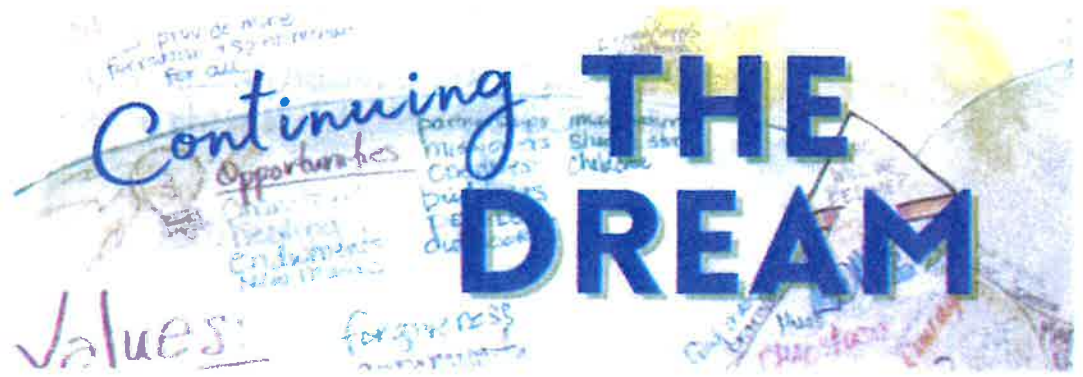




128th Annual Convention  
October 25-26, 2024



**Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan**  
**128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
October 25-26, 2024

Friday, October 25, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marquette  
201 E Ridge St, Marquette, MI 49855

- 1:00 – 1:50 Workshop 1: Mutual Ministry and the Franciscan Way – Thomas Steffensen
- 2:00 – 2:50 Workshop 2: Welcoming Spaces for Children – Sarah Diener-Schlitt
- 3:00 – 3:50 Workshop 3: Freeing People to Dream: Dismantling Colonial Thinking – Leora Tadgerson
- 4:00 – 5:30 Break for Dinner (on your own)
- 5:30 – 6:30 Welcome Reception
- 6:30 – 8:00 Eucharist

Saturday, October 26, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee  
520 US-41, Negaunee, MI 49866

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 – 11:45 Convention convenes with song, prayer, "Invitation to Dream 1," Bishop's Address, elections, reports & resolutions
- 11:45 – 12:00 Address by Bradley S. Hauff, Episcopal Church Missioner for Indigenous Ministries (via Zoom)
- 12:00 – 12:30 Invitation to Dream 2
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch, Fellowship, Budget Q&A/Conversation
- 1:30 – 2:00 "Invitation to Dream 3"
- 2:00 – 3:30 Convention business including reports from the Trust, Treasurer, General Convention deputies, Living Waters Cooperative; and adoption of the 2025 budget, "Invitation to Dream 4"
- 3:30 Adjourn & Dismissal

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan  
Annual Convention  
October 25-26

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Fee of \$30.00 includes Delegate registration, Friday evening reception, Saturday light breakfast and Saturday lunch.

Delegate (D) and Visitor (V) Names

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to:

Diocese of Northern Michigan  
131 E Ridge St.  
Marquette, MI 49855

Questions? Please contact Kathy at 906.228.7160 or email  
[kathy@upepiscopal.org](mailto:kathy@upepiscopal.org)

# Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan 2025 Budget

Approved by Diocesan Council - October 12, 2024

## REVENUE

1	Apportionment to Diocese from Congregations	170,456
2	Contributions to the UPMF from Congregations	279,788
3	Trust Funds for Diocesan Budget	467,963
4	Trust Funds for support of UPMF	392,579
5	Trust Funds to support DRJ	122,052
6	Trust Bookkeeping Contribution	16,750
7	Grant Income	
8	Evan. Lutheran Church of America	21,600
9	The Episcopal Church	30,000
10	Other Income	
11	Interest Income	200
12	Misc Income	500
14	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,501,888</b>

## 15 EXPENSES

<b>16 Program Beyond the Diocese</b>		
17	Denominational Apportionment	150,313
18	Province V Apportionment	3,300
		<b>153,613</b>
<b>19 Support of Diocesan Mission</b>		
20	Diocesan Staff	
	(Bp, Canon to the Ordinary, Finance)	402,550
21	Accounting Consultant	6,000
24	Professional conferences	3,000
23	Payroll Taxes Staff	15,752
		427,302
25	Office Operation	
26	Postage	750
27	Supplies	3,000
28	Telephone	2,500
29	Utilities - Electric	1,300
30	Utilities - Gas	2,000
31	Utilities - Water	700
32	Guesthouse Apt combined utilities	3,000
33	Internet	800
34	Web Site	1,000
35	Bank Service Fees	250
		15,300
37	Insurance	
38	Office Ins- Property/Umbrella	5,000
39	Office Ins - Workers Comps	3,500
40	Auto Insurance (diocesan owned)	8,700
41	Key Leader Insurance	1,200
		18,400
42	Office Building/Grounds	
43	Maintenance - Labor	2,500
44	Maintenance - Supplies	800
45	Building Repairs	1,500

46	Snow Removal	1,500
47	Rent/Mortgage	26,000
		<u>32,300</u>
48	<b>Office Equipment/Maintenance</b>	
49	Accounting Software & Support	2,500
50	Copier - Maintenance & Supplies	1,200
51	Computer Support & Software	2,700
52	Equipment - Major Purchases	3,900
53	Video Conf subscriptions	3,400
		<u>13,700</u>
54	<b>Canonical Expenses</b>	
55	Annual Audit	6,000
56	Convention Journal	100
57	Annual Convention	3,500
58	Commission on Ministry	300
59	Diocesan Council	500
60	Standing Committee	300
61	Title IV Structure	1,000
62	Chancellor Network	250
63	Transitions Min Conf	1,000
		<u>12,950</u>
64	<b>Trust Association Expenses</b>	
65	Trust Association meeting expense	400
		<u>400</u>
66	<b>Total Diocesan Administration/Mission</b>	<b>520,352</b>
67	<b>Support of Diocesan Program</b>	
68	Justice and Peace Ministries	500
69	Combined Committees expenses	1,000
70	Diocesan Conferences	2,000
71	Resources	1,000
72	Visitors Hospitality	1,000
74	Youth Ministry	5,000
75	Living Waters Cooperative	2,000
76	Visitors Weekend(s)	2,000
77	MSTYC	4,000
78	Staff retreat(s)	2,000
79	<b>Total Program</b>	<u>20,500</u>
80	<b>Communications</b>	
81	Communications Consultant	12,000
82	<b>Mission Personnel Expenses</b>	
83	Missioners working w/congregations	672,367
84	DRJ position approved by Council	123,056
		<u>795,423</u>
85	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,501,888</b>
86	<b>Net Total</b>	

## Minutes of the 127th Annual Convention

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Escanaba  
October 20-21, 2023

### Friday, October 20

#### Call to Order

The Convention opened with Charles Murphy leading us in song. Following the opening song, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. by Bishop Rayford Ray and the Land Acknowledgement: *As we gather today, let us remember that we in the Diocese of Northern Michigan acknowledge the sacred land where we work, live, teach, learn, and build community. This land is the territory of the Anishnaabe people. We recognize the repeated violations of sovereignty, territory, and water, perpetrated by European and other settlers that have impacted the original inhabitants of this land. We extend our respect to citizens of these First Nations People who live here and their ancestors who have lived here for over five hundred generations, and to all Indigenous people. We also know that this acknowledgement is insufficient. It does not undo the harm that has been done and continues to be perpetrated now against Indigenous people, their land, air, and water.*

#### Appointment of Parliamentarian

Bishop Ray appointed Richard Graybill as Parliamentarian for the Convention.

#### Recommendation of adoption of Order of Business and Rules of Order

R Graybill recommended the adoption of the Order of Business and the Rules of Order for the Convention. *Motion to adopt was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### Appointment of Secretary

Bishop Ray appointed Kathy Binoniemi as Convention Secretary.

#### Report of Registration Committee

The Registration Committee reported the presence of a quorum with 16 congregations being represented.

