



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated May 9, 2023)*

## St. George's, Michigan

801 EAST COMMERCE ST, Milford, MI 48381, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 06/15/23.

[eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position <b>\$30623</b>	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks <b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>\$501-\$1000/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account <b>Yes</b>	Other Professional Account <b>Yes</b>

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

In 2019, St. George's hosted a Thanksgiving outreach dinner, coordinated by a local merchant from our congregation. The public was invited at no charge, with advertising being directed through affiliations with the YMCA and with the Community Sharing organization. Food was prepared by members of the congregation as well as volunteers from other churches, a local AA group (who meets in our building) and even some local restaurants. A live trio played music, children scooped ice cream and made ornaments, which were passed on as gifts. Our attendees seemed genuinely appreciative of the food and the gifts; many took food home with them as well.

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

In response to a systemic change in how some younger people view church, we are focused on creating an atmosphere of inclusion and involvement, through personal invitation, that supports the idea of belonging to a church family instead of looking at church as simply a transactional commodity. We have conducted surveys that identify strengths of parishioners so that we can connect their gifts with ministries. Technologically, we have made great strides which include a new hi-tech streaming camera and sound system to reach those who might not be able to attend in person. We have begun exploring the viability of upgrading our kitchen, through possibly obtaining grants, to help feed those who are hungry in our community.

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

teacher, pastor, listener, communicator

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

On Sunday, in our church, we feature two services: one at 8:30am and one at 10:00am. Our early Sunday service is Rite I where the tendency is to offer parishioners the opportunity to “Be Still and Know God.” It is a more intimate, spoken service, often concluding with a final hymn. Our later Sunday service is Rite II and focuses more on the idea of “Making a Joyful Noise to The Lord.” The later service includes a full complement of music and an offertory anthem from the choir, as well. For the Summers, the service is held outside, in our big tent, as a Mass-on-the-Grass celebration; a more casual Rite II service.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Technologically, St. George’s has stepped into the 21st century, by streaming live broadcasts for our Sunday service as well as Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline. This was made possible by calling upon the services of both a sound engineer and a video engineer from within our church family. Our Daily Office prayer staff are all volunteers from our own congregation as well. In addition, we have a member of Anamchara Fellowship and Emmaus Ministry, plus others who travel to visit our shut-ins and can bring the Eucharist to them. We feature an active ECW, Choir, Altar Guild, Men’s Group, and Ladies’ evening fellowship. We have a variety of groups that attract participants both from within our church and from other congregations. Our Crochet for a Cause members, weave together plastic bags to create warm, waterproof, mats that are then sent to the homeless here and to displaced peoples abroad. There is a knitting group, Purls of Wisdom, that gathers to knit warm caps and scarves for others.

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

Our members often reach out to those, in our congregation, whom we have not seen in a while, to ask them how they are doing and to offer any assistance that might be desired, sometimes through our priest’s discretionary fund. We have an active and ever-changing prayer list that we share on Sundays as well as during the weekly streaming of the Daily Office on Facebook. In concert with that, we also send greeting cards and bring flowers to our parishioners. At Christmastime, a group has gone to sing carols at assisted-living centers and gathered for fellowship dinners. In preparation for a year of spiritual leadership, our Vestry attends an annual retreat.

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

The priest and our eucharistic visitors see our members who cannot attend worship, to provide both fellowship and Holy Communion. We provide a location for local Alcoholics Anonymous groups to meet. We host drives to provide Clothes for veterans, food for pets, cookies for Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as participate in services with other area churches. We live-stream our later Sunday service and our volunteer lay-leaders stream the Daily Office, on Facebook, Monday - Friday.

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

We fund a "Feed the Fish" activity where a glass fish figurine is filled with donations and the proceeds are then used towards funding "Heifer International" as directed by the children. Our "Crochet for a Cause" group weaves plastic bags into waterproof mats for the homeless; used locally as well as in Africa and Ukraine. Recently, we gathered on 11/05, @ 5:00pm, with \$5, to "sip soup" and donate the proceeds of money collected to help feed those who are hungry in our community. St. George's also partners with several community organizations: serving food at Crossroads Kitchen, donating goods to Community Sharing, donating personal-care items to Sarah Fischer Women's Haven for Girls in Pontiac, MI and participating in the Braver Angels seminars where training is offered to assist in building respect among people of differing political views and other values systems.

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

As mentioned, Crochet for a Cause was started by Caroline Liebau and now has over 20 members from throughout the Milford area, who participate regularly. Caroline can be contacted through the church at (248) 684-0495

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

In the Fall, we carry out a traditional pledge campaign that focuses on “time, treasure and talents” making use of the TENS materials. We also conduct several charitable drives each year. St. George’s is becoming better known for the community assistance programs that we partner with, such as Community Sharing. We share our gifts through “Milford Memories” free parking, Christmas Caroling to those in assisted living, and the “Mitten Tree” drive, among others.

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

In 2019, when the Vestry decided to declare our church to be supportive of those in the LGBTQ community and invited all church members who wished to speak, in support or against, to attend a meeting, the only people who showed up, voiced their support. Others, who opposed the move, left the church without saying anything publicly. We felt the loss of not being able to engage, more deeply, in conversation and that the congregational culture may be somewhat conflict adverse. In response, we held a series of discussions where we traced the history of the church and the trends that seem to be recurring. We are also engaged in an ongoing attempt to clarify our identity and explore feelings and attitudes that lie beneath the surface. Training through “Braver Angels” is helping these efforts.

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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?

In the midst of the pandemic St. George’s experienced a lack of timely communication in alerting the congregation that the priest was leaving, which led to the departure of some parishioners. This change caused pain and anxiety. In response, we have hosted events at the church, both in small groups and with the full congregation, to answer questions and address concerns. Together, we are discerning God’s call to us and how to invite people more deeply into St. George’s, which prides itself on being a welcoming and warm place.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Susan Anslow-Williams	Interim		2023-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Paul Castelli	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Walt Dawson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School

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

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: <https://www.stgeorgesmilford.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

[www.youtube.com/@stgmilford](http://www.youtube.com/@stgmilford)

> <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorge.milford/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

(313) 833-4435 bishopperry@edomi.org

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

Diocesan Transition Minister

(313)-833-4421 | eekevag@edomi.org

**The Rev. Canon Ellen  
Ekevag**

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader