



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 19, 2021)

St. Paul's, Romeo Episcopal Church, Michigan

11100 West St. Clair St, Romeo, MI 48065, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 12/17/21.

eekevag@edomi.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

20

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

\$35000

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$35000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Negotiable

Dental

Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

Other

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

Yes

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

St Paul's started a community vegetable garden on the church property in 2013. Parishioners donated seed, plants and labor. That summer we harvested over 1,000 pounds of fresh vegetables that were donated to Samaritan house, a food bank in Macomb County. Since then thousands of pounds of food have been distributed to local food banks each year. The supply of fresh food was greatly appreciated by the food agencies and their clients. Due to COVID-19 considerations, the harvest was limited in 2020, and there was no garden in 2021 but we would like to reinstate the garden effort. Honey bees were added to the garden and the honey sold to provide the church with income

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

COVID-19 has forced us to use technology more effectively. When in-person services were suspended we quickly adapted to online services using ZOOM. At the height of the pandemic we were having online services frequently. This kept us connected spiritually, and provided much needed social contact. We even had online choir practice and music during Sunday services. Now that we are back to in-person services we would like to make our Sunday services available online, live or on-demand, but this is still a work in progress. Just before the pandemic we standardized and computerized our record keeping and reporting system, simplifying our processes and audit procedures. As a sign of our commitment to continuing the presence of St Paul's in Romeo, and to encourage a sense of ownership in our church, we have made several major capital improvements to our church building: installing an accessible bathroom on the main floor of the church in 2018, replacing all the windows in the church with insulated double-hung windows in 2019, and completely rebuilding the steeple in 2021. We have ongoing projects for exterior painting, landscaping and parking lot improvements.

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

empathetic, welcoming, compassionate, nonjudgmental

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

We are a traditional Eucharistic community receiving communion weekly, typically alternating seasonally between Rite I and Rite II from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Our Sunday Eucharist services are accompanied by a professional musician on keyboard, our choir director, and a small (usually 4-6 people) but enthusiastic choir, primarily using the 1982 Hymnal. In the absence of Clergy, we have several licensed Lay Worship Leaders in the congregation who lead Morning Prayer or a similar liturgical service on Sundays, following BCP protocols. Adjacent to the church there is a Memorial Garden with a permanent wooden cross and masonry altar table that we use for outdoor services several times a year, and for special services such as the annual blessing of the animals. During Lent we have a weekday evening program featuring a light supper of soup, salad and bread, followed by Evening Prayer and Bible study. During other times of the year we have conducted adult education programs running for several weeks after Sunday services to read and examine passages of scripture.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are a small but active parish. Eighty percent of our congregants are involved in some form of ministry, from Altar Guild , Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Lay Worship Leader, to lawn mowing, landscaping, cleaning the church, facilitating adult Christian education and Lenten programs , to volunteering and leadership roles in local faith-based and secular outreach programs. Many parishioners perform important ministries that hold special significance for them, particularly serving the food-insecure and other vulnerable members of our community.

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

As a community, we place an extremely high value on empathy and caring for each other. A parishioner who is under the weather can expect to receive cards and notes, visits at the hospital or at home, and most likely a home cooked meal delivered to them. We have a long tradition of providing rides to appointments for one another. Aging parishioners have received regular assistance from other members, including help with cooking, housekeeping and personal care. We have a church wide calling tree that is frequently used to request prayer, to ask for help, or just to keep up with church members facing life's challenges.

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

Our primary local outreach is through Samaritan House in Washington Township MI., which, through the support of St Paul's and other local churches, operates a food pantry serving more than 2,700 local families, as well as providing eviction protection, holiday meals and gifts, school supplies, tax preparation, and other social assistance to our neighbors in need. St Paul's parishioners have been active volunteers and board members of Samaritan House for more than two decades. For the past 10 years, up to a dozen St. Paul's parishioners have participated in an annual mission trip to Grace House on the Mountain, a Episcopalian outreach program in the town of St Paul, in the coal mining region of Virginia. They spend a week in one of the most economically challenged areas of the country making structural and mechanical repairs on peoples' homes to make them safe and habitable. Several times a year we supply food and help cook and serve meals through Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team when local churches open their facilities to the homeless. We also periodically provide and serve food at H.I.S. Table, a weekly free community meal, hosted by the Romeo Methodist Church.

