



**PORTAGE  
LAKE  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

***PLUC***

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

**1400 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931-1208**

**906.482.5224 • [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org) • [www.pluc.org](http://www.pluc.org)**

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November 2022

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### **Consistory Highlights**

**Editor's notes:** Due to illness, Consistory held two meetings in October. The first meeting, was held to select a date for the November Congregational meeting. Highlights from that meeting are listed below. The regularly scheduled October meeting was moved to October 27<sup>th</sup>. Highlights are not yet available.

#### **October 20, 2022 Consistory Meeting**

Consistory set Sunday, November 13, 2022 immediately following worship as the date for the Fall Congregation/Corporation meeting. Consistory will meet again for their regular October meeting on October 27 at which time they will more fully discuss the agenda for the Congregational meeting. It as suggested that as part of the stewardship discussion in November, people are reminded that the cost of almost everything will be higher in 2023.

Consistory received a report from Financial Secretary Smock about the results on the Capital Campaign as of Oct. 20, 2020. We have received 9 pledges for approximately \$22,000 so far. We have also received a \$100 gift from one of the Recovery Groups

using our facility. A thank you card has been made available for Consistory members to sign and up in a place where this group can see it (in accordance with confidentiality of Recovery Groups, the group is not being identified).

#### **October 27, 2022 Consistory Meeting**

##### **Clerk's Report:**

1. **Membership List:** According to PCUSA rules, the Consistory needs to review the membership list and that review needs to be to be recorded in the minutes
2. **Gender composition of the Consistory vs. the gender composition of the Congregation:** The Consistory consists of four females (67%) and two males (33%). This composition closely matches the gender composition of the Congregation (24 women 63% and 14 men 37%). This needs to be recorded in the minutes.

**Pastor:** Pastor Peter showed slides of the roof and concrete work. Elder G. Campbell suggested showing these slides during coffee fellowship. Pastor Peter is working

with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Wednesday evening Advent services. Bread and Soup will be followed by service at PLUC.

**Membership/Friends List:** The 2022 Membership/Friends List was received and acknowledged by Consistory.

**Angel Mission:** The coat drive was a major success! Angel Mission is now self-contained in one building, no more storage sheds or Rose & Thorn building. A suggestion was made to remove insurance coverage from the Rose & Thorn building. Pastor Peter will take care of this. The insurance coverage of the old Angel Mission building on 5th Street (in Calumet) should be dropped.

**Old Business:**

**Policies:**

1. Bereavement, Sick, and non-vacation time away for paid employees. B. Brookhouse, chair of the Personnel Committee, has received information from Gloria Day Lutheran Church about Bereavement, Sick, and other non-vacation time away for paid employees. Elder Brookhouse will discuss what she has learned with Office Manager Smock and Pastor Peter. Consistory will have to create policies so Elder Brookhouse will be sharing what she learns with Consistory.
2. On-Line Consistory meeting policy. Pastor Peter will continue to work with Clerk T. Monson on this policy.
3. Stipends: Stipends for substitute musicians, fill in pianists, etc need to be codified.

**2023 Budget:**

1. Ideas for funding special music. Pianist Susie and Pastor Peter suggest starting with seed money of \$180.00. Side note: The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra is holding a concert at PLUC soon so MTU will be paying to tune the piano prior to that concert.
2. Items for Pastor Peter's terms of call should be included in the budget.

Elder B. Brookhouse moved (second by Elder G. Campbell) to accept the budget modifications for music budget and pastor terms of call. Accepted.

**Congregational Meeting:**

1. Celebrate successes: Membership stable, new roof, new concrete, new lighting, Afternoon on the Town, Fellowship Guild, Angel Mission, new flower garden, "lawn", figured out Pastor time off, planted a tree, website.
2. Challenges: Expand membership, continuing ministry with increasing costs.

**New Business:**

**Holiday Hours:** The office will be closed the following days during the holidays: Thanksgiving, November 24, Christmas 12/26, New Year's January 1.

<b>Financial Report</b>	
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<u>Received in October</u>	
Pledge	\$7,100.00
Unpledged	\$1,019.00
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Roof	\$5660.00

## Season of Creation Tree Planting

During the September 25<sup>th</sup> “Season of Creation” worship service, members and friends stepped outside to “Contemplate Creation.” Together they planted a tree as a sign of hope in God and fruitfulness of Creation.



## ANNOUNCING

Congregation/Corporation Meeting

Sunday, November 13  
Immediately following worship  
(this meeting will be held in person and on  
ZOOM)



## *In Other News*



November 6, 2022

## Preliminary 2023 Budget

*Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist*

The finance committee has put together a preliminary budget. Our projected pledge

goal is ambitious. Other income and expenses are based on actual and projected income and expenses this year.

Your input on ways to increase income or decrease expenses is welcome. We'll discuss the budget at the congregational meeting on November 13th.

## Stewardship Drive Kick-Off

*Submitted by Beth Smock, Financial Secretary*

It's that time of year again when PLUC needs to start planning for next year.

As mentioned above, the preliminary budget will be presented at the November meeting of the Congregation/Corporation. Stewardship Drive letters will go out the week following this meeting (week of November 13<sup>th</sup>). Please prayerfully consider your pledge and return your pledge card as soon as possible.

If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail, ask Beth for one and she will gladly provide one to you. If you have given to PLUC in the past, but not done so as an official pledged giver, please consider making a pledge as this makes it easier for the Finance Committee to develop a final budget. Also, if you are not an “official” member, you can still make a pledge toward our 2023 budget.

I hope we can get the pledge cards back in two weeks so that I can get the information to the Finance Committee for the finalization of the 2023 budget.

## Capital Roof Campaign

*Submitted by Beth Smock, Financial Secretary*

Capital Roof Campaign letters have gone out and pledges are starting to come into the office. As of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 12 pledges have been made for a total of a little over

\$28,000.00. People are starting to pay all or part of their pledges, so we have received \$5,660.00 so far, including \$100.00 from one of the groups who use our facility.

So, we are over half way to meeting our goal of repaying ourselves for the cost of our new (not leaking) roof.

Thanks to all of you who have either pledged or given to this campaign.



If you have not returned your campaign pledge card, please prayerfully consider helping with this campaign and return your card to the office soon.

### Fall Clean-up

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> was an incredibly beautiful fall day which allowed 7 members and friends, plus three others who helped in other ways, to complete the annual fall clean up of our building and property. Thanks to Barb, Lois, Mary, Al, Ann, and Greg, plus Harold, Dianne and J.P. Now we are ready for winter (which can take as long as it wants to get here).



### Trim the Tree and Raise the Roof

submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

The Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale is Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All the funds raised will go to the capital campaign for the roof project. If you can't make it to the sale, but would like to purchase something, you can order an evergreen arrangement in a mug. It will be delivered the first week of December. Small Christmas mugs - \$8. Large mugs - \$12. Contact Bobbie to place an order. [rbdalqui@gmail.com](mailto:rbdalqui@gmail.com)

### Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Do things ever slow down? Our newest director, Koni Turunen, and Sherry Middlemis-Brown have been busy applying for several small grants. Although the amounts awarded are modest, the work it takes to put together a well thought out request is prodigious. We won't know until November about qualifying.

Angel Mission is one of Portage Health Foundation's Giving Tuesday organizations. We participated last year and doubled our annual income. It is what allowed us to put a down payment on our building. PHF matches donations made through their website during Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

See <https://www.phfgive.org/giving-tuesday> for details and instructions on how to make your donation, and please remember Angel Mission on Giving Tuesday.

We received notice to vacate storage space at the Rose and Thorn building, caddy-corner from our free store. We had used the space for 2 years in this building owned by Houghton County Land Bank and had invested in it as a potential new home until we learned about how bad its condition truly was. As I write this, our managers and Jim Northey are organizing the shifting of storage bins from the Rose and Thorn to our basement. The Land Bank intends to demolish the rear section of the building.

The winter wear giveaway has gone wonderfully with people swamping the store to choose coats, boots, and snow pants. Thank you to all the drivers that brought students to the store to shop for necessities of winter. We ran out of some sizes very quickly. We will need to place greater emphasis on the coat drive next year to bolster the quantity of items we offer in the giveaway.

**Portage Lake United Church**  
**1400 E. Houghton Ave.**  
**Houghton, MI 49931**

**Return Service Requested**

<b>November Volunteer Schedule</b>				
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
11/06	Lois	Christina	Carl	Biruta & Judy
11/13	Lois	Beth	Terry	Ann
11/20	Nancy & Dianne	Lou Ellyn	Carl	Lois & Mary
11/27	Beth Lois	Lois	Greg	Nancy & Dianne

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Website: [www.pluc.org](http://www.pluc.org)

Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

Office Manager: Beth Smock

**General Office Hours:**

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

**Pastor Office Hours:**

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