#### Approval of Minutes

*Motion to approve the written minutes of the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, held October 22, 2022 was made by M Cutaiar, seconded by M Luckey. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### Elections - Announce and Receive Nominations

Wyndeth Davis announced the nominations for various leadership positions. She explained the procedure for accepting nominations from the floor.

Nominations received for **Diocesan Treasurer**: 1 nomination to fill the one-year term – Dick Graybill.

Nominations for **Diocesan Council**: 3 3-year terms are open. Nominees: Jon Flath, Kristen Mowafy, Bonnie Turner.

**Trust Association**: *Motion to affirm the appointments of Tom Lippart and Ron Smith to the Trust Association by Bishop Ray was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion was made to close the nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### Introduction of guests and newcomers to Convention

Lydia Bucklin recognized guests that were attending our Convention as part of Visitors' Weekend. Attendees were from Bexley Seabury Seminary, South Dakota, Diocese of Texas, Virginia Theological Seminary, Diocese of Central Gulf Coast, Shaneequa Brokenleg, and Leah Wiste from MI Interfaith Power and Light.

The business portion of the evening concluded and attendees all gathered to celebrate Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm.

## **Saturday, October 21**

### **Convention Opens**

Bp Ray reconvened the Convention at 9:30 am with the Land Acknowledgement. Our guest from Kenya, a student at Bexley Seabury in Chicago and a drummer led us in song and a brief reflection.

### **Chaplain's Reflection**

David Chappel offered reflections on our connection to one another and how we need to be intentional about our identity as one in spirit. Charles Murphy led us in song to close the reflection.

### **Bishop's Address**

Bishop Ray gave his address reflecting on memories of his wife Sue's son's baptism and its impact.

### **Walking Together: Finding Common Ground**

Leora Miskopwaaganikwe Tadgerson introduced the Traveling Exhibit project. We watched a video of an interview with one of the survivors of the Indigenous Boarding Schools in Michigan that is part of this exhibit. Very heart wrenching interview. The Traveling Exhibit is scheduled to open on Saturday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> with a gathering at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community with a formal apology given by Bishop Ray to the tribal nations.

### **Prayers**

Shaneequa Brokenleg led us in Prayers of the People.

### **James A. Kelsey Awards for Justice and Peace**

The recipients of this year's awards were Tom Biron, Earl Meshigaud, Lean Wiste and Feeding America West Michigan.

### **Chaplain Reflection**

D Chappel reflected on a part of Martin Laird's "Into the Silent Land: The Practice of Contemplation".

### **Announcement of Committees and Commission on Ministry Membership**

G Mannisto asked attendees to refer to the paper included in their folders for a list of the committee conveners, appointments for 2023 and the offices and members of the Disciplinary Board. Motion to affirm the appointments was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Nancy Olexick and Mary Sullivan were thanked for the time that they served on Diocesan Council, and thanks were extended to all who have served on various diocesan committees.

### **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the 2023 Budget**

Dick Graybill noted that reports have been sent out monthly and that the diocese is doing well. He noted that there is a \$52,000 shortfall but deployment changes – Hoover Foundation funding the Director of Reparations and Justice position will flip the budget and there will be a surplus of \$60,000. This year a committee grappled with preparing the budget. A workshop that took place during the lunch break offered a time for anyone to ask questions regarding the budget. *D Graybill entertained a motion to adopt the 2023 Budget as presented, motion was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **Workshops**

Attendees were offered several workshops:

1. UP Wild Church hosted by Lanni Lantto
2. Healing and Relationship Building with Indigenous Communities hosted by Miskopwaaganikwe (Leora) Tadgerson
3. Music that Makes Community hosted by Charles Murphy

### **Reconvene - Closing Business**

#### **Presentation by Title of Resolution**

Be it resolved that this 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan meeting at St. Stephen's Church in Escanaba, Michigan on October 20 and 21, 2023, affirm, endorse, accept, and authorize

the adoption of these referred resolutions from the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, July 8 – 11, 2022. Be it resolved we will support the leadership, Diocesan Council, and this 127<sup>th</sup> Convention to engage the necessary action required by these Referred Resolutions of the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Be it resolved that of the ninety-three diocesan referred resolutions passed, that those listed below are the resolutions that require each diocese in The Episcopal Church to a specific action and this 127<sup>th</sup> convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan is charged to authorize and confirm the implementation of the designated action.

Be it resolved that we, the delegates to the 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan accept the charge of these referred Resolution in total and may it further be resolved to accept and authorize the required action as defined in each resolution.

*Arlene Gordanier moved to adopt as a whole, the Resolutions presented in writing to the convention.*

*Seconded by Rick Stanitis. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **Reports**

Bp Ray introduced:

- **Leah Wiste from Michigan Interfaith Power and Light.** She gave a brief report on their work nothing they are focused on reducing climate pollution, expanding renewable energy, healing broken relationships.
- **Steve Mulder from Solar Faithful.** It was a group created by MI Interfaith Power and Light and began about 6 months ago. Of the 9,000 houses of worship in Michigan, less than 100 have solar. To date that have completed 6 projects with 2 additional contracts signed. 100 more are interested. Lots of conversations taking place, lots of discussion. Takes time to build trust. In our area, Christ Church, Calumet and St. Paul's, Marquette have reached out for more information. If a congregation is interested, fill out an interest form and send in a utility bill to get the process started.
- **Ken Estelle, Executive Director of Feeding America West Michigan.** FAWM works to provide equitable access to healthy, safe food. 5 yr goal was to have less people attending each event. In 2022 there were 133 distributions, in 2023 it rose to 152. They want to do less. Traditional food pantries have seen a decrease of 20% while mobile pantry attendance is up 35%. He noted that mobile food ministry is even more important and he's very honored to be a part of this work.

## **Time and Place of the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

Bp Ray announced our 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be held October 25 and 26, 2025 in Marquette.

## **Closing Reflection**

D Chappel led the closing reflections urging us not to risk the reality of unbounded freedom and unlimited love with cages of worry, scarcity, and perfection. Charles Murphy led us in song.

## **Dismissal**

The gathering was dismissed by Deacon Coralie Voce.

## **Adjournment**

The Convention adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Binohiemi,

Convention Secretary

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

## **Resolution 1 -**

### ***To amend the Canons of the Diocese to allow for recognizing “Partner Spiritual Communities”***

***Submitted by: Commission on Ministry***

#### ***Rationale:***

The Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan proposes a change to our diocesan canons to allow for non-congregational entities to be formally recognized as participating members of our community. We believe that by making ourselves hospitable and expecting of new and innovative forms of community and discipleship, we might allow for new ministries to flourish within our diocese.

#### ***Resolution:***

**Resolved, that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portions of Canon XV to read:**

#### **CANON XV -- CONGREGATIONS AND PARTNER SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES**

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan add Canon XV, Section 13 to read**

#### ***Section 13 -- Establishment of PARTNER SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES***

*(a) If an organization, chaplaincy, or intentional community formed or to be formed for religious, educational or charitable purposes within or in cooperation with this diocese desires to enter into an agreement with the diocese as a Partner Spiritual Community, such organization shall file an application with the diocese on forms approved by the Bishop.*

*The application form must include the following:*

- Mission, visions, and values of the applying Partner Spiritual Community*
- History of the applying Partner Spiritual Community*
- Summary of conversations between the applying ministry and any other cooperating ministries*
- The terms upon which the cooperating ministry shall be governed under relevant state and federal statutes, including a complete copy of its proposed by-laws.*
- A statement pledging to follow the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese of Northern Michigan when participating in diocesan governance.*

*(b) If the Bishop determines that the purposes and activities of the organization, chaplaincy, or intentional community are sufficiently related to those of the diocese and that the organization should be considered for designation as a Partner Spiritual Community, an Agreement for Designation as a Partner Spiritual Community shall be executed by the organization and the diocese, which, among other items, shall contain the following provisions:*

- 1. The Agreement shall not be effective until it is approved by the action of the Diocesan Council. Upon such approval, the agreement shall be deemed provisionally approved, and in temporary effect until such time as it is ratified by the Diocesan Convention at its next regular meeting.*
- 2. The organization shall be required to deliver to the diocesan council within sixty (60) days after the end of its fiscal year an annual report describing its activities and present a financial statement for such fiscal year, including an operating statement in reasonable detail and a balance sheet.*



3. *The Agreement shall be effective for one year and may be renewed for annual periods ending September 30, upon agreement by the organization and approval by the Diocesan Council acting upon the recommendation of the Bishop, but only if the organization shall have been in compliance with the agreement and if the Bishop determines that the activities of the organization and the continued use of the title Cooperating Ministry by the organization is consistent with the mission and purpose of the diocese.*

4. *The Agreement may be dissolved at any time by the Bishop in consultation with Diocesan Council or by the Partner Spiritual Community.*

## **Resolution 2 -**

### ***Constitution***

### ***To amend the of the Diocese to allow for full participation of of “Partner Spiritual Communities” in the life of the diocese***

***Submitted by: Commission on Ministry***

#### ***Rationale:***

The Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan proposes a change to our diocesan constitution to allow for non-congregational entities to have full participation in the life and governance of our diocesan community. We believe that members of new and innovative forms of community and discipleship have gifts and wisdom to offer that will contribute to the growth and positive adaptation of our diocese..