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

A member of our congregation was initiated as a member of the Verger's Guild in 2014, and since then he has served in that capacity at numerous functions at the Cathedral Church of St Paul in Detroit, as well as at our church for special occasions. We have, for many years, participated in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service with the Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches in Romeo, taking our turn as host church on a rotating basis. Our building houses a Montessori preschool with 20 students, which is owned and operate by a long time parishioner. AA meets in our church twice a week, Wednesday evening and Saturday evening (in-person AA meetings are temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions) Our sanctuary has excellent acoustics and has been used for benefit vocal performances, and instrumental recitals by a local music teacher.

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

In 2018, working with the Romeo Police department, members of St. Paul's were instrumental in establishing the Romeo CARES program, which provides temporary overnight sheltering (1-2 nights) in a local motel for homeless and transient people during extreme cold weather. Funding was obtained from local churches and private donations. The program is administered by the Romeo police department.

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

At St Paul's we share a deep feeling of responsibility for the welfare of our church, and we feel that our stewardship responsibility extends to maintaining our commitments to our outreach partners, to each other, and to the Romeo community. In addition to pledging monetary donations to the church, members contribute greatly to the operation of St Paul's through in-kind gifts and volunteer labor. Office supplies, cleaning products, and updated equipment are donated as the need arises. Routine cleaning and maintenance is performed by congregation volunteers. Some members also quietly underwrite specific expenses such as printed bulletin inserts, flowers, and coffee supplies. Stewardship is our opportunity to put our faith into practice.

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

Typically, conflicts arising from differences of opinion on church related matters of operation and procedures are met with open minded efforts to understand the contrary point of view, and debated and resolved amicably. Unfortunately, in our current atmosphere of heightened sensitivity to political and social conditions, other incidents of conflict between church members have led to possible misunderstandings, perceived personal slights, and hurt feelings. On occasion, political opinion has made its way into scriptural commentary and caused divisiveness among some members the congregation. These issues have resulted in some people leaving the St Paul's congregation. Our challenge going forward, with the help of our new clergy leadership, is to be an apolitical congregation providing spiritual guidance and promoting scriptural ideals of justice without political bias.

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, along with the uncertainty that goes along with it, is always difficult, especially for a tradition-bound organization like a small village church. But change is upon us in the form of aging congregations, changing demographics, social upheaval, and evolving attitudes toward organized religion, not to mention a global pandemic. At St. Paul's it has been difficult to deal with the recent passing of several pillars of the church, but we are transitioning gracefully with new, younger people in leadership positions, and first-time vestry members. The long time lay leaders of the church are accepting their new mentoring and advisory roles, glad to have others sharing the work. During the pandemic lockdown, ZOOM church was adopted remarkably quickly and enthusiastically, actually making church more accessible for certain members. The addition of the Montessori preschool, nearly a decade ago, was initially met with uncertainty, but everyone quickly realized that it was a financial boon to the parish, and added vitality having the building in daily use, and the Montessori school is now viewed as a normal, important part of who we are.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Daniel Lawson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-01	2021-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Stacy Salles	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-01	2016-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Ray Babin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1976-01	1988-01

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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Worshipping Community Web site: stpaulsromeo.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsromeo/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

bishopperry@edomi.org 313-832-4400

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A.
Perry**

Diocesan Transition Minister

eekevag@edomi.org 630-258-8882

**The Rev. Canon Ellen
Ekevag**

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

248-736-3455 r.t.hutchinson@comcast.net

Richard Hutchinson

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader