

Episcopal Diocese  
of Northern Michigan



Annual Reports

# Becoming Beloved Community

October, 2025

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 Tادgerson, Bishop Rayford Ray 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. It is now being planned for the weekend of August 21-23, 2026 at Fortune Lake Camp in Crystal Falls, MI. Planning team members include Marty Reinhart, Tina Moses, Leora Tادgerson, Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Megan Trimm, Katie Chipman-Bergsma, Charles Murphy and Bishop Rayford Ray.

The funds received from this Becoming Beloved Community Impact grant have also allowed us to continue our commitment to the work of racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with Indigenous nations through the United Thank Offering grant that began in 2018 and included the completion of a **traveling exhibit entitled "Walking Together Finding Common Ground"**. Phase one consisted of a stationary exhibit called *The 7th Fire* which was on display at the Beaumier Heritage Center (campus of NMU) from Oct. 2021-April 2022, and consisted of a timeline of the history of the Anishinaabe people as well interactive experiences that sought to define and place decolonization in the context of contemporary Anishinaabe life. Phase two consisted of converting these materials into the *Walking Together: Finding Common Ground Traveling Exhibit* along with survivor and descendent stories of Michigan based Indian boarding school experiences. The exhibit was completed last year and additional funding from the Davenport Family Foundation has helped our staff bring this truth telling initiative to thousands of hearts and minds! Since its unveiling in January of 2024, the exhibit has traveled approximately 4000 miles to various community and tribal locations.

We recently applied for another BBC grant to support moving the traveling exhibit into Phase three, which will focus on conducting additional interviews, and educational community engagement initiatives as well as developing a diocesan manual to guide staff and congregations into non-performative actionable policy recommendations meant to address the damaging legacy of the Indian boarding school system.

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

- **February-March-April, 2025 at Christ Church Cathedral in Ohio**
- **May 2025 at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library**
- **June 26-30, 2025 at Provisional Coffee Shop in Marquette during Art Week**
- **July 25-27, 2025 at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) Summer Pow Wow**
- **August 17, 2025 at St. Paul's Church in Marquette**
- **October 3-4, 2025 at the Diocesan Convention in South Dakota**
- **October 17-18 at the Northern Michigan Diocesan Convention in Escanaba**
- **End of October 2025 at Bay College in Escanaba**

A second set of panels was printed on waterproof materials so that the exhibit could be on display from **June 28-August 23, 2025 at the Emberlight Festival in Ironwood, Michigan.** The exhibit was set up in Miners Memorial Heritage Park on land that once belonged to the Ojibwe Anishinaabe people. An open ceremony was held on June 28. Tom Biron, a Native elder, who contributed to the exhibit, led a discussion which included his experience attending an Indian boarding school.

After the festival ended, this exhibit was moved to the **Ironwood Historical Society Museum and will be on display there through the end of October 2025.**

Upcoming requests for the exhibit include:

- **Summer of 2026 at Church of the Transfiguration on Bois Blanc Island**

Other requests to be determined include:

- Hannahville Indian Community, near Escanaba
- Northern Michigan University Center for Lifelong Learning
- Menominee High School
- Michigan 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: "Walking Together - Finding Common Ground." Mitch has also recently created a YouTube channel for the traveling exhibit and all of the videos can also be found there at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@WalkingTogetherMQT>

A **BBC tab** can be found on the Diocesan webpage and 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. BBC Team member, Sarah Diener-Schlitt, has been working on updating the information on the BBC tab of the Diocesan website with assistance from the rest of the BBC team to make it more user friendly and include more current/relevant information.

# Canterbury House at Michigan Tech

## Episcopal Campus Ministry – Annual Impact Report

*Submitted by Jenn Cowan and Rick Stanitis*

### A Year of Growth

Our campus ministry has many vibrant programs taking shape year after year. This season, it looks like coffee shared in a safe space, a home-cooked meal after a long day in class, a pantry stocked with essentials, quiet conversation over tea or a recharging snuggle with our house pup Rodie. Each of these moments is a reminder that God's love is alive and present on our campus.

This past year, we have seen students becoming more engaged as we reintroduce our loving community to campus post Covid. They are hungry for connection, belonging, and acceptance. With the support of our partners Canterbury House has continued to grow, adapt, and serve in new and meaningful ways.

### 2024–2025 At a Glance

- **Rice Program Launched** – With support from Bishop Rayford Ray, 20 international students and their families are receiving rice every month each semester, meeting the most requested pantry need.
- **Wednesday Night Meals** – 45–60 students fed weekly; **Odyssey Grant** covers meals for the entire academic year.
- **Food Pantry Expansion** – Transitioned to in-person pick-up and continued to serve increasing numbers of students as grocery prices rose, supported by a number of local funders
- **ESL Program Growth** – Awarded an **ESL grant** to expand “Let’s Talk,” supporting international students and families with new hardware, software, and materials.
- **Sustainability & Safety** –
  - **M. E. Davenport Foundation** partnership created a Development Associate role to grow program funding, increase visibility and build long-term stability.
  - **Superior Health Foundation AED award** increased safety for students, their families, volunteers and guests.
  - **Keweenaw Co-op Round-up** fundraiser selected Canterbury House for a new refrigerator.

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Canterbury House continues to grow and change, and though growth comes with its challenges, it is also filled with joy and opportunity. Together with you, we are creating a better future for students, rooted in the message of God's love, care, and genuine acceptance.

# **Episcopal Relief & Development**

## **Annual Report 2025**

*Submitted by Arlene Gordanier*

The best tool to learn about and engage in the breadth of ER&D's work is to visit their website at <http://episcopalrelief.org>. Here is where you come into contact with how relief & development happen.

### **WHO WE ARE:**

The Episcopal Relief and Development mandate comes from Matthew 25. "Lord, when was it that: we saw you hungry and gave you food? or thirsty and gave you something to drink? or a stranger and welcomed you? or sick and took care of you? or in prison and visited you?"

"Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

On the ER & D website, if you Click on the "Who we Are" tab, you can read more about the worldwide impact of this organization in the HISTORY, FINANCIALS AND ANNUAL REPORTS, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION, and BOARD AND STAFF. In Boards and Staff you'll find 2 familiar faces: David Martin is a member of the ER & D Board and Jane Cisluydis in her position with The Episcopal Church. In the WE BELIEVE tab, you will find the ER & D Credo, "We Believe".

### **WHAT WE DO:**

**Early Child Development**—Critical window for growth. The first 1,000 days are crucial. Impacting: Physical, Emotional and Cognitive development.

Support: local caregivers, community leaders in creating early childhood development programs.

"Supporting Growth that Last a Lifetime".

Learn more by clicking on the "Early Childhood Development" tab on the Priorities tab.

**Women and Girls** - Focus on forging partnerships to reduce gender-based violence and advance equality. ER & D together with local partners, look to equip faith leaders and other trusted change agents to confront harmful social norms and behaviors to prevent as well as respond to violence against women and girls - advancing women's empowerment.

Learn more by clicking on the "Women and Girls", under the Priorities tab.

### **Climate Resilience**

Investing in communities to strengthen resilience to climate change.

Extreme weather: heat waves, droughts and floods affecting food and water supplies. The challenges of remote access areas isolated rural subsistence farming households far from basic support.

ER & D's extensive faith network allows help to reach these remote areas and, through partners, provide skills training, information, and access to financial resources to cope and adapt.

### **Disaster Response**

Works through a global network of local faith and community partners to support people impacted by natural disaster and human-made crises like conflict. This is done with an inclusive, comprehensive, and forward-looking plan, building on a community's existing strengths, assets and resources. Partnerships help to strengthen community preparedness and provide emergency relief.

### **WHERE WE WORK:**

Episcopal Relief and Development works in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and in the United States.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO:**

By clicking on the What Can You Do tab, you'll find a dropdown list of how you can be of help. You are able to Give, Stay Informed, Volunteer, Pray, delve into Careers, and find resources on Faith Formation. Clicking on any of these headings will lead you to how you can respond. Prayer is a tremendous gift to the Board, the development projects, and the relief and disaster missions.

### **Press and Resources**

The Press and Resources offers a selection of tabs for information on Press Releases, Stories, Photos and Videos of ways that ER & D is and has been responding to communities throughout the world. It also contains current press releases on relief efforts to victims of the flooding in Kentucky and Texas, and the wildfires in California. There are also resources available for congregations that want to host an ER & D Sunday.

### **CHURCH IN ACTION:**

The Church In Action tab is especially useful for our congregations. There are many ways to use the resources offered for information, study, and special events. Each of the headings under the tab has ideas and toolkits for use with the entire community. Reading the Quick Links brings up stories of the Development as well as the Relief Mission of Episcopal Relief and Development, and they are rich and touch your heart.

David Martin, a member of the ER & D Board, presented a short program to the folks at St. Paul's, Marquette, in the early fall of 2024, and we were all touched by the Ministry and Mission of ER & D. I was in awe of the Early Childhood Development program and what might seem a small thing as THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER, in education and in life as well as their gifts into the life of children...and the Moments that Matter - crucial to early life and all life. Life is an awesome gift and with each breath we take, we serve that gift, I encourage you to consider the Moments that Matter.

We are in the Digital age and take in information, challenges, ministry and mission via our devices. We also impact our environment by working remotely and through electronic gatherings. I invite you to visit the website often in small bites and be awed by the scope and contact of the stories.

Congregations and individuals can give donations to ER & D directly or you can give them through the diocesan office also. You can connect with Episcopal Relief and Development on Facebook. There is also a Prayer Partner online opportunity, and you can sign up online.

Please contact me, Arlene Gordanier at [ajgorda@gmail.com](mailto:ajgorda@gmail.com) with questions, or ideas to be in touch with the diocese.



## **Justice and Peace Committee**

*Submitted by Rayford Ray*

The way of Jesus is the way of love. To know the living God in scripture. To know the living God, breathing amongst us, in us, and around us, gives us life. It is what gives this earth life. It is what gives this universe life. To know a God who is present in all of life, in Jesus, in you, in the stranger, in the person who makes us uncomfortable, in the air we breathe, the earth we walk on, the water we drink. We are being invited to live "fully" into this kind of relationship, into this kind of "love." Our participation can and does "heal this world."

Justice and Peace marks our way here in the Diocese of Northern Michigan. We have made an impact with various opportunities of revealing "love" and "healing" in the midst of daily living. Opportunities included:

- The Showing of Sugarcane in Marquette and in Sault Ste Marie. These showings were held in theaters and in local congregations in the diocese and the public was invited to attend with conversation following the showing.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women was marked with the hanging of dresses inside and outside of congregations in the diocese.
- Our participation and participation in showing of the Traveling Exhibit (the story of Colonization, Boarding Schools stories as well as Decolonizing) throughout the Upper Peninsula from Provisions in Marquette, to the Library in Ishpeming, to KBIC in Baraga as well as Marquette's gathering of the Sault Tribe/KBIC Pow Wow at the Dome in Marquette, LVD tribal nation in the Western End of the Upper Peninsula to the Outdoor Art's Festival in Ironwood for the Summer months to Bay College Campus in Escanaba. It has made a journey here in the U.P. as well downstate at Mt. Pleasant and beyond.
- Members of our diocese have also participated in walks here in the U.P. remembering the survivors (living and dead) of boarding schools
- We have joined in Covenant with Equality Michigan in support of efforts in coordinating much needed support for LGBTQ+ youth. We now participate regularly in monthly working groups for the much-needed work supporting our LGBTQ+ siblings throughout the Upper Peninsula.
- We have participated in Pride festivities in Escanaba, Ironwood, Marquette, the Keweenaw (Houghton/Calumet), the Straits of Mackinaw, and in the Soo.
- Our diocese continues the work of providing Soul Shop (Suicide Prevention workshops) throughout the diocese.
- Our Becoming Beloved Community meets monthly as we redefine and work on our workshops around Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery.
- We have also focused on the food insecurity here in the U.P. with support of food banks in various communities, Colleges and Universities, as well as Feeding America West, and the Lunch Box in Crystal Falls.

- Our participation in Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, a statewide organization focused on sustainability, renewable energy, and advocacy work around Line 5 and the Tunnel.
- Our participation locally by our faith communities has also made a difference in the life of our local communities.

I want to thank you for making an impact on the lives of our local communities. It is all about healing this world and the heart being the center of our lives.

Thank You!  
Justice and Peace Committee



## Province V Executive Board report to the Diocese of Northern Michigan 2024-2025

Submitted by: Katie  
Chipman-Bergsma

**Province V** is a network of 11 dioceses of the Episcopal Church. Our diocese is one of those 11 [Title 1, Canon 9: Of Provinces]. I have been appointed as the diocesan representative on the Province V Executive Board, and with this report I'll share resources available and events occurring at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

### **The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. SUPPORT. COLLABORATE**

*In Province V, we "tell it in the light" (Matthew 10:27-31), celebrating God's promise of renewal within the Episcopal Church in the Midwest.*

To do this, we:

**Connect** people to people and people to resources.

**Support** each other in a variety of ministries, resourcing from within and without.

**Collaborate** across multiple dioceses to build capacity for demonstrable impact.

### **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. 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.

Province V Staff: <https://www.provincev.org/provincial-staff.html>

The Rev. Heather Barta, Coordinator

Mr. Eric Richey, Campus Ministry Developer

Mr. Steve Welch, Communications Coordinator

### **Most Recent Grants Received by Province V**

These grants were received in 2024 for Special Projects and New Programs, and the funds are currently in use in the following ways:

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

This grant launched 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. Province V worked with S. Bear Bergman to provide training to facilitators and coaches. Their work in their local ministry contexts begins Fall 2025.

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

Province V received funds to create a curriculum in response to Resolution D-030 [GC80]. Bexley Seabury is the vendor for creating this curriculum, which will then be available to the whole church through their Pathways for Baptismal Living platform. The curriculum is coming together and receiving feedback for updating and editing. There will be a pilot program in September with the Diocese of Iowa. Based on feedback from that pilot, the curriculum will be edited and made ready for churchwide use. We plan to have a full report by the end of 2025.

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

Through this grant, Total Life Wellness will present a total of nine (9) trainings by the end of 2025.

*Description for this online course:* Join this online course to learn how to recognize human trafficking and support those reentering our community after human exploitation. This 90-minute course will introduce participants to the basics of trafficking, how to respond when trafficking is suspected, and how their community can help those on their journey from surviving to thriving.

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>

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

The Province IV / V Creation Care Event was a great success, and this grant provided books to each participant. 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.

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

This grant provided the funds to hire Mr. Eric Richey as the Campus Ministry Developer. He started on January 1 and has been working to connect with many across the province and across the church. There will be a "Campus Ministry Cohort: Engaging with Institutions of Higher Learning" beginning Fall 2025, and another launching Spring 2026. Congregational Leaders (lay and ordained) will learn how to engage Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) in their local ministry context. IHLs include community colleges, trade schools, professional schools, colleges and universities.

See details about Eric and his work: <https://www.provincev.org/cmd.html>

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 and want to offer it to others in the province, contact Heather Barta at [provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto: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.)

### **Events hosted in 2024-2025**

**Creation Care Event** – September 2024, hosted by Provinces IV and V – Nazareth, KY

**Campus Minister Retreat** – October 2024, annual gathering of Province V Lay & Ordained Professional Ministers whose work is centered on YACM. (This retreat has also included leaders from Province VI.)

### **Upcoming events**

**Episcopal Creation Care Event**, Sept 18-20, 2025, Procter Center, Southern Ohio

Hosted by Provinces IV and V, Procter Center, and Diocese of Southern Ohio

<https://episcopalcreationcaregathering.org>

**Campus Minister Retreat**, October 14-16, 2025, Madison, Wisconsin

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

**Women Clergy Retreat**, May 31- June 3, 2026, Lansing, Michigan

Hosted by Provinces V and VI

<https://www.provincev.org/wcr26.html>

**Big Provincial Gathering**, July 31-August 1, 2026, Kalamazoo, Michigan

The 4<sup>th</sup> BPG for Province V! This year will not include a Synod to allow more time for workshops and connecting.

<https://www.provincev.org/bpg26.html>

### **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/>

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

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

Katie Chipman-Bergsma [chipsofaheart@gmail.com](mailto:chipsofaheart@gmail.com)

906-440-8942 (No Voicemail, please send a text/email if I don't answer with regards to when is a good time to return a call and the reason for your call. I will call back at my next availability)

## **Sacred Space Campus Ministry**

*Submitted by Marna Franson*

The 2024-2025 academic year saw the third year of an interdenominational partnership for campus ministry at Northern Michigan University. Hosted and housed by Marquette Hope, the ministry consists of a coffee shop/study space, a Sunday night dinner, Thursday afternoon programming, theology on tap conversations, and pop up hikes/adventures in nature. Three denominations participate in Sacred Space Campus Ministry: the Methodist church, the Lutheran church, and the Episcopal church.

Having received a grant from The Episcopal Church to support an intern and to pay for cooking supplies, we had a lot of fun focusing our ministry through the lens of teaching college students to cook. Besides continual practice by preparing meals for Sunday night dinner, we hosted two events in the Spring semester: "Rice and Spice Tasting", and "Can You Scone It?". Partnering with the Wellbeing initiative on campus the "Rice and Spice Tasting" event centered around bowls of white rice and twenty different herbs, spices, and spice mixes. Sprinkling the herbs and spices on the rice, robust conversations were had concerning culinary possibilities. The "Can You Scone It?" event was a cooking show knock off where students created imaginative permutations of scones that were judged by a panel of community and student judges, including our very own Charles Murphy. A great time was had by all, especially the winner who had created what was judged as "the perfect camping scone" flavored by sharp cheddar cheese and hot dogs.

## **SoulShop Suicide Prevention**

*Submitted by Marna Franson*

This past year, SoulShop was invited into three spaces for suicide prevention. The first was a half-day confirmation retreat with the Lutheran Churches in Marquette County where we spent the morning in conversation with youth, their pastors, friends and parents, talking about desperation, contributors to suicide, and helpers who can be protective agents in our lives. It was a robust and busy morning for two dozen middle-schoolers and their parents. It was a delight to co-present with J. Mills from the Synod and we look forward to doing more work together.

In addition to this morning workshop, two full day workshops were held in the Spring: one hosted by St. Stephen's in Escanaba and the other by Trinity Church in Houghton. These workshops were sponsored by community partners and supplemented with materials purchased with funds from the Wylie Fund. In Escanaba, a meaningful and fruitful relationship has begun with the local suicide prevention task force/alliance because of the workshop. In fact, that group did much recruitment for the event which is suicide prevention work itself. In Houghton, Copper Shores paid for the expenses of the workshop and worked diligently to get people in the room. The best feedback we received at the Houghton workshop was from two young adults who said that they both "had been waiting for and looking for" a conversation like this for a long time.

# TRUST ASSOCIATION REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

With Supplementary Information through June 30, 2025

## 2024 Year End Summary

Investment performance for 2024 was again very strong, with total returns after fees of **19.04%**. This rate of return is based on a weighted average calculation which takes into consideration the timing of all deposits, transfers and withdrawals. This return compares with a benchmark return of 20.09%, 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 23.31% for the year.

All stock and bond segments of the portfolio ended the year with positive returns. The most significant gains were again seen in the mega-cap growth segment. Mid-cap and Small-cap stocks also showed double-digit returns for the year. With inflation down in most areas, the Fed cut interest rates, first by 0.50% in September and then by 0.25% in November and December.

Total assets under management at year-end were \$23,475,947. The Trust Association continues to use 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.

It is worth noting that over the past 10 years, the Trust Association has experienced an average annual rate of growth in assets under management of 8.13%. This return came about despite taking out over \$10.3 million in diocesan and congregational distributions.

## June 30, 2025 Interim Results

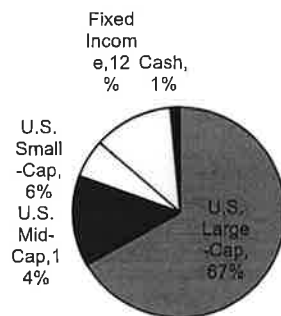
2025 to date has been a rather up and down year as political and economic issues have taken center stage in creating what has been a rather volatile market. Year-to-date as of June 30, 2025, the investment portfolio was up **3.94%** net of fees. The market continues to deal with issues related to inflation, employment and tariffs. So far, the Federal Reserve Board has left interest rates unchanged.