#### ***Resolution:***

**Resolved, that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article VII of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article VII --** Every baptized person of the Diocese *and all members of congregations and Partner Spiritual Communities* shall have the right of a seat and a voice in the Convention.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article VIII of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

#### **Article VIII --**

1. Each Congregation in this Diocese which has or hereafter shall, by its Charter or Articles of Association, expressly accede to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of The Episcopal Church in this Diocese, shall be admitted into union, and shall be entitled to send to the Convention as many as four delegates.
2. *Each Partner Spiritual Community in this Diocese that has entered into an agreement with the diocese and bishop, shall be entitled to send to the Convention as many as four delegates.*
3. Each delegate to the Convention shall be an adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation in union with the Convention of this Diocese and/or a member of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese *and/or a member of a Partner Spiritual Community.*
4. Each delegate shall have one vote.

5. A certificate of appointment of the delegates, signed by a Warden or Secretary of the Vestry of a congregation or Leader of a Partner Spiritual Community shall be presented to the Secretary of the Convention before such delegation shall be deemed to be present at the Convention.
6. Delegates from any Congregation or Partner Spiritual Community shall be entitled to vote at the same Convention at which the Congregation or Partner Spiritual Community has been admitted.
7. No person who is under Ecclesiastical censure or process shall be a delegate to the Convention.
8. Delegations from ten (10) Congregations or Partner Spiritual Communities shall constitute a quorum for any Convention, regular or special.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article IX of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article IX** -- Questions of Constitutional amendment, Election of a Bishop, and votes requested by a majority of delegates from 3 Congregations and/or Partner Spiritual Communities shall require votes by a single ballot resulting in both of the following:

- (1) A 2/3 majority of all votes cast.
- (2) A simple majority of all delegations of the diocese present.

A majority of delegations shall be determined as follows: Each delegation shall caucus and vote as a unit. A simple majority of the Congregation's and/or Partner Spiritual Community's delegates shall determine that delegation's vote. In the event the delegation is unable to render a majority opinion, the delegation's vote shall be recorded as a negative vote.

All other matters before the Convention shall be by a simple majority vote of all delegates.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article X of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article X** -- The Standing Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, at least three (3) of which shall be members of the Clergy, and at least three (3) Lay persons, each of whom is an adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese or a member of a Partner Spiritual Community. Each year the same number of members shall be elected for three (3) years as the number whose terms expire that year. At their first meeting, they shall choose one of their members to be President, and another of their members to be Secretary. At all meetings, a majority of members shall constitute a quorum. *Not more than one lay and one clergy member may be from Partner Spiritual Communities and they may not serve as President. If the Partner Spiritual Community Agreement is dissolved or not renewed then the term or any member from that Community will end at the time that the Agreement ends.*

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep faithful record of all their proceedings and report such proceedings to the Convention at its annual meeting; to preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the committee, to attest to their acts; and to deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received.

The minutes of the committee, and all papers in their hands relative to the Church, shall be subject to the examination of the Bishop and of the Convention. They shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur in their body for the unexpired term.

The Standing Committee shall perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese or of the General Convention.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article XI of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article XI** -- The election of a Bishop of this Diocese shall be made in an annual Convention or in a special Convention called for that purpose. At least sixty (60) days before the time of the Special Convention, the Secretary of the Standing Committee shall send written notices of the Special Convention, which notice expressly states the purpose of the Special Convention, to every Vestry *and leaders of every Partner Spiritual Community* in the Diocese. The election of a Bishop shall follow the voting procedures identified in Article IX of this Constitution. In the event of a special Convention, each Congregation *and Partner Spiritual Community* will determine its own delegation.

# **Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan**

## **NOMINATIONS**

### **2024 Diocesan Convention**

#### **Candidates for Diocesan Council**

*Headed by the Bishop, the Diocesan Council deliberates between Diocesan Conventions overseeing administrative matters of the diocese. Three positions are open for election.*

#### **Wendy Wils – Trinity, Gladstone**

Wendy was born and raised an Episcopalian, baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church in Munising where she attended services until she was confirmed there in 1975. "I have always had a strong faith and belief in God, and knew that if God were not in my life, I would not be as blessed as I am."

She found her way back to church in 1981 when her fiancé at the time and husband now, started attending Trinity Episcopal Church in Gladstone. They were married there in 1982 and had both of their children baptized and confirmed there. They attended regularly and Trinity became a part of their family.

After getting married and having two children, she decided to go back to college. While working part time and raising two children with the help of her husband, she graduated from Bay de Noc Community College in 1994 with two degrees, an A.A.S. in Information Processing and an A.A.S. in Business. Her intentions after graduation were to spend the summer with her two children then start looking for work as soon as they went back to school in the Fall. However, she was hired at Independent Machine Company in Gladstone, eleven days after she graduated, on July 11, 1994. She worked for IMC until her retirement on February 28, 2020.

She has been a part of the Ministry Support Team at Trinity, Gladstone for many years as Diaconal coordinator and Hospitality coordinator, and she is currently part of a new generation Covenant Group, where she has accepted the calling as Preacher. She looks forward to this new adventure with God and her church as her guide.

#### **Ann Turney – All Saints, Newberry**

Ann was baptized at All Saints in 1958 and confirmed at age 11. She has had multiple roles since moving home to Newberry 8 years ago. They include grant writer, secretary, and the current Senior Warden.

She is currently semi-retired and is the president of the local 4-H Council. She enjoys working with children in environmental and animal education.

#### **Coralie Voce – St. Paul's, Marquette**

Nominated by Kristen Mowafy who writes: "I have known Coralie for 20- years as a member in good standing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. She has served on several Diocesan committees including Women's Ministry Council, Episcopal Church Women, and Youth Council. She is a member of the current covenant group and has been a Deacon for many years. She has a curious mind and enjoys both learning and sharing her knowledge base with her friends and colleagues. It is my opinion that Coralie Will be a vital addition to the Diocesan Council."

## **Candidates for Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop. It serves as the bishop's council of advice. Half of its members are clerical, half are lay.*

### **Katie Chipman-Bergsma – St. James, Sault Ste. Marie (non-ordained)**

Katie is a member of St. James, Sault Ste. Marie. She attended throughout her childhood and now as an adult is very active. She serves on the Vestry and Ministry Support Team, has served on Diocesan Council and attended the General Convention in Louisville, KY as a deputy from the diocese.

She is active in the community as a Cubmaster to the local Cub Scout Pack and she is the chair of the League of Women Voters EUP.

Katie is the mother of 2 children and is a Michigan Certified Assessing Officer working as a Contract Data Specialist.

### **Karen Ettenhofer – St. Stephen's, Escanaba (ordained)**

Karen was nominated by Arlene Gordanier who writes: 'Karen has served on the Standing Committee previously, and those of us who share this commitment are thankful for her commitment, her energy, wisdom, and deep listening. Karen serves with the heart of a deacon in ministry to the diocese and beyond. The Standing Committee as a body of advice to the bishop and having oversight of policies and procedures is blessed to have members who are steeped in diaconal ministry. Karen bring her many gifts, energy, and love for the Diocese of Northern Michigan and God's Creation to this committee and its work.'

### **Wyndeth Davis – Christ Church, Calumet (non-ordained)**

Nancy Auer of Christ Church nominated Wyndeth and wrote: Wyndeth has been serving on the Standing Committee and wishes to continue. We support her energy and her willingness.

### **Rick Stanitis – Trinity, Houghton (non-ordained)**

Nominated by Sarah Diener-Schlitt who writes: "Rick's involvement in parish life and leadership at Trinity in Houghton, his role as missionary at Canterbury House, and his involvement in the wider Episcopal Church leadership all provide countless skills for his presence on Standing Committee. He acts as a bridge and relationship builder between the aspirations of diocesan hopes and reams and the realities of on the ground ministry – this is a strength and asset for both the diocese and the Keweenaw community."

### **Mary Miron – Grace, Menominee (ordained)**

Nominated by Bonnie Turner. "I would like to nominate Mary Miron to Diocesan Standing Committee. Mary is an active member of Grace Episcopal Church in Menominee. She is a priest and preacher on our Ministry Support Team. For a number of years, she has served on the altar guild. Mary has served on the vestry and at the present time as the Senior Warden. Mary worked for 25 years as a CNA at the Luther Home.

She is a person of great faith that se lives every day. She is a committed and faithful person of God and would be a contributing member of the Diocesan Standing Committee.

## **Candidate for Treasurer**

### **Dick Graybill – St. Paul's, Marquette**

Nominated by Jan Edwards. Dick was a long-time member of Grace Church, Ishpeming, a member of the ministry support team, and functioned as a presbyter. Now while Grace Church is in transition, he has joined the congregation of St. Paul's. He has been the Treasurer of the Diocese since 1976. He has also served on several committees at General Convention as well as in the diocese. He has two daughters and continues to practice law.

## The Dream of Wesley Frensdorff

Let us dream of a church  
in which all members know surely and simply God's great love,  
and each is certain that in the divine heart we are all known by name.  
In which Jesus is very Word, our window into the Father's heart;  
the sign of God's hope and his design for all humankind.  
In which the Spirit is not a party symbol, but wind and fire in everyone;  
gracing the church with a kaleidoscope of gifts and constant renewal for all.

A church in which  
worship is lively and fun as well as reverent and holy;  
and we might be moved to dance and laugh; to be solemn, cry or beat the breast.  
People know how to pray and enjoy it -- frequently and regularly, privately and corporately,  
in silence and in word and song.  
The Eucharist is the center of life and servanthood the center of mission:  
the servant Lord truly known in the breaking of the bread.  
With service flowing from worship, and everyone understanding  
why a worship is called a service.

Let us dream of a church  
in which the sacraments, free from captivity by a professional elite,  
are available in every congregation regardless of size, culture, location or budget.  
In which every congregation is free to call forth from its midst priests and deacons,  
sure in the knowledge that training and support services are available to back them up.  
In which the Word is sacrament too, as dynamically present as bread and wine;  
members, not dependent on professionals, know what's what and who's who in the Bible,  
and all sheep share in the shepherding.  
In which discipline is a means, not to self-justification, but to discipleship  
and law is known to be a good servant but a very poor master.

A church  
affirming life over death as much as life after death,  
unafraid of change, able to recognize God's hand in the revolutions,  
affirming the beauty of diversity, abhorring the imprisonment of uniformity,  
as concerned about love in all relationships as it is about chastity,  
and affirming the personal in all expressions of sexuality;  
denying the separation between secular and sacred, world and church,  
since it is the world Christ came to and died for.

A church  
without the answers, but asking the right questions;  
holding law and grace, freedom and authority, faith and works together in tension,  
by the Holy Spirit, pointing to the glorious mystery who is God.  
So deeply rooted in gospel and tradition that, like a living tree,  
it can swing in the wind and continually surprise us with new blossoms.

Let us dream of a church  
with a radically renewed concept and practice of ministry  
and a primitive understanding of the ordained offices.  
where there is no clerical status and no classes of Christians,  
but all together know themselves to be part of the laos-- the holy people of God.  
A ministering community rather than a community gathered around a minister.  
Where ordained people, professional or not, employed or not,  
are present for the sake of ordering and signing the church's life and mission,  
not as signs of authority or dependency, nor of spiritual or intellectual superiority,  
but with Pauline patterns of "ministry supporting church"  
instead of the common pattern of "church supporting ministry."  
Where bishops are signs and animators of the church's unity, catholicity and apostolic mission,  
priests are signs and animators of her eucharistic life and the sacramental presence of her Great  
High Priest, and deacons are signs and animators -- living reminders -- of the church's  
servanthood as the body of Christ who came as, and is, the servant slave of all God's beloved  
children.

Let us dream of a church  
so salty and so yeasty that it really would be missed if no longer around;  
where there is wild sowing of seeds and much rejoicing when they take root,  
but little concern for success, comparative statistics, growth or even survival.  
A church so evangelical that its worship, its quality of caring, its eagerness to reach out to those  
in need cannot be contained.

A church  
in which every congregation is in a process of becoming free -- autonomous -- self-reliant --  
interdependent,  
none has special status: the distinction between parish and mission gone.  
But each congregation is in mission and each Christian, gifted for ministry;  
a crew on a freighter, not passengers on a luxury liner.  
Peacemakers and healers abhorring violence in all forms (maybe even football),  
as concerned with societal healing as with individual healing; with justice as with freedom,  
prophetically confronting the root causes of social, political and economic ills.  
A community: an open, caring, sharing household of faith  
where all find embrace, acceptance and affirmation.  
A community: under judgment, seeking to live with its own proclamation;  
therefore, truly loving what the Lord commands and desiring His promise.

And finally, let us dream of a people called  
to recognize all the absurdities in ourselves and in one another,  
including the absurdity that is LOVE,  
serious about the call and the mission but not, very much, about ourselves,  
who, in the company of our Clown Redeemer can dance and sing and laugh and cry in worship,  
in ministry and even in conflict.

The Dream by Wesley Frensdorff appeared in *Reshaping Ministry: Essays in Memory of Wesley Frensdorff*  
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Episcopal Diocese  
of Northern Michigan



128<sup>TH</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

**Annual Reports**

The Year in Review

# **Becoming Beloved Community**

October, 2024

Submitted by  
Kathy Vanden Boogaard

*Becoming Beloved Community as defined by TEC: "As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we dream and work to foster Beloved Communities where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. The Becoming Beloved Community Vision Document and accompanying resources help us to understand and take up the long-term commitments necessary to form loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with each other. Together, we are growing as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers in the name of Christ".*

The Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) Team of the Diocese of Northern Michigan was born in April of 2019 when members of the Diocese's Justice and Peace Committee attended a BBC gathering in the Diocese of Ohio. This gathering inspired many of the attendants to journey together in the important work of dismantling systemic racism in our church and communities. We learned at this Province V event that efforts are going on all around the church and the Province and we were eager to share the work in our Diocese and hear from other people. Members of the BBC team include Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Arlene Gordanier, Rick Stanitis, Leora Tadjerson, and Kathy Vanden Boogaard.

In 2019, the Diocese of Northern Michigan was the recipient of an Impact grant to continue expanding our Becoming Beloved Community efforts. One of the goals for this grant was to offer a Peace Camp this past summer but due to unforeseen circumstances, it had to be postponed. Future plans are yet to be determined.

The funds received from this Becoming Beloved Community Impact grant have also allowed us to continue our commitment to the work of the United Thank Offering grant that began in 2018 and includes the completion of a traveling exhibit entitled "Walking Together Finding Common Ground" that tells the truth about our history, the church's involvement in the harm done to Indigenous peoples and includes a formal apology by Bishop Rayford Ray. The exhibit was completed early this year and additional funding from the Davenport Family Foundation has helped our staff bring this truth telling initiative to thousands of hearts and minds!

Project staff, including several Northern MI Episcopal Diocesan staff members have transported the exhibit to the following locations:

- **Jan. 26-27, 2024 at Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) in Baraga,, MI** for their Winter Pow Wow. This was the first time the exhibit was displayed and hundreds of

tribal citizens and visitors were able to experience the exhibit. The Tribe was thrilled to host it in that sacred space. Bishop Ray presented tribal council member, Rodney Loonsfoot, with the Jim Kesley Justice and Peace award during the Pow Wow and was then invited to dance alongside Loonsfoot while an honor song was played by their local drum group in honor of boarding school survivors. As they danced together in the circle, Loonsfoot carried the award in one hand and an eagle staff in the other. It was a truly moving and historic moment of coming together for Tribal and religious leadership.

- **March 11- 22, 2024 at Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Community** which included an interesting partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to utilize the exhibit as a mandatory cultural competency training for 150 of their staff members. They also invited tribal members to come on a specific day and invited their local drum group as well.
- **April 19-21, 2024 in Marquette at the Contest Pow Wow sponsored by KBIC**
- **April 26-28, 2024 at the Big Provincial Gathering in South Bend, Indiana** for all the Episcopal Dioceses in the Province V area. This was also in conjunction with a workshop that was presented by project and diocesan staff on the importance of Indigenous advocacy within the church and utilized the exhibit as an example. Hearing from Bishop Ray on the process he and the diocese developed in order to build bridges of trust with the Tribes throughout the Upper Peninsula was very impactful for participants.
- **May 28, 2024 for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians at their Niiganagizhik Center** (cultural building) for a one day event. The request was made by the Tribal Chairman himself and the event was open to the public and specially curated to suit the needs of internal tribal healing.
- **June 23-28, 2024 at the 81st General Convention of the entire Episcopal Diocese in Louisville, Kentucky.** The Exhibit panels were set up in the exhibit hall with hundreds of other booths, and even more attendees in foot traffic. It was supported and installed by two separate groups—the Episcopal Indigenous Boarding School Advocacy Commission and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. The Boarding School Advocacy Commissions are working together to develop and implement tasks within their resolutions that bring light to the genocidal era for which the church was responsible. Sarah Augustine, Executive Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, was thrilled to display multiple exhibit panels, and advocate for the ongoing support of it with passersby.  
A second location for the exhibit at the General Convention was at an Indigenous Boarding School Advocacy Talking Circle curated by the Episcopal Commissions mentioned above to discuss their progress and the work to come. Invited guests on the panel included Ruth Johnson, survivor, Johnathan Oldhorse, descendent, Deb Parker, CEO of the National Native Boarding School Healing Coalition, Dr. Veronica Pasfield, the Commission's Archival Consultant, and the Episcopal Commission co-chairs and members. The Episcopal Indigenous Ministries office did a live stream of this event, and it is currently around 8K viewers.
- **Sept. 28-30, 2024 at the Lac Vieux Desert reservation** in support of Orange Shirt Day which is the remembrance day for boarding school survivors and attendees.

Upcoming requests for the exhibit include:

- Oct. 18-19, 2024 for the Episcopal Diocese of MI Convention which will take place at Soaring Eagle in Mount Pleasant, MI. This is significant, because this was the location of a major Native boarding school.
- Oct. 25-26 for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern MI Convention in Marquette, MI

Other requests to be determined include:

- Hannahville Indian Community, near Escanaba, MI. This community has a very positive working relationship with the Diocese, as they had participated in a peace pole blessing ceremony years ago. We are excited to listen and learn their needs for intergenerational healing, and to bring this strong truth telling exhibit to their community.
- Menominee High School
- MI Tech Library
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral of Pennsylvania
- St. John's in Grand Haven
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo

Videographer, Mitch Bolo, and graphic designer, Ariel Gougeon, are both enrolled members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Mitch filmed, edited and produced each of the nine survivor and descendant videos as well as Bishop Ray's apology that are now up on our live website. Ariel developed the official project logo, graphics, layout, and created an entirely new font dedicated specifically and exclusively to the exhibit materials, all of which can be found on our live website. The website address can be found here: ["Walking Together - Finding Common Ground."](#)

The Traveling Exhibit was also featured in a news article for the Episcopal News Service (ENS) and can be found at:

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/03/14/diocese-of-northern-michigan-traveling-exhibit-shares-stories-of-indigenous-boarding-school-survivors/>

A BBC tab can be found on the Diocesan webpage and continues to be a work in progress. It includes an overview of what Becoming Beloved Community is all about, learning opportunities and available workshops, and a variety of resources focused on dismantling racism.

**Canterbury House**  
**Episcopal Assoc. for College Work**

September, 2024

Faithfully submitted, Rick Stanitis

Canterbury House at Michigan Tech is the Episcopal Campus ministry providing coffee, tea and snacks to students. Our comfortable home environment is the perfect place for conversation and English Language appointments. The ministry of hospitality and care continues to serve students in a variety of ways.

We have been busy at Canterbury House with implementing several new projects. This is the result of grants received from two generous organizations and we are very grateful to those organization and the hard-working folks who make our ministry possible.

The M E Davenport Foundation is partnering with us in establishing a new position for our campus ministry. A Development Associate has been hired to direct fundraising. This private foundation is helping us to become more financially stable and safeguarding our future of helping students.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland Michigan has helped in upgrading our space to provide meals and food to hungry students. Our weekly meal continues to be popular for students and their families to eat and gather. The church has provided a grant for converting more space for dining and gathering. This allows room for extra seating during meals to ensure that no student has to go without.

One increasingly popular ministry is the food pantry we have now moved to an in person pick up format. Students in need and unable to physically visit our pantry are still assisted with an online ordering system. All others visit in person and help themselves to pantry items. With grocery costs on the rise the pantry is growing as the need is increasing.

Wednesday dinner, without a doubt, continues to be our most popular activity of the week. A wide array of menu items from far away to local favorites feed body and spirit as students visit and share a home cooked meal together. Folks sit together and are served by other students, and with the help of hard-working volunteers 45-60 student are nurtured in community.

Most Michigan Tech events that are opportunities to inform the campus about Canterbury House are attended by our students in leadership. Along with the missioner we are happy to represent our ministry with information and a warm smile. Having a message of love and acceptance allows us to engage individuals at a level that is comfortable. It is in the honest, open and respectful conversations that students learn about us as people and the denomination that we represent.

Sometimes our campus ministry needs to go out into the local community to support all people, engage and inform others about love and acceptance. A great opportunity was at Keweenaw Pridefest held at the Hancock Beach in June 2024. The warm reception we received from the LGBTQIA+ community reminded us that people are ready to hear the basic message of the unconditional love of God.

So, no matter if it is a cup of coffee, or a crowded Wednesday dinner. A gathering on campus or in our cozy Canterbury House. All the interactions matter greatly and Canterbury House needs the support of the people in The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan to be a safe, life-giving space to the campus community. Together we create a better future for all God's children with the message of love and genuine acceptance.

Board meetings are held monthly during the academic year in person and via zoom and provide thoughtful leadership for this important ministry at Michigan Tech. Individuals who would like more information on the board or the ministry should contact Rick Stanitis at the contact information below. The members of the board are, Bishop Rayford Ray, Brad Baltensperger, Kishan Bellur, Nupur Bihari, Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Roberto Escobar, Debbie Francis, Darnishia Morris, Ian Norwood, Valeri Peyser, Ellen Seidel, Dianne and Nancy Sprague.

We would love to hear from you if you have a favorite memory of our Canterbury House or of another campus ministry. We would also like to keep in touch with you by placing you in our database and keeping you up dated of our activities here at Michigan Tech in Houghton. Please feel free to send your information to [chouse@mtu.edu](mailto:chouse@mtu.edu) or 1405 E. Houghton Ave. Houghton, MI 49931.

## **Commission on Ministry**

Submitted by  
Gin Mannisto, Chairperson for COM

The year for Commission on Ministry began with the first meeting held in November 2023. This first meeting following the convention for 2023. We try to meet every other month.

COM followed the discernment process for St. Stephen's, Escanaba and St. Paul's, Marquette, and Trinity Church, Gladstone, receiving the names of those who had been discerned and accepted the invitation.

Trinity Church in Gladstone also completed a discernment process and names of those accepting the invitation will be presented to COM.

Arlene Gordanier spent many hours working on a way to keep order for the required paperwork and training needed by members studying for commissioning and ordination. With the approval of COM, we now have a checklist and the necessary forms to be filled out available to congregations and missionaries. The COM thanks Arlene for all of her hard work.

COM has been regularly updated on the Diocesan Formation for All that has been offered. Lydia Bucklin, David Carlisle, and Brad Pickens lead the sessions. These sessions on Baptism, Liturgy, Church History, and the Governance of the Church, took place on Zoom. Many in the diocese and some outside of the diocese took advantage of the learning opportunity. Thank you to our missionaries who put a great amount of time and effort into the preparation for these sessions.

COM initiated the planning for the Ministry Support Team Yearly Conference (MSTYC) for 2024 and Visioning and Dreaming Together workshop. We invited Brother Thomas Steffensen to work with us on MSTYC and Liz Magill to help with the Visioning and Dreaming workshop.

Wyndeth Davis and David Cook were presented by Bishop Rayford Ray for Candidacy for the orders of Priest and Deacon respectively. Each candidate talked with COM about their formation process and their experience in the process. David and Wyndeth are not part of a current covenant group but have support of their congregations and take part in the existing Ministry Support Team. Wyndeth and David were both accepted with unanimous support from the COM.

## Annual Report Diocesan Council November 2023 – September 2024

**November 2023** – Welcomed new members to the Council. Reviewed the Annual Convention evaluation form and noted that the overwhelming majority of the responses were very positive. Per canon and IRS regulations, the Diocesan Council set the housing allowance for compensated clergy for 2024.

**January 2024** – Amanda Knaffla from Range Bank Trust and Wealth Management presented the 2023 Trust Report. Our account was up 21% for the year. Because of COVID the Standing Committee members whose terms were to expire were asked to extend their terms which has led to 4 terms expiring this year. The Council approved the Bishop's suggestion to have 2 of the terms expire, and two terms continue on.

**February 2024** – Bishop Ray has been reaching out to local audit firms to begin the annual audit. The Traveling Exhibit opening took place in L'Anse and Baraga on January 26/27. It was well attended and there are requests for the exhibit in other places. Leora Tadgeon stated that an official state investigation on Boarding Schools will begin in March and include 1 person from each of the United Tribes of MI. Rodney Loonsfoot will be representing the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

**March 2024** – The Episcopal News Service has published an article on the Traveling Exhibit. The Exhibit will be brought to the Big Provincial Gathering in the spring and possibly to the General Convention in June in Kentucky. Our missionary, David Carlisle has accepted a position in Arizona and will be leaving in July.

**April 2024** – A Dreamers/Visioning Gathering is being planned for June with Wyndeth Davis and Liz McGill facilitating.

**May 2024** – A special meeting was called for the council to discuss the hiring of a new missionary. He noted the hiring process is happening more quickly than anticipated. Steve Godfrey, currently working with the Diocese of North Dakota, was offered and has accepted the position being vacated by D Carlisle. Council approved unanimously. He will begin in September.

**August 2024** – Lydia Bucklin has announced she has accepted a position as the Dean and President of the Episcopal Divinity School and will begin her new job on September 1<sup>st</sup>. She was given the honorary title of "Canon Theologian" for the diocese and will continue to partner with us in teaching, formation, education, theology.



## Director of Reparations and Justice Report

### Truth telling, Healing and Bridge Building Achievements of 2024

- Walking Together: Finding Common Ground Traveling Exhibit website has gone live, with each interview accessible.
- The exhibit has traveled a total of 3,196 miles, so far! Including locations as far as Kentucky and Indiana.
- Continuous support of the development of Native American boarding school policy for The Episcopal Church through chairing the MW062 Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Boarding Schools and Advocacy.
- Identified and hired on Research Consultant, Dr. Veronica Pasfield for the boarding school commissions, as content expert not connected to TEC to gather archival materials including information contained in the Church's Archives and those of other Episcopal and non-Episcopal institutions and collect/preserve oral histories of Indigenous Episcopalian survivors and their families.
- Begun implementation of archival phase I (discovery) for TEC, which includes:
  - Locating and identifying relevant diocesan records at church facilities.
  - State and university records repositories that (may) hold diocesan records from Native American boarding schools and students.
  - Supported Research Consultant to digitize records at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) retrieval included
    - Gathering of more than 10,000 pages of records from Native American boarding schools and missions run by TEC.
      - foundational documents such as school contracts between TEC and U.S. Department of the Interior + student attendance reports for Episcopal schools.
    - Learning which type of records there are at NARA-Washington, DC for each of the initial four dioceses.
    - Making an initial pass through records that flesh out experiences of Episcopal missionaries, mission and school staff, and impacted Tribal children and families.
  - Created a Master Archive of records gathered so far from Dr. Pasfield, with collaborative efforts of Episcopal Archives director, David Halls.
  - Identifying and consulting with impacted Tribes and Tribal governmental officials.
  - Outreach email to all Episcopal Bishops.
  - Outreach email to Tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to the following Tribes:
    - Cheyenne River Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, Eastern Shoshone, Flandreau Santee Sioux, Lower Brule Sioux, Nenana Native Association of Alaska, Northern Arapaho, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Pine Ridge, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Rosebud Sioux, Santee Sioux, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Tanana Chiefs Conference of Alaska, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Yankton Sioux, Native Village of Anvik, Alaska Federation of Natives.

- Individual Zoom meetings with Episcopal diocesan staff from the following states:
  - Alaska, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.
- Individual Zoom meetings with Tribal elected officials and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.
- Begun development of Tribal Data Sovereignty Policy.
- Begun development of a grants program to fund Episcopal Native American boarding school research.
- Development of a Tribal Data Sovereignty policy
- Development of Tribal consultation from a church perspective (rather than government to government)
- Advocated for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act by working with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and Office of Governmental Relations of TEC to offer hand delivered letters for boarding school support to 33 US legislative offices.
- Begun developing a multi-phase plan for oral histories to gather information about the experiences at Episcopal Indigenous boarding schools, and connecting ongoing effects and racial disparities in Native communities present today, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.
- Offered an informational stand on the work of A127 and MW062 in the exhibit hall of general convention
- Hosted a Native American Boarding School Talking Circle Panel at General Convention that included a survivor, descendant, commission/committee co-chairs and members, Research Consultant, Dr. Veronica Pasfield and National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, CEO, Debrah Parker, reaching over 8K views online. This video will be used to support congregation training materials throughout the diocese of Northern Michigan.

## **Feeding America West Michigan**

Submitted by  
Bishop Rayford Ray

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan continues to support Feeding America West Michigan and mobile units throughout the Upper Peninsula. Last year we raised around \$100,000 in support of food distribution and also assisted in buying a refrigeration unit as part of the trucks that travel north from Grand Rapids. Volunteers come from Episcopal congregations throughout the UP. We added several sites beyond Marquette in the last few years including Iron Mountain, KI Sawyer, and Munising. Intent was to enlarge our capacity to feed more folks of all ages and to bring in fresh food items.

St. Mark's has supported the mobile site in Crystal Falls as well as participates in feeding folks on the church grounds with community partners. Christ Church in Calumet has the town's food pantry located in the undercroft of the church with support from volunteers. Trinity Church, Houghton manages a food pantry at the church. Canterbury House on the campus of Michigan Technological University also has a food pantry that serves students, faculty and others. Trinity Church in Gladstone and St. Stephen's, Escanaba provides meals to students, regularly serving around 100 students at their gatherings at Bay College.

Please let the diocesan office know if your congregation volunteers at local food pantries, has one on site or participates in Feeding America West Michigan.

Thank you for helping to feed those who are food insecure. It does make a difference.

## Justice and Peace

Submitted by  
Bishop Rayford Ray

“Healing” has been the theme for the work we are doing around Justice and Peace here in the Diocese of Northern Michigan. We have been active in Feeding Programs providing resources to obtain grants, volunteering on a local level and raising over \$200,000 in the past four years. Without your support, we could not have placed this as a priority in our life together.

Our “Beloved Community” continues to gather and provide assistance as we work to bring about diversity, inclusion and equity into the diocese as well as out in our neighborhoods. We have been fortunate to have this group meet to look at the Doctrine of Discovery and how that affects our daily life in all aspects of living life.

