



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jun 3, 2024)

St. Peter's, Michigan

1950 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit, MI 48216, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

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
22	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	\$29016		
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$2220	\$31236		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable			
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	No

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

In November 2023, St. Peter's hosted our 165th anniversary Homecoming service. The service included an awards ceremony for the many service organizations who have been founded or housed at St. Peter's over the years. These included the two organizations who currently operate in our basement - Corner Shower & Laundry (since 2020) and Manna Community Meal (since 1976). Guests from the soup kitchen and shower & laundry often attend our Sunday service. That morning, a Corner Shower & Laundry guest named John walked in. He had been homeless for about six months and was struggling to find permanent housing. When he arrived at the service, one of our members invited him to go up and receive the reward on behalf of Corner Shower & Laundry. Because of this, he was introduced to a housing organization which had been based at St. Peter's in the 1980s. This connection enabled John to secure his own low-income apartment a few weeks later. He said, "I guess that ceremony was a blessing from God. In a year, I went from nothing, and I kept the faith, and believed that there was something else out there for me. I just stayed and worked on it. Now I have my own keys to my own apartment."

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

We are currently beginning a major multi-phase basement renovation. This project, dubbed The Holy Underground, allows us to make much-needed updates to the dining room, kitchen, and bathrooms currently used by Manna Community Meal soup kitchen. This project will make our space more hospitable and effective for the ministries that serve out of our church. It will also increase our energy efficiency and offer us greater climate resiliency. We have already raised over \$200,000 from our community, enough to begin the first phase of renovations in the summer of 2024. We are deepening our connections outside the church and thinking outside the box of traditional liturgy. One of the tenants in our Peace and Justice Hive is a puppet theater company oriented towards social justice. Their shows in our sanctuary can draw upwards of 150-200 people. When they hosted the Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater, over 200 people filled our sanctuary for a standing-room-only show. We are partnering with them for a summer 2024 children's show and plan future engagements, helping us bring creative energy to our liturgies and inviting others into our worshipping community.

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

creative; collaborative; committed to dismantling systems of oppression; radically welcoming to our table

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

We offer one regular service on Sundays at 10:30 for in-person and Zoom participation. Our liturgical style is participatory and generally low-church. Although our sanctuary includes a high altar, for the last two decades we have celebrated the service from a floor level altar table. After the homily, we offer a time for community reflection where all are invited to come up and share a reflection further opening the Word, making this a “participatory homily.” On any Sunday, we may hear reflections from a vestry member, someone who is attending for the first time, or a homeless guest who is seeking refuge at the church. We value inclusive language that is accessible to the diversity of our congregation. We draw on The Book of Common Prayer as well as other global Anglican resources like A New Zealand Prayer Book. We create a new worship bulletin for each liturgical season, and honor other ecumenical/secular seasons like the Season of Creation and Black History Month. Our worship explores questions and encourages faith exploration rather than requiring answers and certainty. We love the vibrant folk musicians who we hire to lead music most Sundays.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Three of our current active members came to St. Peter’s through the soup kitchen housed in our basement. One member sleeps at his sister’s house at night, yet has no bed of his own. He makes sure that he gets a blessing during our healing circle portion of worship. Another member lives in a subsidized one-bedroom apartment and has a case manager. He lights the candles for us at the beginning of worship. A third member lives in the shed behind an empty house near the church since the police confiscated her tent. Her answer to this question is, “Strike up a conversation; reach out to people. Be approachable, listen, be open to conversation.”

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

Our Sunday worship helps us care for one another. Through our participatory homily and prayers of the people, we offer space for congregants to reflect on their lives and ask for prayers and support. We offer Zoom for those unable to join us in-person. It is important for us to celebrate the milestones in each other’s lives. Over the summer, two of our long-time LGBTQ+ members celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. We held an anniversary service for them giving us an opportunity to support them in their marriage and honor the many gifts they have brought to our community. Recently, a vestry member had a newborn, and we supported his family through a meal train and visits. The vestry now begins each meeting with check-in and each member prays aloud for the person sitting next to them. We offer material and spiritual support to those who are living in poverty or experiencing homelessness. Each week, multiple soup kitchen guests attend our Sunday service and potluck following. For some, the potluck may be the only warm meal they eat that day. Two of our long-time members are living without a car, so we care for them by giving them rides to and from church each Sunday morning.

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

Although our worshipping congregation is relatively small, there are many people in the wider Detroit community who consider themselves connected to St. Peter's. In 2010, we began using our Parish Hall as a "Peace and Justice Hive" which provides office space at below-market rate for local organizations working towards peace and justice. Our Hive is currently at capacity with eight organizations including a puppet theater, mutual aid group, and environmental stewardship organization. In addition to our Hive renters, we regularly rent our sanctuary and library spaces to local organizations for one-time or annual events. Each Advent season, we organize weekly candlelit Taize services that offer a space for chanting, prayer, and contemplation. These services have been well-attended by those outside of our regular congregation. Over the last two years, we have partnered with a local Buddhist sangha to offer interfaith spaces of prayer and reflection. Most recently, we co-hosted a Day of Mindfulness and Prayer around the theme of peace. Of the 30 participants who attended, only a handful were from the St. Peter's congregation.

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

For 20 years, St. Peter's has been very involved with activism work in Detroit. Many of our members are connected to organizations working for peace and justice, including around issues of poverty, food security, immigrant & refugee justice, water affordability, LGBTQ+ issues, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous rights. As a congregation, we have stood together as part of the movement for water affordability in Detroit and as leadership for the Michigan Poor Peoples' Campaign. St. Peter's hosted We the People of Detroit, a grassroots water justice organization. Their office was based in our Parish Hall, and we offered them the back of our sanctuary to store the bottles of water that they gave to hundreds of city residents whose water had been shut off. In recent years, St. Peter's has not been deeply connected to the wider Church or Diocese, though that is changing. In the last year, members attended Diocesan Convention, Ministry Fair, and other diocesan events at the Cathedral. Three of our members are planning to attend the College for Congregational Development this year, and one of our members is currently in the early stages of the discernment process for ordination.

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

In early 2022, a group of St. Peter's congregants and those in our wider community began a queer affinity group for those who identify as LGBTQ+. For the last two years, we have gathered occasionally for reflection, connection, and fun. In the spring of 2023, we went on a cabin retreat together. We talked about the relationship between our faith and our sexuality, played games, and watched a documentary about Ruth Ellis, the Detroit-based lesbian and lifelong activist for LGBTQ+ rights and racial justice. Last summer, our group decided to organize events to celebrate and honor Detroit's Pride week. We held a special Pride-themed worship service followed by an ecumenical panel on queerness and spirituality. We also hosted a "Queer Healing Circle" - an inclusive space for anyone who identifies as queer and holds hurt from the church or religious structures. This event drew members of our congregation and those from different faith traditions. It was a powerful evening of lamenting, sharing, and celebrating our stories together. To learn more about this ministry, you can contact Ministries Coordinator Kateri Boucher.

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

Stewardship for St. Peter's centers on the cry of the earth alongside the cry of the poor. Environmental stewardship and relationship with earth are important aspects of our worshipping community. In the fall of 2023, when we had a new parking lot installed next to our church, we prioritized putting in bioswales throughout the lot. The bioswales help collect stormwater runoff and filter out pollution. In 2018, we had solar panels installed on our roof with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) made by one of our congregants. These solar panels help the church save money on energy and lower our consumption of fossil fuels. Last year during our Season of Creation, we invited local environmental organizations to come to our worship service and share about their work. These included representatives from Michigan InterFaith Power and Light (a tenant in our Peace and Justice Hive) and the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. In 2024, we are beginning an intentional year-round financial stewardship planning effort to help our members "explore intentional and proportional giving as a spiritual practice."

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

A few years ago, St. Peter's was approached by a developer who wanted to rent our parking lot in order to build a luxury hotel in the lot next to us. This brought up major questions for our congregation (see below for more detail) and also led to serious conflict among members of the vestry, congregation, and wider community. Eventually, our vestry decided to hire a non-profit consultant to provide outside support in fleshing out our feelings and coming to a decision. She helped us create a decision-making model that we would use when we had to make any difficult decisions, separate from Robert's Rules, that always put our mission, vision, and values in the forefront of decision making. This work helped our vestry become better listeners to one another and be clear with the community about why we were choosing to move forward. It was not easy. But using our time and resources to creatively ask for help allowed us to stay close to each other as a vestry, even when we disagreed. In the end, the process actually helped us become stronger as a community.

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?

St. Peter's is located in one of the most rapidly-gentrifying neighborhoods in Detroit. Over the last many years, we have received repeated calls from developers looking to buy our building and property. A few years ago, a hotel developer approached us in need of a parking lot - and they were willing to pay a large sum to rent ours. This brought up significant questions for us. How does engaging with an out-of-state, multi-million-dollar developer fit with our vision, mission, and values? How do we engage with new people who will come into our community to visit the hotel? Do we consider these developers our neighbors? How do we "protect" our guests and community members from what is coming? Would there be benefits to the marginalized community around St. Peter's if we engaged with the hotel group? After two years of discussion and negotiation, we eventually decided to say yes. We did not get everything we asked for, but we currently have a good relationship with the Godfrey Hotel liaison, and we are making good income to support our mission and grow our community. We continue to assess whether we are living into our mission, vision, and values.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Susan Harlow	Interim	2023-06	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Denise Griebler		2018-01	2023-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. William Wylie-Kellermann		2006-01	2016-01

The congregation has been led by Methodist & UCC clergy for nearly twenty years, with those clergy serving as pastoral leader for the congregation

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: www.stpetersdetroit.com

Media Links:
www.Historicdetroit.org/buildings/st-peter-s-episcopal-church

Online References:
> <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersdetroit>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: [e-mail: bishopperry@edomi.org](mailto:bishopperry@edomi.org) phone: 313-832-4400
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A Perry

Diocesan Transition Minister [e-mail: eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org) phone: 630-258-8882
The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag

Current Warden/Board Chair [e-mail: wowcst120@gmail.com](mailto:wowcst120@gmail.com)
Cynthia Tobias

Previous Warden/Board Chair [e-mail: chapmanbob10@gmail.com](mailto:chapmanbob10@gmail.com)
Bob Chapman

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader Monica@wethepeopleofdetroit.com
Monica Lewis-Patrick AdminAssistant@wethepeopleofdetroit.com