

Episcopal Diocese
of Northern Michigan



128TH 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 missionary 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 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 Tadjerson 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 1st. 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.



Province V Executive Board report to the Diocese of Northern Michigan 2024

Report created on October 23, 2024

Submitted by: Rick Stanitis

Province V is a network of 12 (soon to be 11) dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Northern Michigan is one of those 12 (11). The changing number of dioceses is because of combining of resources, not that anyone left. This year, the Dioceses of Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Eau Claire reunited into the Diocese of Wisconsin. In October 2024, the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan will complete their process of juncture into the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. NETWORK. SUPPORT.

Connect people to people and people to resources.

Network to build communities across diocesan lines.

Support each other in a variety of ministries.

There are several resources available at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

Leadership

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members of this board, which includes the 11 diocesan representatives, 2 members (one lay and one clergy) who serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and 4 elected officers. Each diocesan bishop appoints a representative, and I have been appointed to this task.

You can see the full list of members here: <https://www.provincev.org/exboard.html>

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. The board gathers in-person once per year to build deeper connections and have in-depth conversation about vision and strategic planning for the province.

The Rev. Heather Barta serves as coordinator of Province V. Her role is to provide support to leaders of existing networks and create new opportunities for people across the province to connect with each other to build networks of support.

Province V Awarded \$470,956 in Grants

This is the biggest news all year!

Province V is excited to have received a number of Spring 2024 grant awards for provincial initiatives and books for fall's Creation Care retreat. Please celebrate with us! If any of these topics are of interest to you, we are looking for volunteer team members to create and launch the initiatives. Contact provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

- **2024 United Thank Offering Grant, \$55,000**

This grant will launch Province V's new *Engaging Gender Complexity (EGC)* initiative. *EGC* will help individuals and worshipping communities create welcoming space for *all* people and will equip participants to welcome gender-diverse individuals into their community without causing harm to or undue emotional and psychological labor for them. Episcopalians are called by our baptismal vows to promote the dignity of every human being, counteracting historical and current traumas perpetuated on gender-diverse communities. Guided by trained facilitators, in-person gatherings will be a laboratory to learn more about gender-diversity and practice radical hospitality towards these individuals and communities. Faith communities informed about gender-diversity have the potential to be places of refuge, modeling this radical welcome to the wider world.

- **2024 Constable Fund Grant, \$30,000**

Funds a two-course digital curriculum to inform, form, and transform individuals and communities concerning gender diversity and catalyze personal and communal efforts in line with General Convention's Resolution D 030 (GC80) "to welcome and support people and communities of diverse genders, including trans gender and non-binary." The first course entitled *Embracing Gender Diversity (EGD)* will be administered through Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation's *Pathways for Baptismal Living* program. The second course, *Facilitating EGD (FEGD)*, will prepare facilitators to host in-person, in-depth conversations that grow from questions that are raised in the first course.

- **2024 Becoming Beloved Community Impact Grant, \$10,200**

This grant will help create and disseminate the new *Trafficking: Faithful Response and Support* initiative, to be available for individuals and communities across the church. Leaders will learn more about human trafficking, including identifying the signs and responding to suspected trafficking. This program will also help communities of faith identify ways to support victims of trafficking as they work toward renewed life.

Learn more about our partner: Total Life Wellness at

<https://totallifewellness21.wixsite.com/total-life-wellnes-2>

Resources are available at Province V's Anti-Human

Trafficking webpage: <https://www.provincev.org/antihumantrafficking.html>

- **2024 Church Periodical Club (CPC), \$756**

This grant will provide books to Province IV and V's Creation Care Event in the fall. Province IV and Province V Creation Care Networks will jointly host this creation care retreat in the Diocese of Kentucky on September 12-15, 2024, with guest retreat leader Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Margaret is co-author of the book, *Rooted and Rising*, which will be provided to all participants. The Provinces are grateful for the CPC's support as we continue to share ways of caring for all of creation. Visit <https://revivingcreation.org> to explore Margaret's work.

- **2024 Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, \$375,000**

Over 3 years, this grant will fund Province V's Campus Ministry Developer position to help communities that 1) serve or wish to serve institutions of higher education without campus ministers; 2) wish to actively support the work of their local embedded campus ministers, and/or 3) want to learn how to engage more authentically with young adults over all. Trinity Church's

Leadership Development Grant collaboratively addresses urgent gaps in leadership education with faith-driven mindsets and practical skills for the Church and for people in leadership roles outside the church, empowering them to achieve common goals.

Learn more about Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership

Development: <https://trinitywallstreet.org/grants-partners/leadership-development>

Networks

<https://www.provincev.org/networks.html>

The networks continue to expand to serve leaders across the province. Networks are open to any person who would like to be connected to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful, contact the coordinator, Heather Barta at provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

Leadership Coaching Project

<https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html>

Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary “introductory” meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other. Rural Area Ministry Specialists are available at a reduced rate to leaders in rural areas. (“Rural Area” is defined as a town with a population of 20,000 or fewer.)

Upcoming events

Sept 12-15, 2024 – Creation Care Network Event, Louisville, Kentucky

October 8-10, 2024 – Campus Minister Retreat, Madison, Wisconsin

Connecting to the Province

Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website: <https://www.provincev.org>

General Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/>

Creation Care Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082984106362>

Dismantling Racism Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078969506674>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/>

Please contact me for more information about anything presented in this report!

Rick Stanitis, Campus Missioner Canterbury House at MTU, chouse@mtu.edu

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

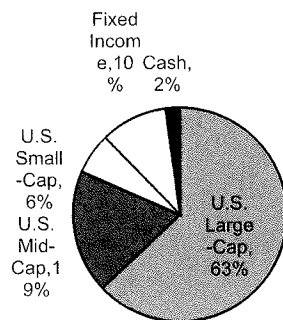
cash and securities, has since been integrated into the Trust Association's investment model.

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

Trust Association of the Episcopal Diocese Range Bank Portfolio



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 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 and **Arlene Gordanier** 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/**](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/united-thank-offering/)