Another part of the Justice and Peace work has been the Traveling Exhibit that has traveled many miles teaching and healing along its journey. It has been at The Episcopal Church’s General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, traveled to local tribal nations here in the UP and downstate, and will be part of the Great Lakes Diocese meeting at Soaring Eagle in Mount Pleasant. It has been at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community where a feast was given and an apology by the Bishop of this Church to the Indigenous community for the assimilation, hurt, and genocide that has been part of history as white settlers. It was an historic event. I joined survivors in the ceremonial dance, the KBIC Pow Wow. At the end of September, I will join Lac Vieux Desert in Watersmeet, Michigan and participate in a panel with boarding school survivors, and the walk on Indigenous Day.

The Episcopal Church did participate in assimilation efforts early on and had numerous boarding schools. A leader in facilitating Truth Telling has been Leora Tadgerson, our Director of Reparations and Justice, who has been appointed chair of one of the two boarding school committees in The Episcopal Church. Her presence has made an impact not only in this diocese but on The Episcopal Church at large.

We are currently working on a Peace Camp that will be intergenerational as we partner together and learn and engage in the much needed “peace” that the world needs now. Plans are to have the Peace Camp the first weekend in December.

Our Missioners, Marna Franson and Rick Stanitis, have been in the forefront at working to promote LGBTQ+ rights and dismantle discrimination in our congregations as well as in our neighborhood and towns. LGBTQ+ Pride stickers will be available at the 2024 Diocesan Convention. The Episcopal Church was represented at Pride Fests and in the opening of the schools’ festivities at both Michigan Technological University and Northern Michigan University. A number of our congregations have placed LGBTQ+ flags on church buildings reminding us all that we are all “sacred” beings in the eyes of God.

Part of our work has also been providing Thursday Meditations that have focused on inclusion revealing the sacredness of all of life that brings us together as “one” partnering with God in all that we do.

A big thank you goes to all of you for providing the care and love that will heal this world.

## **Living Waters Cooperative**

Submitted by  
Kathy Vanden Boogaard

The Living Waters Cooperative is a joyful, grassroots collaboration of people from various denominations exploring new, Spirit-filled ways of living out the Gospel throughout our neighborhoods and ministering communities. It continues in the spirit of the decades-long work of the Living Stones Partnership.

The Living Waters Cooperative hosted a retreat January 31 – February 3 in Pensacola, Florida, with members of the Diocese attending that gathering. The community meets monthly for Open Space conversations on Zoom.

A three-day conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 16-18, 2024 featuring panel conversations, workshops, open space, art, music and collaborative worship for anyone who finds themselves wondering about the future of the church. This was an opportunity for networking, shared resources, and fellowship as well as a time to come together to reflect, experiment, dream, and challenge the barriers that have often created obstacles in pursuing a Gospel-centered life in community. More than 80 people from around the world attended the conference.

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan serves as fiduciary agent of the Living Waters Cooperative with multiple members serving on the Core Team.

## **Mutual Ministry**

Submitted by  
Lydia Bucklin

The Diocese of Northern Michigan continues to teach and share the ecclesiology of Mutual Ministry. Over the past year, we received numerous requests from around the world for information and assistance in bringing the principles of Mutual Ministry to local settings.

In Fall 2023, we hosted a Visitors' Weekend in conjunction with the diocesan convention, welcoming visitors from South Dakota, Bexley Seabury Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary, Central Gulf Coast, Texas, and a leader in the AME Church.

Covenant groups were formed at St. Paul's in Marquette; St. Stephen's, Escanaba; and Trinity Church, Gladstone. St. James' in Sault Ste Marie is currently in the Discovery process.

Missioner Brad Pickens is working with Virginia Theological Seminary to create a Mutual Ministry 101 course which is planned to be released in 2025.

## **Sacred Space/Common Grounds**

### **Campus Ministry at Northern Michigan University**

Submitted by  
Marna Franson

Once again, the Methodists, Lutherans, and Episcopalians have joined hearts and minds to provide Campus Ministry at NMU. This past year was a busy one with lots of open Coffee House Hours, hikes, Word and Worship, Theology on Tap, the Gender Fair, doggie petting, a Spring Break service trip to Sanibel Island, and Sunday dinners. A grant was written and received from The Episcopal Church for the support of a student leader and for cooking classes for NMU students. This academic year the focus is outreach, especially to those who have not found spiritual community that has been warm and accepting.

If there is interest in supporting Campus Ministry at NMU, we could use funds towards continuing the student leader position. We also could use little houseplants for next year's Fall Fest. This August we gave away 130 plants. Next year we would like to triple that number!

If you know of anyone who is at Northern presently or who will be attending, please let us know and give us contact information and we will reach out!

## **SoulShop Suicide Prevention**

Submitted by  
Marna Franson

The numbers are not good regarding suicide in the Upper Peninsula. Despite ongoing Suicide Prevention efforts, this rural place in which we live is still experiencing high numbers in terms of suicide. This year SoulShop presentations took a back seat to more preventative measures. With a grant from the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Alliance, we handed out hundreds of gun locks at the Diocesan visioning session this spring. We also attended the Marquette County Resource Fair and handed out lots of 988 stickers.

This past year two SoulShop trainings were held, one in October and one in February. This year we have four goals in mind: 1) to hold SoulShop trainings in the east and west ends of the UP, 2) to come to congregations to hold 90 minute trainings, 3) to make contact within the more conservative denominations to do trainings there, 4) to convene check-ins with folks who have done SoulShop before in order to see how we are doing concerning nurturing hope in our faith communities.

Remember that if we can say the word suicide in a sentence, we can reduce stigma and can save lives.



## **Standing Committee Annual Report** **2024 Review**

The Standing Committee consists of Wyndeth Davis, President; Kathy Binoniemi, Secretary; Nancy DeKoster, Marna Franson, Susan Harries, Charlie Mineau, Rick Stanitis, and Bishop Rayford Ray, ex officio.

**January** – The committee met with Arlene Gordanier who has spent many hours working through our Safeguarding policy, updating and editing it. She led us through the document and we are to review it on our time and send her any questions in the next two weeks. Sarah Diener-Schlitt is now a trainer for the Praesidium Academy which is an online abuse and neglect prevention training system. She reviewed the website with us. To get us back to staggered terms, Bp Ray will recommend to council that 2 members whose term are expiring continue for 1 year, and the other two would expire and be filled at convention. Also noted that K. Binoniemi, as a member of diocesan staff, should not serve on Standing Committee to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

**May** – Set date of May 16, 2024 as the date of candidacy for David Cook and Wyndeth Davis. Sarah Diener-Schlitt is acting in the role of Safe Church Trainer. The course is online and self-led. Cmte agreed that the following courses will be mandatory for all staff, Covenant groups, Ministry Support Teams and youth leaders along with missionaries: Inclusion, Healthy Boundaries, Abuse/Neglect, Theology Overview, Harassment, and Pastoral Relationships.

**September** – Brief meeting to discuss expiring terms. K Binoniemi and M Franson will be going off as both are members of diocesan staff. W Davis, R Stanitis, and S Harries terms are expiring but each is willing to serve again. What is needed is 1 non-ordained, 1 ordained, and one person that can be either.

# TRUST ASSOCIATION REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

With Supplementary Information through June 30, 2024

## 2023 Year End Summary

After experiencing a very down year in 2022, investment returns for the year ending December 31, 2023 were very strong. Investments, which are managed by Range Bank Trust & Wealth Management for the Trust Association, showed a total return of **24.60%**. This rate of return is based on a weighted average calculation which takes into consideration the timing of all deposits, transfers and withdrawals. The return is also net of all fees. This return compares with a benchmark return of 21.46%, which is made up of 85% S&P 500 and 15% Barclay's U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The S&P 500 Index itself was up 24.23%

All stock and bond segments of the portfolio participated in the rally, showing positive returns for the year. The most significant gains were seen in the mega-cap growth segment and the technology segment. Progress was also seen on the inflation front, with the annual rate coming in at 3.4% as of December 31, 2023, compared with a rate of 8.3% reported for 2022.

Total assets under management at year-end were \$19,288,165. This is an increase from \$17,015,004 reported one year ago. Disbursements from the Trust Association for the year 2023 totaled \$1,619,050 consisting of both diocesan draws and draws taken by participating congregations. The Trust Association currently uses a "growth oriented" asset allocation model, with a target of having 85% equities and 15% fixed income and cash. Fund diversification is accomplished using a variety of broadly based, low-cost exchange traded funds (ETF's) which include large-cap stocks, mid-cap stocks and small-cap stocks as well as U.S. Treasury and corporate bonds.

