

# St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor

**Demonstrating God's love through inclusive community, thoughtful exploration, loving service, and dedication to ecological ministry.**

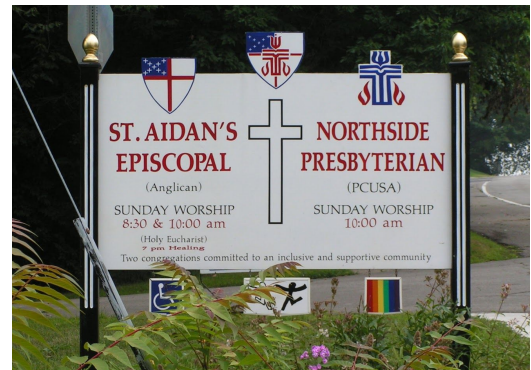
## St. Aidan's and Northside Associated Ministries

St. Aidan's was an experiment in mission and ecumenism founded in 1966. We share our building and many ministries with our sister church, Northside Presbyterian Church. Our two separate worship spaces look out over the woods on our property.



Northside Associated Ministries (NAM) is our congregations' formal corporate expression of our relationship. NAM owns the land and building, and provides a framework for shared activities in social action, outreach, Christian education for adults and children, as well as building and grounds upkeep. St Aidan's Episcopal and Northside Presbyterian

churches share a strong commitment to social and ecological justice, and both affirm diversity as a core value. We celebrate our relationship in many ways including joint worship services about 10 times per year.



## Serving God's creation and God's people

We live our vision in eucharistic worship, prayer, study, and service. We are actively engaged with our surrounding community and service is one of St. Aidan's core values. Some ways we currently serve include:

- Hosting the rotating shelter for a week each winter, providing overflow space for sleeping as well as volunteers providing food and fellowship to our guests.
- Managing our building as a community resource, providing reasonably-priced space for the service and outreach work of others. The Michigan Council on Youth Justice (MCYJ) rents office space and five 12 step groups welcome more than 200 people each week. We offer the St. Aidan's sanctuary to Pardes Hannah for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services annually.



- Growing and donating over 200 lbs. of fresh food for Food Gatherers in our Faith and Food garden. We also collect non-perishable donations year round.
- Stewarding our seven acres of property including five acres of forest that is registered as a National Wildlife Habitat, two trails in the woods, a rain garden, and a labyrinth adjacent to our building which provide opportunities for outdoor reflection and relaxation.

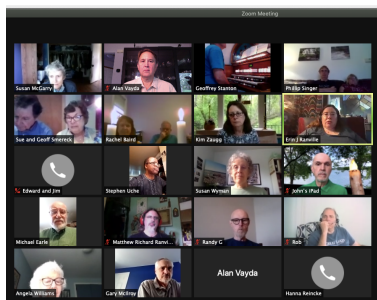


A long time parishioner has also expanded our outreach to the widows and orphans of his home village in Nigeria. In one of our unique and fun activities, his basket weaving skills are shared through one or two fundraiser workshops each year where participants make their own basket.



## Worship

St. Aidan's practices eucharistic worship, morning prayer, and lay-lead online worship as the occasion and safety require. Prior to the pandemic, we worshipped in person with social time before and after a 10am service. On Sundays when clergy are not present, we practice morning prayer led by a lay person and, in place of a sermon, a reflection by a parishioner.



During the pandemic, and following our vicar's retirement, we have moved to online worship on Zoom. Each service features music by a professional musician and sometimes guest musicians from the congregation.

## Our neighborhood and town: Ann Arbor, MI



Ann Arbor is home to the University of Michigan's many world-class programs, as well as Michigan Medicine, a large, multi-hospital medical system. St. Aidan's is in a unique, wooded and hilly location adjacent to the University of Michigan's North Campus and near the University's Medical Campus. North Campus is home to U of M's colleges and schools dedicated to engineering, music, theater, dance, art, and architecture.



We are also located near a variety of public and county parks featuring everything from hilly trails for hiking and biking to the Huron River, a popular spot for human-powered water sports, fishing, and bird watching.



The main university campus in downtown Ann Arbor, and a wealth of museums, restaurants, social, and cultural opportunities are a short drive or bus ride from St. Aidan's. Summers in non-pandemic years are especially vibrant, with outdoor music, movies, art fairs, and sports taking place almost daily.



## Who we are and who we are striving to become

St. Aidan's current membership is 32 persons from Ann Arbor and the surrounding area. We have 15 pledging units, and a balanced budget, with a small reserve set aside. Our building is fully owned by NAM, and sharing our space keeps building expenses low. All of our members are active in lay ministry, community service, and contributing to worship services. We seek continued growth in diversity, engagement in service to our community, and in relationship with God and one another. We are stable, involved, and committed to growing!

We welcome all persons, seeing God in all God's children, and affirm diversity as a core value. We would like to extend Christ's radical welcome to a wider range of people, including families with children. When children are present at St. Aidan's they are welcomed and included. We would also like to reconnect with students and other members of the university community. We enjoy and would like to grow our racial, cultural, and generational diversity.



## Who we are seeking

We seek a pastor who will provide leadership and inspiration to energize our spiritual life and social justice outreach, and provide and guide pastoral care.

Candidates for our open position should be collaborative, empathetic, and a flexible partner and leader. They must have a passion for social and ecological justice, and enthusiasm for helping communicate our gifts and spirit to a wider community so that we may grow in service, and hopefully in numbers.



Sharing or delegating worship-related duties within appropriate canonical limits is a must. St. Aidan's values lay involvement and leadership in worship through reading, reflections, and music. We have a number of talented congregants who enjoy helping with the design, presentation, and execution of the service. We want to be involved and use our talents!

We like sermons that challenge us and engaging in intellectual and spiritual discussions. A regular program of adult education and bible study is also important to us, and could be led by the priest themselves, or by lay leaders with guidance from our minister.

## St. Aidan's and the Diocese of Michigan

St. Aidan's is part of the Diocese of Michigan, one of three Episcopal dioceses in the state. The Diocese of Michigan covers southeast Michigan, including the cities of Detroit and Ann Arbor. St. Aidan's is an apportionment-paying and involved member of the Diocese, with congregants who have or do serve the diocese in many ways, including Diocesan Council, Diocesan Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, and Covenant 5.

Our online presence includes a Facebook page: [St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan](#) and a website: [www.staidan.org](http://www.staidan.org). Our website needs some updating, but provides an extensive overview of our history, passions and ministries. We also jointly share a Facebook page on our natural habitat: [St. Aidan's/Northside Presbyterian Natural Habitat](#).



### *Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Statement*

Guided by our newly elected bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, we are a diocese that values collegiality, creativity, and openness. We offer community organizing training, the College of Congregational Development, and ongoing collegiality and support. We invite you to come and join us as we embody the Gospel both inside and outside our church doors. Please send your Cover Letter, Resume, and OTM Profile to the Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag, [eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org).