



The Evangel

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Today, we were notified of an accord reached between the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, and our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr., as part of a Title IV disciplinary action.

Bishop Hougland, in a meeting with the Bishop for Pastoral Development, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, disclosed that he had made “serious mistakes” and admitted his participation in an extramarital affair. The other person involved is not Episcopalian and is not a member of the staff of either diocese. No state or federal laws have been broken.

Under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, an accord is a written resolution to the disciplinary process, which is negotiated by and agreed to by both parties. The accord places Bishop Hougland on suspension for a minimum of one year. During that time, he will be required to undertake personal steps to be accountable to the Church and emotionally healthy for himself, his family, and his dioceses, in accordance with the Canons, which state:

The Church and each diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. - Canon IV.1

It is the hope of the Presiding Bishop's office, our Standing Committees, and Bishop Hougland, that this time is one of healing and reconciliation. At the conclusion of the suspension, the Standing Committees and Bishop Hougland will decide whether to continue the relationship with Wayne as our bishop. The Standing Committees have met and are in the process of working out the details of the one-year leave, including a plan for maintaining the daily operations of the dioceses. Specifics will be available next week. At this time, we expect to hold the ecclesiastical authority of our respective dioceses and will work with our neighboring bishops to conduct the duties that only a bishop can conduct, including ordinations and confirmations. We also are committed to affirming the vote taken last Fall to explore mutual relationship between our dioceses for 3-5 years, by making decisions together as much as is possible and appropriate, maintaining our now-regular joint meetings of Standing Committees



and staffs, as well as continuing all other ongoing and potential ministry collaborations.

We ask that you not be in contact Bishop Hougland directly. Any notes may be forwarded to him through Canon Bill Spaid, wspaid@edwm.org, or may be mailed to the Western Michigan diocesan office.

Know that we are praying for you, the people of Eastern and Western Michigan, and we ask your prayers for your elected leadership, as well as for your diocesan staffs, Bishop Whayne and Dana, and for each other.

**Yours in Christ,
The Standing Committees of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and
Western Michigan**

Dave Croal, President

St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Rev. Jodi Baron

St. Philip's, Beulah & Holy Trinity,
Manistee

Martha Bartlett

St. James, Pentwater

Anne Davidson

St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Rev. BJ Heyboer

St. Mark's, Newaygo

The Rev. Diane M. Pike

Janet Huff-Worvie,

President

St. John's, Otter Lake

The Rev. Brian Chace

Trinity, West Branch

Gary Grinn

St. Paul's, Gladwin

The Rev. Dan Scheid

St. Paul's, Flint

The Rev. Lydia Speller

Grace, Port Huron



Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant **Bill Thewalt**

St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc

Carole Redwine

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Grand

Rapids

The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren

St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

To the Clergy and People of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan,

I will not have the ability to personally speak to you individually or as a group, but I appreciate the opportunity for you all to hear from me. I have not honored my ordination vows or my wedding vows, nor have I honored the faith and trust you set in me. I have much personal work to do to be healthier and rebuild my relationships.

I apologize to the people of these dioceses for betraying my sacred oath to be a wholesome example for the entire flock of the Church.

I apologize to the staff of the dioceses for abandoning you to pick up the pieces of my error.

I apologize to the clergy for my gross lapse of moral judgement, thereby damaging our sacred relationship under orders and weakening our moral authority.

I apologize to the Presiding Bishop and the members of the House of Bishops for not living up to the standards of behavior and conduct expected for Bishops and



for damaging our credibility and respectability as moral leaders in society at large.

I apologize to the other party and her family for disrespecting their relationship. And most of all, I apologize to Dana, our daughters, and our extended families for my betrayal of their gracious abiding love.

I do not yet fully understand why I behaved in this manner, but I alone am responsible for my actions and the discipline that the Presiding Bishop and I have agreed to. Over the next year, I will carefully and fully examine what I need to do to be the person you and I expect me to be. During this time, I will be repentant, take the steps I need to amend my life, and request forgiveness from those I have wronged. I am thankful for the grace of the Holy Spirit and the promise of forgiveness for those who are truly repentant. I will do the work. Thank you, Presiding Bishop for your pastoral care and for your hard discipline, I need them both.

Thank you, Standing Committees for your leadership in this difficult time and for your graciousness to me in this difficult moment.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support and concern for Dana and our family

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Humbly,
Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Alma Dickerson

461 E. Wing Rd., Mt. Pleasant
772-2516.

St. John's Prayer Group

If you wish to add or remove names from the Prayer List, please call Nancy Fulton, 773-7193, Sandy Wood, 773-9326, Martha Rarick, 773-7510, the church or email Pamela Dingman, paddingman@hotmail.com. Thank you.



George Clapp	3
Hazel Hart	4
Ann Marie (Brockman) Orren	8
Olivia Ohler	11
Karen Varanauskas	15
Sally Goodrow	16
Charles Sherwood	17
Joyce Baugh	19
Valarie (Wood) Boman	19
Claudette Schaffer	21
Bernice Cole	22
Sam Raisanen	24
Ford Dingman	25
Kendall Klumpp	26
Bob Cosan	28

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Home Communion



Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive communion or a visit from either the clergy or a Lay Eucharistic Minister.



George & Diana Clapp	3
David & Jennifer Dingman	11
Henry & Nancy Fulton	13
Ralph Baber & Karen Varanauskas	15
Eric & Jessica Vinciguerra	15
Sam & Lara Raisanen	20
Clancy & Pat DeLong	25



Outside the Tent

“May my words be a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.”

Through the years I have written a monthly column reflecting on a deacon's perspective of our world and our ministries. The only exception was the two weeks in June that Henry and I spent at a rental cottage in the Saugatuck dunes: no wisdom, just a tantalizing photo of Lake Michigan.

This year the world is different. The Corona virus has wiped out our two weeks in Saugatuck, our four days of theater in Stratford, Ontario, holiday cookouts, and many other smaller events. I have filled much of that time working in our flower and herb gardens, but I have also been plagued with physical ailments and mental health issues that have caused me to retreat into myself. Fortunately I have good health care, which has allowed me to explore the reasons for my memory loss, constant aches, and debilitating anxiety.

As we look forward—I hope !—to the winding down of the virus, I am certain that we pray for a life returned to “normal.” We long for the world as it was so few months ago. In this time of transition, my prayers are with you, and I ask that you hold me in prayer as I struggle to be my old self.

Peace, Nancy

During this period when St. John's is closed, your financial support gifts may be sent in the following ways:

1. Mail to the church office.
206 W. Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
2. Drop off through the mail slot at the church office door.
3. Pay by credit card. Call Clancy DeLong at (989) 400-6546 to provide card information.

NO CONTACT METHOD OF GIVING

The Western Michigan Diocese has contracted with an online giving platform to assist parishes during this crisis. This is a safe, paperless way of giving through direct debit or credit card. To take advantage of this program, please click on the following link

<http://givingtools.com/give/1276/2180>

Clancy



Minutes for St. John's Vestry Meeting
June 14, 2020, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Present: Adam Baker (clerk), David Shirley, Ella Jo Regan, Tom Cochrane, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Eric Vinciguerra, DJ Proctor, Ulana Klymyshyn
Guests: Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Alice Ciccu

Sr. Diane opened with a prayer.

Tom moved approval of minutes from May 17. Ella seconded. Vestry approved.

Sr. Diane completed her pastoral report. The diocese is considering organizing voter registration for the upcoming elections as part of our ministry. She will coordinate with League of Women Voters.

David provided an update on the Bishop's reopening plan. The governor lifted her stay-at-home order, but the diocese is still in Phase I of the reopening plan. We were given permission to resume the rector search. The Bishop will give us 10 days' advance notice before moving to Phase II. Parish curbside recycling pickup has resumed. The Clean and Bright Laundry Service may resume at the start of Phase II with the use of face masks and social distancing.

Adam provided an update on the Search Committee. The Search Committee has resumed and is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Canon Missioner Anne Hallmark to discuss the next steps.

Nancy provided her Buildings and Grounds report. The sprinkler system will be turned on next week. Our janitorial service will be notified 14 days in advance of reopening in Phase III. She is exploring a vendor for a large supply of sanitizing liquid.

Tom reported that Church School is up and running on Wednesday mornings. The interest was high when it resumed, but attendance so far has been on the low side.

Ulana updated the Vestry on the Good News Garden. The garden is planted and fertilized. More volunteers are needed for weekly watering and weeding. She also updated the Vestry on the activities of the Weekly Connection discussions on Wednesday nights.

David reported that Chase will marry his fiance in August and will be moving to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Chase has a graduate assistantship at Western Kentucky University and his wife has teaching positions in the public schools and community college. Eric will be Choirmaster *pro tempore* for the 2020/2021 academic year starting on or about August 1.



David also reported he would like to create a task force to handle reopening the church. It will start to meet when the parish enters Phase II. He will chair it and he nominated the following members to serve: Rev. Sr. Diane Stier (Liturgy), Nancy Kinney (Building & Grounds), Pam Dingman (Altar Guild), Clancy DeLong (Finance), Dennis Flynn (Music), Alice Ciccu (Communications).

Ella asked if there was any way to bring access to Zoom to congregants who do not have access to it. Alice and Sr. Diane will explore options.

Tom moved that Vestry adjourn. Ella seconded. Vestry adjourned.

Next Vestry meeting is scheduled for July 12, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Baker, Clerk



May 2020 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of May (41.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 64,262.63 (37.71% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	<u>63,990.45</u> (37.55% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ 272.18

Through May, pledges received down nearly 3%. Please confirm that your pledge is up to date.

Cash balances on May 31, 2020 are as follows:

Checking Account.....	\$ 84,742.42
Savings	\$ 26,122.71
Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ 15,923.44
Endowment Fund Investment Account.....	\$ 78,240.02

Capital Campaign funds balance on May 1, 2020\$ 19,477.27

Capital Campaign funds balance on May 31, 2020\$ 18,476.58

Capital Fund Activity For May:

Capital Fund Receipts	\$ 3,668.00
Interest Income.....	0.00
Bank/Credit Card Fees.....	0.00
Mortgage Principle.....	(4,280.80)
Mortgage Interest.....	(387.89)

Net Activity \$ (1,000.69)

BUILDING PROJECT

Total Capitalized Expenses.....	\$ 442,345.71
Non-Capitalized Expenses (Bank Fees/Interest) ...	27,912.42

Subtotal\$ 470,258.13

Anticipated Expenses:

Mortgage Interest	\$ 5,552.79
Bank Fees/Credit Card.....	100.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST\$ 475,910.92

Outstanding mortgage balance as of May 31, 2020\$ 97,062.69

Clancy DeLong
Treasurer



ANGLICAN WORTHIES

358. Schereschewsky, Samuel Isaac Joseph (1831-1906) Bishop of Shanghai

Schereschewsky is commemorated in the American edition of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* on 14 October, although he was not American born. He was a native of Taugoggen, Lithuania, orphaned as a boy, and raised by a half-brother. Showing unusual aptitude, he was naturally sent to school to become a rabbi. This was the beginning step of almost thirty years searching for the most suitable vocation to follow in Christ's kingdom. At school Joseph (the name he preferred) was given a copy of a New Testament in Hebrew, an unusual gift, inasmuch as for rabbinical Jews what is considered holy scripture is just the Old Testament, specifically the Pentateuch. The New Testament had been published by the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews. This publication seems like a hopeless venture, but it had its intended effect on young Schereschewsky.

With the study of this volume he underwent a profound conversion experience; an anonymous biographer states that Joseph was convinced that "in Jesus the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and the age [and the hopes] of his people had been fulfilled." In other words, Joseph had become a Christian. Here began ten years of study and some uncertainty over which denomination could best serve his desire to serve Christ's people.

He began a program to inform himself completely in Christian theology. First in Frankfurt, in German, then to the University in Breslau, where he learned German. Good at languages like so many eastern Europeans, he already spoke Russian, Polish, and Yiddish. In 1854 Joseph decided to emigrate to this country. In New York visited Jews, converts like himself. The next year he was baptized "by immersion," as he was then a Baptist. Then he became a Presbyterian and studied at Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. Two years later, dissatisfied, he chose to become Episcopalian, and went back to New York to study at General Theological Seminary (Wayne Nicholson's alma mater). Apparently he did not finish his studies, because he finally decided he wanted to go to China as a missionary. He was ordained a deacon in 1859, his final move.

Missions in the Victorian period—as well as in this country—were "in the air," partnered with the Christians of British and other countries to colonize various parts of the Far East and convert these ancient people to western ways. Principal among the English speakers was to teach them all with their conglomeration of religions to become Christian. The favorite destination of English-speaking churches was the ancient civilization of China. There had been Protestant missionaries in China at least till the 1830s. It had become a huge enterprise, first only men, then women, operating schools, universities, and hospitals. Some families settled in and lived comfortable lives in "western" housing, and sending their children to English schools



in the area. At the same time as missionaries sought through preaching to convert this ancient and vast population to Christianity, commercial interests sought to develop China as a colony in all but name.

Schereschewsky arrived in Shanghai in December in 1859 with another bishop, who ordained him to the priesthood the following year. He was assigned to Peking (the capital) with responsibilities on the Peking Translation Committee. As all missionaries come to realize, one cannot make progress in conversion without a scripture translated into their native tongue. This was a task at which Schereschewsky was especially apt. In 1867 he began to work on the Bible, converting it into Mandarin; the Psalms into the popular dialect spoken in Shanghai. Later he did the Prayer book.

After a visit to this country for his health, he was first offered the see of Shanghai. He declined, wondering whether the see would be divided. It was a huge district, encompassing China and Japan. The present bishop, Channing Moore Williams, wanted it divided. When it finally was, Schereschewsky accepted the Chinese half. His special project was to establish a college. This was realized in 1877, St. John's University.

Schereshewsky suffered a stroke in 1887, in which he was partially paralyzed. Two years later he resigned the bishopric and returned to this country. In 1895 he went back to China, though he became, in Marshall Broomhall's words, "paralyzed in every limb, and with his powers of speech partly gone, sitting for nearly twenty-five years in the same chair, steadily and painfully typing out with two fingers his Mandarin translation of the Old testament and Easy Wen-li translations of the whole Bible." He published new translations of both testaments three years later.

His final years were spent in Tokyo with assistants in Chinese and Japanese, and died in 1906. He was buried in Tokyo. --hlf



Saint John's Episcopal Church

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E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com



St. John's Mission:

St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Episcopal Church tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person.

Associate Priest, The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec 989-807-0215

Deacon, The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

2020 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: David Shirley: 773-3463

Jr. Warden: Nancy Herman Kinney: 989-546-5424

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong, 989-400-6546

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu, 772-8340

Vestry Clerk: Adam Baker: 989-492-1626

2020 Vestry Members

Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

Marcia David, 775-8086

Ulana Klymyshyn, 772-5 616

David Proctor, 772-7715

Ella Jo Regan: 772-3587

Eric Vinciguerra, 517-657-9196

Harriett White, 773-3880

Organist:

Dennis Flynn, 231-460-6000

Choirmaster:

Chase Simpson, 248-302-0532