## June 30, 2024 Interim Results

2024 to date has shown a continuation of the positive returns seen in 2023. Year-to-date as of June 30, 2024, the investment portfolio was up **11.12%** net of fees. There has been some volatility noted as the economy continues to deal with issues of inflation and job growth. With inflation slowly coming down, there is a growing anticipation that the Federal Reserve will begin to lower interest rates in the near future.

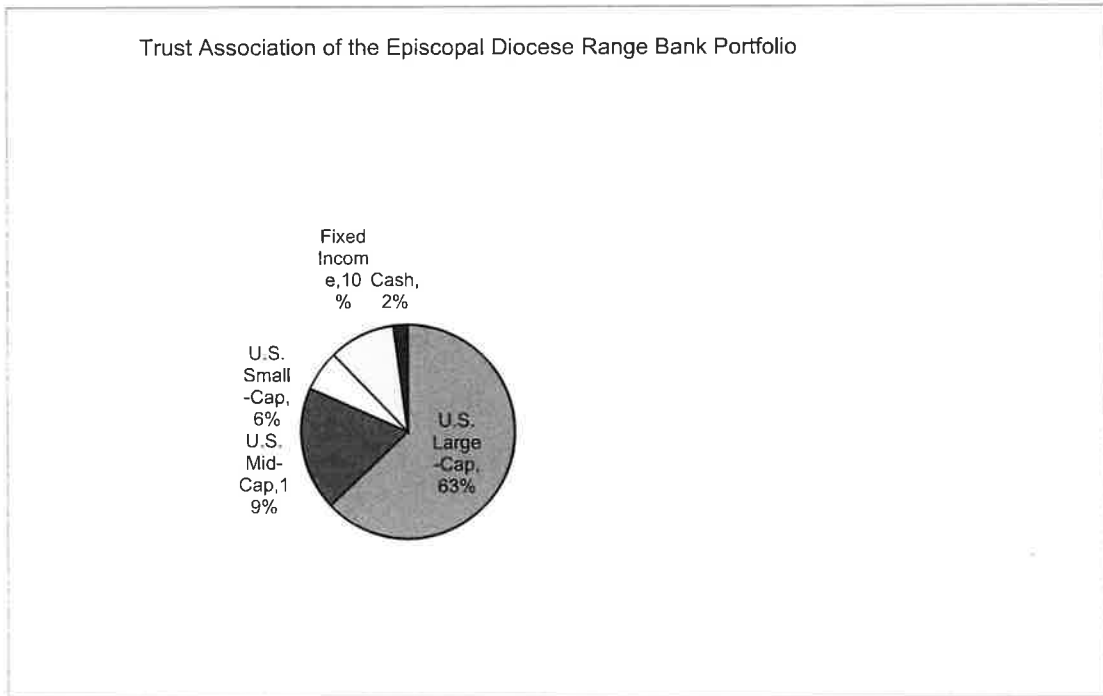
Also in early 2024, the Trust Association became the beneficiary of a substantial legacy gift from the Miller family. The gift, which totaled approximately \$1,750,000 in

cash and securities, has since been integrated into the Trust Association’s investment model.

As of June 30, 2024, assets under management totaled \$22,649,830, with \$728,118 taken out in diocesan and congregational distributions.

The investment portfolio as of June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

Cash – Federated Money Market	\$ 458,530
SPDR S&P 500 Index	\$ 9,944,417
Vanguard Mega-Cap 300 Growth Index	\$ 3,487,417
iShares Core S&P Midcap 400	\$ 3,981,584
Schwab US Dividend Equity Fund	\$ 869,501
iShares Russell 2000	\$ 1,311,481
iShares Barclays 1-3 Year Treasury Index	\$ 854,222
SPDR Barclays Short-Term Corp. Bond	\$ 1,295,395
USTN, 4.25% due 9/30/24	\$ 458,530



## **United Thank Offering Report.**

### **Practice Gratitude and Change the World**

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day. We are invited to give thanks for the people in our life who bring joy and delight to our days, the experiences which touch our hearts, or a blessing might come as an opportunity to participate in an event which celebrates our gift of living. Blessings are gifts freely given by our Creator, and blessings come in infinite and creative ways. Maybe a donation to honor someone who is present and active in our communities. For each blessing, we might use our UTO Blue Box where sharing our blessing becomes a blessing for many. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

The United Thank Offering began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover.

Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders, and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. UTO's focus is still on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

The UNITED THANK OFFERING WEBSITE: <http://unitedthankoffering.com> is the "GO TO" Site for learning

ABOUT : How UTO works, UTO Leadership, UTO History, UTO Events, How to Contact

GRATITUDE: Why Gratitude? Gratitude Resources

GENEROSITY: Generosity Resources for Families, Pray

GRANTING: Grant reporting, Apply for a Grant

LEADING: Ingathering's and FAQ

UTO is made up of Lay and ordained members throughout the world.

and the UNITED THANK OFFERING is possible through this wonderful Grass-roots leadership.

The Diocese of Northern Michigan as well as congregations in the diocese have been blessed with several grants over the years. You can look in the United Thank Offering Website for this Archived information.

The Episcopal diocese Northern Michigan UTO Account as of August 30, 2024 has a Balance of When sending your UTO Ingathering check to the Diocesan Office please make the check \$1,332,54 that will be sent to the United Thank Offering headquarters in St Louis, MO.

When sending your UTO Ingathering check please write them payable to **Episcopal Diocese Northern MI UTO All monies collected are sent to the United Thank Offering headquarters in St Louis , MO. Postage and other charges come from another account.**

You can sign-up for the monthly newsletter , register your congregation search UTO materials and projects for seasons of Gratitude on the [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com) It is an easy site to navigate ---the newsletter is forwarded to UPCHAT each month.

United Thank offering can be found on Facebook and some delightful craft ideas on Pintrest.

The Diocesan UTO Coordinators would be delighted to help you.

**Susan Harries [bmcsharries@yahoo.com](mailto:bmcsharries@yahoo.com) and Arlene Gordanier [ajgorda@gmail.com](mailto:ajgorda@gmail.com)**

For envelopes and blue boxes contact Arlene Gordanier.

**You can find other information about UTO, grants and resources at:**

**<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/united-thank-offering/>**

**ELECTED DELEGATES – 128<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
October 25-26, 2024**

**CALUMET**

Wyndeth Davis  
Nancy Auer

**CRYSTAL FALLS**

Peg Padilla

**ESCANABA**

LuAnn Hay  
Jon Flath  
Pat Royer, Alt  
Lani VanVoorden, Alt

**GLADSTONE**

Duane Wils  
Wendy Wils  
Dana Soderman  
Sue Ray  
Isabella Soderman, Alt

**HOLY INNOCENTS**

Theresa Vincent  
Pamella Vincent  
Marna Franson

**HOUGHTON**

Sarah Diener-Schlitt  
Thomas Schlitt  
Debbie Francis  
Rick Stanitis

**IRON RIVER**

Steve Godfrey

**IRONWOOD**

Marissa Spence  
John Spence, Alt  
Brad Peterson, Alt

**MACKINAC ISLAND**

Fran Barger  
Joan Slater

**MANISTIQUE**

Angus Wright  
Hollis Wright  
Chris Parsons

**MARQUETTE**

Jan Edwards  
Arlene Gordanier  
Kristen Mowafy  
Dick Graybill, Alt

**MENOMINEE**

Madge Dixon  
Brad Pickens  
Bonnie Turner  
Mike Woods

**MUNISING**

Kim Moote  
Lydia Kelsey Bucklin  
Claudia Nadeau  
Marion Luckey, Alt

**NEGAUNEE**

Kathy Binoniemi  
Jack Lenten  
Jim Martindale

**NEWBERRY**

Ann Turney  
Gin Mannisto

**SAULT STE MARIE**

Katie Chipman-Bergsma  
Susan Harries  
Ruth Neveu  
Margaret Stiling  
David Cook, Alt

**Congregations not**

**Sending delegates**

*Detour Village*

*Eagle Harbor*

*Ishpeming*

*Iron Mountain*

*Pte Aux Pins*