



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 29, 2021)

Christ United, Michigan

1000 W. Webb Road, Dewitt, MI 48820, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 11/26/21.

eekevag@edomi.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 37	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation \$28867	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$28867	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Negotiable	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget No	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

We have had many meaningful events happen over the past 20 years but two recent events may be the most fulfilling we have had to date. Our pastor retired at the end of June 2021. A survey was sent out to the congregation asking about skills and characteristics that were important to them in a new leader. Seventy percent of the people responded to the survey and were very thoughtful in their comments. As a way to gather in person input from the congregation we held a Moving Forward meal and small group meeting after our morning service. About 30 people participated (pre-COVID normal attendance- good for us). People were eager to share their perspectives on where we wanted to go as a ministry and what they were willing to do to assist in the process and beyond. People are back, wanting to interact and eager to support Christ United as we continue to move forward.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We feel we are the church of the future. We spend more time talking about God's love than Church dogma. We try to establish practices that allow people to feel more comfortable worshipping with us. We provide a flexible ministry and worship. We minister to people who for one reason or another are without a church home and are looking for one. We combine the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions to offer God's love and the Good News of the Gospel. Currently, about 25% of our members identify as Episcopalian, 25% as Lutheran, and the other 50% from other or no affiliation. During the pandemic, we became comfortable utilizing different forms of technology to continue to worship together and even expanded our viewing audience. We will continue to explore how technology can help us support our mission statement to reach those without a church home.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

disciple, communicator, flexible, transformational

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

We draw from Lutheran books of worship and the Book of Common Prayer for our liturgies. Our liturgical readings come from the revised common lectionary with its three year rotation of readings. For other services such as Baptism, or the Prayer at the Close of the Day, we draw on a combination of liturgies from both denominations. The emphasis is on simplicity and clarity. We have reconfigured the sanctuary to worship in the round, with the flexibility to reconfigure the chairs. We can also clear the area for community use which has included blood drives, musical concerts, etc. This reconfiguration allows us a flexible service with children included. The youngest may be playing on the floor. As they get older they take up the collection, bring the gifts to the altar, and read. Our children are an essential part of our liturgy.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We may have written the book on including others in worship! ● Each Sunday, on a rotating schedule, one person or a group serve as worship coordinators. Duties include preparing the church for worship (cleaning, candle lighting, gathering communion materials, highlighting bulletins), serving as communion assistant, collecting the offering and noisy offering. After the service, they make and serve coffee and supply a treat, and clean up. ● Children are an integral part of our ministry including but not limited to, setting the Lord's table for communion and collecting offerings. ● Readings are highlighted in the bulletin- people choose these bulletins if they want to read the opening, a lesson, Psalm, prayer, or closing. ● Items needed by the church are provided by participants. A sign-up sheet including items needed by the church is put out at the beginning of the year. Participants select the items they would like to provide for the year. ● We are very open to community engagement in other centered-service. When someone wants to do a service project, we work together to get it done. We do not have committees.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Regular care of members has always been facilitated during Bible studies, informal gatherings, phone calls, visits, friendships and meal delivery for those who are sick. During the pandemic, contact was maintained via Zoom meetings for Bible study and informal check-ins and even three funeral services. Three significant birthdays were recognized with car parades. Watching the Sunday worship service online allowed us to see almost everyone at some point during the pandemic including others that joined from around the country.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

The layout of our church provides flexible space for use by the community. Currently, we host a weekly AA meeting, and a weekly local business gathering. We host the American Red Cross blood drive twice a year providing space, volunteers and food. Before the pandemic, Weight Watchers held a weekly meeting as well. We host several music events throughout the year (not necessarily religious in nature) and provide space for music recitals. Baptisms, weddings and funerals have been held for individuals not necessarily participating in our ministry.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Christ United led the drive, which included the Lutheran Synod, that funded and distributed 200 sleeping bag coats created by the Empowerment Plan of Detroit. Coats were given to local police and homeless organizations for distribution. We funded a bullet-proof vest for a police dog paired with one of our members. We funded and participated in a local Dinner in the Park program for the homeless community. We plan to continue to host blood drives through the American Red Cross and serve at a local soup kitchen. We provide cookie baskets to supplement the annual Dewitt Community Christmas Baskets. We try to stay connected to the wider church by making regular contributions and having our Pastor attend local clergy meetings. In addition to our weekly offerings, we also collect spare change at the end of each service (noisy offerings) which are given to a variety of outside organizations.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

As mentioned earlier, we partnered with Empowerment Plan of Detroit to purchase sleeping-bag coats for the homeless. As an extension, we also contributed to and served at Dinner in the Park events, also for the homeless community. Please reach out to Patrick St. George at patstgeorge2@gmail.com for further information.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

The congregation has never been in the red. When needs are expressed, they are taken care of. People give as God leads them. We know stewardship also includes giving of time and talents.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

When Christ United first federated, parishioners came from a more structured worship setting. Filling the vacancy in 2001 with a Lutheran Pastor rather than an Episcopalian clergy, created challenges for some members. Some members of St. Anne's left, but most stayed to become Christ United. Those who stayed worked together to explore previously held beliefs and to welcome new members. They explored ways to meet the mission of reaching out to the unchurched. When conflicts arose, the pastor typically addressed them. We recognize the need to intentionally minimize conflict and practice it routinely.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Change is always difficult. This is the first change in clerical leadership the congregation of Christ United has experienced in its 20 years of existence. That being said, we handled the changes necessitated by the COVID virus pretty well. We actually had some real blessings such as the children taking a more active role in our online worship. When we recently invited people to the Moving Forward potluck to talk about change, they actively participated and were excited to talk about the future.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Terry Williamson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-05	2021-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site:

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader