

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2023 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
2023 PLUC LEADERSHIP	3
Consistory Elders 2023	3
Church Staff	3
Financial Officers	3
2023 Consistory Committees and Appointments	4
2023 Pastor's Report	5
Clerk's Statistical Report as of December 2023	7
Additional 2023 Statistics	7
FINANCIAL REPORTS	8
2023 Treasurer Report	8
Roof Funding	8
Audit of 2022 Finances	9
Finance Committee	10
Stewardship	12
PLUC 2024 General Fund Budget Projections	13
Helping Hands	13
Fellowship Guild Treasurer's Report	14
OTHER REPORTS	15
Worship Committee	15
Minister of Music	17
Comfort, Console & Caring Committee	18
Fellowship Guild	18
Personnel	21

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nominating Committee	21
Building and Grounds	22
Angel Mission	23
MEETING MINUTES	27
February 12, 2023	27
Congregational Meeting	27
Corporation Meeting	30
October 29, 2023	30
Congregational Meeting	30
Corporation Meeting	32

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2023 PLUC LEADERSHIP

Consistory Elders 2023

BROOKHOUSE, Barb (Class of 2023)

CAMPBELL, Ann (Class of 2024)

CAMPBELL, Greg (Class of 2023)

MIDDLEMIS-BROWN, Rob (Class of 2025)

MIDDLEMIS-BROWN, Sherry (Class of 2025)

SPRAGUE, Dianne (Class of 2024)

Church Staff

PASTOR: Rev. Peter Norland

OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Smock

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Susie Byykkonen

BUILDING ATTENDANT: Christy Kerttu

Financial Officers

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Beth Smock

TREASURER: Edward Lowther

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2023 Consistory Committees and Appointments

Pastor is an ex officio member of all committees.

Bold = Consistory Representative

MODERATOR OF THE CONSISTORY: Pastor Peter Norland

MODERATOR OF THE CORPORATION: Terry Monson,
Clerk

AUDIT: Bobbie Dalquist and Jim Northey

FINANCE/MEMORIAL: Ed Lowther (ex officio), Bobbie
Dalquist (co-chair), Harold Evensen, **Rob Middlemis-Brown** ,
Terry Monson (co-chair)

STEWARDSHIP: Beth Smock

WORSHIP: Ann Campbell

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Harold Evensen, Jim Northey,
Greg Campbell (chair), Al Eckhart

PERSONNEL: Nancy Byers-Sprague, **Rob Middlemis-Brown**,
Barb Brookhouse (chair)

NOMINATING: **Barb Brookhouse**, Liz Evensen, Jan Medlyn,
Sherry Middlemis-Brown

PRESBYTERIAN COMMISSIONER:

PRESBYTERY ALTERNATES:

UCC ALTERNATE:

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Beth Smock, Office Manager

FLOWERS: Bobbie Dalquist

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Elders

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2023 Pastor's Report

January 2023

Grace and Peace to you.

I am continually grateful for the opportunity to serve God's mission in the world with and through the Portage Lake United Church. The compassionate spirit of the members and friends of the congregation make my role as pastor a true delight. Portage Lake United Church is indeed a special community of the followers of Christ.

Looking back at our previous year in ministry together, we know that the Spirit of God works in and through us. So, as you read through this report, I encourage you to keep your eyes open to recognize and remember the various moments of God's work during this past year. When you do recognize one, you might just want to stop reading and offer silent words of praise (or loud ones!) and raise your hands (or pump your fist!). Or, you might send off a quick text message to thank or encourage someone through whom you saw God work. The Spirit of God works in many and varied ways even in a little congregation like ours. These pages are not just reports about meetings held, maintenance done, meals cooked, and numbers crunched—no, all of these reports are really reporting the traces of God moving through our congregation in mission to the world.

I am more convinced today than ever that Portage Lake United Church has a unique role to play in God's mission to the Copper Country. We extend a wide, warm welcome to a diverse group of people. We worship faithfully and honestly with wonderful music. We take the task of discipleship seriously. Our members give selflessly in service to the congregation and in a wide variety of

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

places and organizations throughout the community. We care for one another through joys and sorrows and build lasting, faithful friendships. For us to claim that we are and do all of these things and more, is not to speak highly of ourselves, but to praise the work of the Spirit of God who does all these things and more in us and through us.

So, again, I say how continually grateful I am to serve God in and through Portage Lake United Church. May God continue to bless and grow us in the future.

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Norland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping tail.

Pastor Peter Norland

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Clerk's Statistical Report as of December 2023

Active Members as of 12/31/2022	41
New Members added in 2023	2
Removed from Membership in 2023	2
Moved to Active Membership List during 2023	0
Children of Members	4
Children Removed from Membership	0
Non baptized children not considered members	2
Baptized children not counted for per capita purposes	2
Total active members on December 31, 2022 counted for per capita	41
Baptisms	0
Marriages	0
Deaths of Active Members	0
Active Members as of 12/31/2023	41

Additional 2023 Statistics

Active Non-Member Friends	26
Total number of Active Members and Friends	67
Average Sunday Worship attendance in 2023	33

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2023 Treasurer Report

Edward Lowther, Treasurer

(see insert)

Roof Funding

Bobbie Dalquist, Finance Committee Co-Chair

Funding the Roof	Pledged	Paid	Balance Due on Pledges
Pledges	\$34,799.00	\$19,399.00	\$15,400.00
Paid in addition to pledges		6,569.00	
Total Paid		\$25,968.00	
Cost of roof:		\$48,471.00	
Received	\$25,968.00		
Balance due on Pledges	15,400.00		
Total received plus balance due - pledges		41,368.00	
Unfunded		\$7,103.00	
Roof Cost	(48,471.00)		
From VanGuard	44,541.68		
Total donations received	25,968.00		
Total paid back to Vanguard	(15,505.00)		
Balance Sheet - Ckg Roof Fund	6,533.68		

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Roof Funds in and out of Vanguard			
From Vanguard	44,541.68		
Paid back to Vanguard	(15,505.00)		
Due to Vanguard	29,036.68		
Beginning with the January balance sheet, Vanguard will have the following sub-accounts:			
	Balance in Vanguard		
VanGuard - Unrestricted	104,207.71		
VanGuard - Roof Loan	(29,036.68)		
VanGuard - Capital Improvements	10,700.00		
Total VanGuard	85,871.03		

Audit of 2022 Finances

Bobbie Dalquist and Jim Northey, Audit Committee

We reviewed the invoices in the files, confirming the invoices/statements for all payments were in the files. We confirmed that the treasurer records and financial secretary records for deposits matched, confirmed that bank balances on the Balance Sheet matched balances in the bank, and confirmed the payroll tax liabilities were correct. Minor accounting issues were identified and corrected. The 2022 financial records are in good order. Our thanks go to Edward Lowther and Beth Smock for their work.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Finance Committee

Terry Monson. Finance Committee Co-Chair

Vanguard Account: At the end of November, the balance in the church's Vanguard account totaled \$73, 543 [Wellington (VWELX) = \$53,417] and Money Market (VMFXX) = \$20,126]. The portfolio was overweighted with bonds since Wellington has a 65%-35% stock-bond composition.

In December, Ed corrected the imbalance and focused the stock portion upon companies with high Environmental, Social, and Governance. He also transferred \$10,700 temporarily from the balance sheet's Easement Settlement account to take advantage of the Money Market fund's higher interest returns (5.24%). This increased the portfolio's value to \$85,871.

To maintain the 65%-35% stock-bond composition of the Church's Investment Policy, he liquidated the Wellington fund and bought \$54,758 of the Vanguard ESG ETF (ESGV), which left \$29,485 in the Money Market fund. ESGV has a lower fee (0.09%) than Wellington (0.25%) and its stock composition is similar to that of Wellington – mostly large cap companies.

Balance sheet situation: As of December 31,2023, the Church's total assets totaled \$103,830.

The checking account balance at Superior National Bank and Trust was \$17,904, of which the General Fund balance was -\$8,871 and designated account balances totaled \$26,830. These designated accounts include items such as Helping Hands (\$912), the Memorial Fund (\$3,838), VonBatchelder (\$12,421), the Roof Project (\$6,533), Capital Improvements (\$1,190), and a range of other designated balances that were less than \$1,000 each.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Vanguard Account was the largest component of assets. Its balance was \$85,871 at the end of December.

Liabilities (mainly payroll-related), were \$2,027, which left the Church's Total Equity at \$101,753.

Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) Endowments: The Church is the beneficiary of three KCF endowments - the Wagner Memorial Endowment, which was gifted from the estate of Clara and John Wagner, the PLUC Endowment, which consists of individual donations, and the PLUC Agency Endowment, which the Committee believes was established from part of the proceeds from the sale of the manse years ago. As of September 30, 2023, their balances totaled \$132,403 (Wagner \$95,195, PLUC Endowment \$21,057, PLUC Agency \$16,151).). The Church does not own these endowments so they are not included on the Balance Sheet. Rather, the Church and the Fellowship Guild are beneficiaries of yearly distributions, which, in 2023, totaled \$4,937 to support the General Fund and \$829 to support the Fellowship Guild.

Easement Funds: The Church received a \$10,700 check from American Transmission Company for easement rights for power lines that are on church property. These funds have been transferred to the Vanguard account and are earmarked for capital improvements.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stewardship

Beth Smock, Financial Secretary

Final 2023 numbers

Pledged	100.82%
Unpledged	119.35%
Loose Plate	314.58%
Building Use	148.63%

For 2024

Increased pledge	14
Decreased pledge	2
Stayed the same	6
New pledge	2
Total pledgers	24
Decrease in pledges	1

One of the unpledged units from 2023 has changed to pledged for 2024.

There is one actual new pledge. One of our pledgers from 2023 has passed away (a non member who still supported the church). Two pledge units who pledged in 2023 did not pledge in 2024 but may make unpledged gifts.

Our amount pledged for 2024 is \$71,440.00, which is a little under a 1% decrease from 2023.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PLUC 2024 General Fund Budget Projections

Rob Middlemis-Brown, Finance Committee

(see insert)

Helping Hands

Beth Smock, Office Manager

Unfortunately, the need in Houghton County reflects the needs of the country.

We closed out 2023 having given out 52 Helping Hands vouchers for gas and food for a total of \$2600.00. This amount does not represent what was actually spent, especially with the cost of gas going down at the end of the year. We took in \$2265.50, so probably came pretty close to breaking even for the year.

2022 Gas Vouchers 31

2023 Gas Voucher 29

2022 Food Vouchers 17

2023 Food Vouchers 23

Our two busiest months were January (9 vouchers) when people who had used their two voucher request opportunities in 2022 came back for the new year and November (8 vouchers, mostly the week before Thanksgiving) when people were asking for help with food.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fellowship Guild Treasurer's Report

Bobbie Dalquist, Fellowship Guild Treasurer

Portage Lake United Church Fellowship Guild As of 12/31/2023			
	Expense	Income	
Balance 1/1/2023			\$ 4,989.25
2023 Pledges		2,045.00	
2022 Pledges		75.00	
Wagner		829.10	
Interest		3.04	
Rummage		1,233.50	
Holiday Rummage Sale *		806.50	
	Total Revenue		4,992.14
Rummage Expenses (Angel Mission portion)	(500.00)		
Holiday Rummage Sale (Angel Mission portion)	(149.00)		
Flowers - gifts	(32.31)		
	Non-budget expenses		(681.31)
Pledge to PLUC	(3,000.00)		
Helping Hands	(100.00)		
Employee Gifts	(275.00)		
	Total Budgeted Expense		(3,375.00)
Balance 12/14/23			\$ 5,925.08

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OTHER REPORTS

Worship Committee

Ann Campbell and Peter Norland

When it comes to worship, it is the congregation that makes up the primary committee. Worship is our shared work as we gather each Sunday and join our hearts and voices in prayer and praise, music and song, word and sacrament.

There are special roles of course. Our congregation is thankful for the many people who offer their time and talents to make our worship so meaningful. Susie brings us joy in her music (often assisted by Christina, Olivia, John Paul, Amos, Amanda, and many others). Peter and our numerous prayer writers give us much to ponder and things about which to be mindful. Jim prepares the online bulletin and uses art and photo offerings from many sources--including photos taken by members of the congregation, like Sherry and Ann. Barb organizes our prayer list. The Elders (currently serving and not) help with communion by serving and providing the bread. Many have offered their time to help with the children in the more formalized Sunday School that has been a joy to us in this past year.

All of our friends and members have great talents and ideas! Please reach out to Pastor Peter and/or a consistory member with your ideas! We are always eager to incorporate new life, the arts, and creativity in our services.

Here are some of the worship highlights from the last year:

During Lent, we shared mid-week services with Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches. In our own Sunday services, we sang the psalms to incorporate them in our time together. On

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

the first Sunday of Lent, those who attended were given a purple ribbon to remind them of the sovereignty of Jesus. We also had a weekly presentation of Lenten offerings which were sent to the Angel Mission.

Holy Week was special for a Theo-Drama in Three Acts which spanned the three services of the week. Each of those services ended with an "intermission" which invited all to attend the next act of the drama.

Our children's church, as mentioned above, became a much more regular part of our Sundays. During the summer months, volunteers created craft time for the children. With the beginning of the new school year, lessons were brought into the time and Sunday School had a more educational slant. Volunteers help with that and we are also fortunate that Olivia Byykkonen agreed to staff the Sunday School frequently.

The season of creation brought us changes in the seating in the sanctuary and the opportunity to use that seating change to shape the worship and the prayers in reference to all of God's creation.

Rearranging the seating continued into Advent. We received the gift of even more special music during that season. And the Christmas Eve service was a blessing to friends, members and many visitors who were looking for a place to welcome the Christ Child.

As we look into this new year, we are thankful for all of our staff and volunteers and for all who share the PLUC community.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister of Music

Susie Byykkonen, Minister of Music

It has been my privilege to again serve as minister of music this year. I am so grateful for the continued support of music that is given by the generous people of PLUC.

The hymn-selection committee consists of Pastor Norland and myself, meeting together once or twice a month to plan the worship services. We use “Call to Worship: Lectionary Aids”, and the website, hymnary.com to help in this process. We primarily use music from the *Presbyterian Hymnal*, *Sing! A New Creation*, and *Glory to God*. We also use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal and *Covenant Hymnal*.

The piano and organ remain in good working order. I have continued to use the sanctuary space to teach private piano and flute lessons to a number of Michigan Tech students throughout the week. Over the last two years, there have been 22 college students, many of whom have taken multiple semesters of private lessons. Over 400 hours of music lessons were given at the church in 2023. The grand piano is tuned at least twice a year and the upright at least once a year, with MTU providing the tunings for the pianos.

We have enjoyed occasional special music provided by members of the congregation, along with a number of guest musicians, including one MTU student. A vocal ensemble was formed to provide special music for the Christmas Eve service.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Comfort, Console & Caring Committee

Judy Albee

This committee does not have officers, scheduled meetings or bylaws. The membership is open to all. This past year many of us took the time and made the effort to support Portage Lake United Church's extended families and friends by sending cards, making phone calls, visiting when they had deaths or illnesses in their families or sharing treats. Roughly translating Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me. So, continue to comfort, console and show you care about our PLUC family.

Fellowship Guild

Judy Albee

The name of this long standing group may need to be updated to reflect the current inclusivity. Our mission is still very relevant and planned activities are anticipated. As with the changes in our weekly church services, we have all learned to do what we can, when we can, to serve others.

Fellowship, service and financial support are still vital aspects of our mission. It is a challenge to involve as many individuals as we can with their work schedules, travel plans, the availability of facilities and other community events. We have done an amazing

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

job with the assistance of so many members and friends. Here are some of the 2023 highlights in chronological order.

January 21 – Planning session at Victoria’s Kitchen

February 18 – Lunch at The Bluffs followed by filling baskets for shut-ins with ‘mid-winter cheer

March 19 – Potluck at PLUC followed by a slide presentation by the Middlemis-Browns on their trip to Antarctica to learn about and see polar bears

April 9 – Easter breakfast

May 20 – Replaced unsightly burner pans on kitchen stove, washed some inside windows and assisted with outside cleanup

June 10 - Rummage sale after collecting, sorting, pricing, setting up and taking down (money donated for roof repairs)

July 11 – Gathered on The Bluffs Patio to visit with members and plan fall events

July 16 – All church potluck

August 11 – Housewarming/shower for a new PLUC attendee and first time homeowner

August 26 – “Afternoon on the Town” – over 700 bags of cookies & PLUC information provided

September 11 - Planning at Suomi Restaurant

September 21 - Potluck at PLUC followed by displays and a slide presentation on “Tracing Roots in Norway and Sweden” by Bobbie Dalquist

October 8 – Cooperative Campus Ministry - Progressive dinner (main course)

October 28 – Holiday decoration rummage sale after collecting, sorting, pricing, setting up and taking down (money donated to PLUC pledge and Angel Mission)

November 29 – Planning at PLUC

December 3 – Tree trimming and church interior decorated for Christmas

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 10 – Cookie Sunday for Tech students prior to finals

December 18 – Potluck salad luncheon at LouEllyn Helman's after which we filled over a dozen plates or baskets containing fruit, cookies, nuts or holiday snacks for our shut-ins and staff. They also contained cards as well as a financial gift for our hard working staff.

These activities were enjoyed by many. We are grateful for the skills and special assistance of so many. We could not accomplish what we did without the expertise of Bobbie regarding financial matters, Jon's cooking skills, Barb and Lois' contacts on a weekly basis with Angel Mission and Liz's composing of our pledge letter. I won't even begin to name other individuals who willingly give a hand with whatever needs to be done to support each other, our church and community.

Now, who would like to tackle by-laws?

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Personnel

Barb Brookhouse

Personnel Committee: Nancy Byers Sprague, Barb Brookhouse, Rob Middlemis-Brown

The committee members wish to thank the Pastor, Office Manager, Minister of Music, Treasurer, and Building Attendant for the services they provide so well. The time and effort put into each job is truly appreciated.

An Employee Leave Policy was introduced and put in place in 2023. This policy only affects the Office Manager since the Pastor already has a leave policy in place and the others do not put in the needed hours for the policy to apply to them.

Nominating Committee

Barb Brookhouse

Nominating Committee: Barb Brookhouse, Liz Evensen, Jan Medlyn, Sherry Middlemis-Brown

At the February 2023 Congregation/Corporation Meeting the following individuals were nominated and voted-in to the following positions:

- *Consistory Elders: Sherry and Rob Middlemis-Brown
- *Financial Secretary: Beth Smock
- *Treasurer: Edward Lowther

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Building and Grounds

Greg Campbell, member

2023 was another busy year as we worked together to care for our building and grounds. *Many thanks are in order to all who so generously offered their time, talents, and treasure to keep things running well and looking good!*

Last year's accomplishments:

- Spring Cleanup
- Fall Cleanup
- Planting a 2nd pear tree – we may get some fruit in a few years!
- Added bulbs and perennials to our Pollinator Garden
- Primed and painted the soffits
- Updated and replaced exterior signage
- Painted the parking lot
- Worked with the Finance Committee to establish a Capital Improvements fund to address future major building maintenance costs.

Goals for 2024:

- Continue exterior lighting and signage improvements
- Modernize the exterior fascia
- Clean the carpets
- Paint the office suite
- Replace PA speakers
- Replace/relocate projector and online worship equipment.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Angel Mission

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

At the beginning of 2023, the board of directors recognized that our finances had become complex, and we needed a bookkeeper. We were successfully obtaining small grants for specific programs, and we had the added complication of property ownership. We hired a contract accountant, and she entered financial data into Quickbooks.

We also asked Bobbie Dalquist of PLUC to informally review our 2022 finances to identify areas of accounting improvement and find inconsistencies. Bobbie completed the task, made recommendations, but found no major discrepancies in our accounting. With Bobbie's interest in the financial aspects of CCAM, the board asked her to join the directors as the treasurer. Bobbie joined us in April and soon we discovered that she could manage quite well without a contract accountant.

For most of 2023, we functioned without a manager. Our volunteer coordinator handled opening and closing the free store and program leaders directed and administered our major programs. The store is running smoothly, but we would like to find a new manager soon.

Our long-time food pantry manager announced that she wanted to retire after many years of service. She requested that we seek a replacement so she could train the person to meet the reporting standards for food bank participation. We are still looking for a replacement. The paperwork is extensive, particularly now that we feed over 200 people monthly. Last year, we distributed **over \$100,000** worth of food.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fall is a busy time of year for CCAM. First, the School Backpack Program gets underway by August 1st. Lois Jambekar undertook leadership for this program and filled backpacks for 136 students with grade appropriate supplies. Using the list of items included in each backpack, we determined that Lois distributed **\$13,500** in supplies to children from many different school systems.

Immediately after Lois completed the School Backpack Program, the winter outerwear drive began for Coat the Copper Country. The leadership in this program, Renee Tuoriniemi and Sharon King-Grieger, started purchasing items at huge discounts during the prior winter season. Area businesses and organizations both contributed to and collected clothing donations for the program. The community support was amazing. Using actual receipts and value estimates, we determined that Coat the Copper Country distributed **nearly \$100,000** worth of all types of winter outerwear.

While these programs were underway, several requests for proposals opened for small grants and the Copper Shore Community Health Foundation began its #GivingTuesday efforts, which included local charities. We became involved in publicity for #GivingTuesday, being interviewed by area broadcasters and sending our letters to prior donors. We successfully competed for two small grants for \$2500 each. We have not received information on the #GivingTuesday donations yet.

At the same time, Angel Tree, our Christmas gifts for children in need, began. Sharon King-Grieger and Renee Tuoriniemi stepped up to organize registering children, finding sponsors, and ensuring that all gifts got to the correct families. A cadre of helpers assisted in collecting and distributing the gifts to the appropriate families. We estimated that our sponsors along with the items that we added to the gifts, were responsible for distributing about \$150 worth of

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

gifts per child. That is a total of **over \$35,000** for the **237 children** that received Angel Tree gifts.

Our total outlay from general funds for all the programs combined and business expenses is approximately \$8000. The community provides program specific monetary and material donations that cover nearly all program needs and we merely fill the gaps. Angel Mission is the focal point through which the generosity of the community is channeled, rather than being the sole source of the aid.

This estimate of CCAM's overall contribution to the welfare of the community does not include the Angel Mission Free Store itself. The free store arguably has the greatest impact on community welfare. Daily, our volunteers put out the equivalent of several 30-gallon bags of clothing and housewares. An equal amount of material goes out the door daily. It is not unusual to have 100 shoppers in the store during a day. If we could capture the value of the items redistributed through the free store, I would not be surprised to find that the total value of CCAM (programs and free store) to the community would exceed \$1,000,000.

The programs and the free store rely heavily on a location. Many monetary gifts from the local community are designated for specific programs and cannot be used for overhead. Funds sent by Presbytery and often augmented by church members pay most of our monthly mortgage. This gift has a huge impact on our mission *with every \$1 contributed by the Presbytery generating \$80 of assistance* to those in need throughout Copper Country.

This could not be done without dedicated volunteers. We clocked about 8300 volunteer hours in 2023. That is equivalent to more than four full-time employees. Many of those hours are volunteered by our own church members, as you see below. Some

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

of the other active volunteers are from Bethany Lutheran of Mohawk, an Evangelical Lutheran Church. Other churches are represented as well. Although officially a 501-c-3 corporation, the preponderance of volunteers are people of faith, who want to serve those community members that are in need.

Our board of directors:

Bobbie Dalquist [PLUC]

Jill Hodges

Sherry Middlemis-Brown [PLUC]

Lisa Nelson

Jim Northey [PLUC]

Paul Tuoriniemi

Volunteer Liaison to Board:

Lois Jambekar [PLUC]

Barb Brookhouse [PLUC]

Volunteer Coordinator:

Terry LaBonte

Program Leaders:

Lois Jambekar [PLUC]

Sharon King-Grieger

Marti Staesnick

Renee Tuoriniemi

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2023

Minutes of the Portage Lake United Church
Congregation/Corporation Annual Meeting
February 12, 2023, Following Worship

Congregational Meeting

Quorum: Terry Monson, Clerk of the Consistory, determined that a quorum was present.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Norland offered an Opening Prayer at 11:43 am.

Open the Meeting: Pastor Norland, Moderator of the Consistory, opened the Meeting of the Congregation.

Approval of the Agenda: After a “Friendly Motion” the congregation approved the agenda for the February meeting of the PLUC Congregation.

2022 Annual Report: Terry Monson moved (Greg Campbell second) to accept the 2022 Annual Report. Carried

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Peter thanked the congregation for their support and prayers over the last year. He also thanked Susie Byykkonen for the music she provides each week plus those who have provided special music, Office Manager Beth Smock for keeping the office running, and Fellowship Guild for all that they did over 2022. Pastor Peter informed the congregation that we will be holding Lenten services with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Cassell. We will begin by holding Ash Wednesday services at PLUC, and then alternating between the three churches for Wednesday Lenten services. Pastor Peter

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

will be working with Ann Campbell, chair of the Worship Committee, on Sunday services during Lent, plus possible services during Holy Week. We will have at least one potluck after service during Lent. Pastor Peter also asked anyone who would be interested in attending a book study or Bible study group to let him know. He would like to lead one. He also asked if people are interested in a “praying and caring” group to reach out to others in a more formalized way.

Election of Elders: The Nominating Committee’s nominations of Sherry Middlemis-Brown and Rob Middlemis-Brown, the Consistory class of 2025, were presented. There were no other nominations from the Congregation. Barb Brookhouse moved (Lois Jambekar second) to accept this slate of officers. Approved.

Election of Financial Officers: The Nominating Committee put forward Edward Lowther as the Church Treasurer and Beth Smock as the Financial Secretary. There were no other nominations from the Congregation. Barb Brookhouse moved (Ann Campbell second) to accept the above nominations. Approved.

Denominational Representatives: Pastor Peter, along with Jan Medlyn, past Presbytery Commissioner and Dianne Sprague, past UCC Commissioner explained the role of our Denominational Representatives. Anyone who might be interested in filling these positions was asked to speak to Pastor Peter or a member of Consistory.

2023 Budget: Bobbie Dalquist, Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, discussed the 2022 Budget results and presented the 2023 Budget.

(2022) The income for 2022 was slightly lower than the Finance Committee had projected, mostly due to investments coming in lower than expected. On the other hand, expenses were also a little under what had been budgeted. Dalquist also reported on

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Additional Funds”, those which had not been budgeted for. In 2022, \$9700.00 was received from pledges and other donations for the roof project. This amount will be returned to the VanGuard account (monies for the roof project were original taken from VanGuard with the intent to return this money once pledges and other donations for the roof repair are received). The plan is to put this amount into ESG funds, with Terry Monson, Finance Committee co-chair investigating which funds would be best. The Building and Grounds committee used vonBatchelder funds to pay for improvements to the parking lot and sidewalk in front of the church. The cost of work on our audio/visual needs was a little under \$5000.00. Donations totally \$3500.00 were received from the congregation with the Memorial Fund covering the remaining \$900.00. Helping Hands received \$3000.00 in donations and spent \$2000.00. Requests for Helping Hands increased significantly in 2022 and we are seeing an increase again for 2023, so continued giving toward Helping Hands is needed.

(2023) The Finance Committee anticipates the income for 2023 to have a slight increase. Their estimate of expenses for 2023 is based on actual costs from 2022. Dalquist reported that this a “deficit” budget. Jim Northey moved (Barb Brookhouse second) at accept the 2023 budget. Approved.

Pastor Terms of Call: There are no changes in the 2023 Pastor Terms of Call from that of the 2022 Terms of Call. Terry Monson moved (Ann Campbell second) to accept the 2023 Pastor Terms of Call. Approved.

Adjournment: Dianne Sprague moved (Terry Monson second) to adjourn the Meeting of the Congregation. Approved.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Corporation Meeting

The Corporation Meeting Convened Following the Meeting of the Congregation

Open the Meeting: Dianne Sprague moved (Lois Jambekar second) to open the meeting of the Corporation. Approved.

Approve the business of the Congregation meeting: Ann Campbell moved (Dianne Sprague second) to approve the business of the Congregation Meeting. Approved

Adjourn: Lou Ellyn Helman moved (Jan Medlyn second) to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation. Approved.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Peter closed the meeting with prayer at 12:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Smock, Office Manager

October 29, 2023

**Minutes of the Portage Lake United Church
Congregation/Corporation Annual Meeting
October 29, 2023, Following Worship**

Congregational Meeting

Open the Meeting: Pastor Norland, Moderator of the Consistory, opened the Meeting of the Congregation. at 11:50 am

Quorum: Terry Monson, Clerk of the Consistory, determined that a quorum was present.

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Opening Prayer: Pastor Norland offered an Opening Prayer.

Approval of the Agenda: Sherry Middlemis-Brown moved (Dianne Sprgue second) to approve the Agenda. Carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Peter began by looking back over the successes of 2023. We are returning to pre-pandemic levels. Attendance is up, we have more special music, groups (Recovery Groups every day of the week, International Neighbors, recitals, Susie Byykkonen teaching MTU piano classes (they get a PE credit), and other local groups have returned. Pastor Peter thanked the many people who volunteer for greeting, reading the scriptures, offering prayers, providing coffee and snacks after worship, sharing their musical gifts, and many other things that allow us to worship together. He thanked Fellowship Guilds for their successful luncheons and rummage sales. The Building and Grounds Committee has been very busy updating the parking lot and many people have helped keep our garden beautiful. PLUC continues to reach out to those in need in the community through the Helping Hands Ministry and the support of Angel Mission.

Budget: Bobbie Dalquist, Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, discussed the 2023 Budget results as of September and presented the 2024 budget draft. The 2023 Financial Report shows that we will not be as over our budget as was anticipated at the beginning of the year. Pledged, Unpledged, and Loose Plate giving is on target to meet budgeted goals. Some expenses have been over what was budgeted as prices continue to increase.

The tentative 2024 budget was shared with the congregation. The Finance Committee based the budget on a 5% increase in giving. The committee produced two budgets, one including 5% raises for the pastor and staff and one without. Consistory requested that the budget with raises be presented to the congregation. Pledges and loose plate giving were increased with unpledged amounts remaining the same. Most of the expenses stayed the same with a

Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

few things like maintenance and insurance receiving small increases. The Stewardship Drive will begin the week of October 30, 2023 with the final budget presented at the February Meeting of the Congregation.

Adjournment: Rob Middlemis-Brown moved (second by Dianne Sprague) to adjourn the meeting. Passed.

Corporation Meeting

The Corporation Meeting Convened Following the Meeting of the Congregation

Open the Meeting: Clerk Terry Monson called the Meeting of the Corporation to order.

Approve the business of the Congregation meeting: Nancy Byers Sprague moved (Dianne Sprague second) to approve the business of the Congregation Meeting. Carried.

Adjourn: Dianne Sprague moved (Rob Middlemis-Brown second) to adjourn the Corporation meeting. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Smock, Office Manager