This comes from someone who has always had a part-time call to Good Shepherd.)

- How is the connection to MTU and campus ministry understood by the members of PLUC? That relationship might be its biggest strength. Here at Good Shepherd we have had financial support from our churchwide organization and its predecessor bodies since 1960. The congregation members have always been fully committed to campus ministry, but it has been made easier by the financial support made available through the ELCA. I wonder if PLUC has explored those options with the Presbyterian or UCC bodies?

I hope this has been helpful. PLUC and Good Shepherd have worked together for many years, and that also took time and work to develop. It is certainly my hope that our relationship will continue!

Sincerely,

Pastor Bucky Beach
906-281-0335 (cell)
906-482-5410 (office)