As of June 30, 2025, total Trust Association assets under management were \$23,440,899, with \$1,019,413 taken out in diocesan and congregational distributions.

The investment portfolio as of June 30, 2025 consisted of the following:

Cash – Federated Money Market	\$ 334,109
SPDR S&P 500 Index	\$10,145,097
Vanguard Mega-Cap 300 Growth Index	\$ 3,187,876
iShares Core S&P Midcap 400	\$ 3,257,663
Select Sector Consumer Staples ETF	\$ 1,399,162
Schwab US Dividend Equity Fund	\$ 869,068
iShares Russell 2000	\$ 1,376,524
iShares Barclays 1-3 Year Treasury Index	\$ 698,095
SPDR Barclays Short-Term Corp. Bond	\$ 696,695
iShares U.S. Aggregate Bond ETF	\$ 1,402,590

Trust Association of the Episcopal Diocese Range Bank Portfolio





**United Thank Offering  
Annual Report 2025  
Practice Gratitude and Change the World**

*Submitted by Arlene Gordanier and Susan Harries, Co-Conveners*

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 to 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 take part in an event which celebrates our gift of living. Blessings are gifts freely given by our Creator, and blessings come in ordinary and creative ways. A donation to honor someone who is present and active in our communities. For each blessing, we might use our UTO 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
- \*Leadership
- \*History
- \*UTO Events
- \*How to Contact

**GRATITUDE:**

- \*Why Gratitude
- \*Gratitude Resources
- \* Prayer Resources

**GENEROSITY**

- \*Resources for Families
- \*Resources for Parishes

**GRANTING:**

- \*Grant Reporting
- \* Apply for a Grant

**LEADING**

- \*Parish ingathering
- \* Diocesan Ingathering
- \*Learning with UTO
- \* Resources

**GIVE**

- \*UTO Ingathering
- \* Individual gifts as Memorials
- \*Celebrations of life

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 at the United Thank Offering Website for this archived information.

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan supports a UTO account with diocesan staff oversight. All funds from gifts and ingathering's are sent to the United Thank Offering headquarters in St Louis, MO. Postage and other incidentals are covered from other sources. When sending your UTO Ingathering check please write them payable to *Episcopal Diocese Northern MI UTO*.

You can sign up for the monthly newsletter, register your congregation, search for UTO materials and projects for Seasons of Gratitude at [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com). It is an easy site to navigate ---the newsletter is sent to the diocesan UPChat email list each month.

United Thank Offering can be found on Facebook and some delightful craft ideas on Pinterest.

In the August/September issue of the newsletter there are great ideas for Celebrating a Holy Autumn. Blessing of Backpacks, celebrating our teachers, school administrators and support staff honored, celebrated, and held in our prayers. Often there are craft and fun things to do as families and communities.

Check out The Wellspring—where we celebrate the gifts of our communities in action-- Practicing Gratitude: Blessing backpacks, providing lunch, supporting other events in the diocese with gratitude for the presence of the work of the Gospel in our midst. Practicing gratitude is essential to our health and wellbeing—one step at a time.

We live in a digital age and are grateful to be able to connect in many ways.

The Diocesan UTO Coordinators, Susan Harries ([bmcsharries@yahoo.com](mailto:bmcsharries@yahoo.com)) and Arlene Gordanier ([ajgorda@gmail.com](mailto:ajgorda@gmail.com)) are delighted to help you. For envelopes and boxes contact Arlene Gordanier.

You can find other information about UTO, grants and resources at: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/united-thank-offering/>

## UP Wild Church

*Submitted by Lanni Lantto*

Seeds are sprouting. We have multiple branches across the Upper Peninsula, each with their own characters and development story.

We held our 2nd annual Leaders Retreat at the Fortune Lake Camp in August and out of that, two new branches in Munising and Menominee are budding. Our Marquette branch is holding weekly gatherings including Coffee and Crafting in Community, which is creatively using the diocese office (with a creation care lending library) and St. Paul's sanctuary. We have elders calling college students to invite them to our gatherings, young families self-organizing wild school gatherings and much more.

Thanks to everyone in the diocese for their prayers and support!

