



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated July, 2023)

Church of the Epiphany, South Haven, Western Michigan

410 Erie Street, South Haven, MI 49090

Full-time Rector Receiving Names		The Rev. Canon Tracie Little	
		Contact: tlittle@eastmich.org	
Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
55	1	1	
Current Annual Compensation \$80,000	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
Consistent with diocesan	80,000	No Parish Housing	We are in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance	Annual Equity Amount
Full Family	Yes	No	\$0
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4	5 Weekends	2	2 (standard)
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

Many people of color reside in a neighborhood not far from Epiphany. Our aspiration as a congregation to develop relationships with our neighbors led some of our members to be active with the local Action Committee. We helped raise enough money to fund a scholarship for a high school graduate and share the work of putting on an annual community picnic (pre-pandemic), this year an ice cream social. We have in fact gotten to know our neighbors better. We facilitate the Zoom meetings of the committee and join with neighbors for a weekly prayer group to support the neighborhood around nearby Elkenburg Park. We have also connected our members to the springtime clean-up of the park and neighborhood.

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

We have committed to listen faithfully for "what God is up to next." In a way, we strive to be the Church of the Future, a church that lives its mission of welcome by including all. We are flexible and we listen to each other and to our community; we are nimble in our responses. We continually solicit feedback from the congregation and try to incorporate suggestions into our services. Our liturgy changes frequently and utilizes a variety of liturgical and musical resources. The Church of the Epiphany lost its Rector, the pandemic closed our building, but we never lost our community. Now we are up and running with a wonderful interim priest. We listen, we adapt, and we go on. We are definitely not bound by the past.

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

Compassionate, listener, forward thinker, inspiring, humble and prayerful

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

Our worship is well-planned and inclusive, and it utilizes both traditional and cutting-edge options. A small group meets with the Interim Rector weekly to plan worship. The Eucharist always includes congregants as readers, lectors, ushers, LEM's, and intercessors and, on occasion, a lay person offers the homily. In addition to the Sunday Eucharist, we offer a mid-week Eucharist, with a focus on healing. This service is attended by people from several faith traditions.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At Epiphany, we are intentional about getting new members involved in various collaborative ministries in the church. We also rotate ministry leaders.

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

Sunday worship is a time to freshen our spiritual and emotional well-being. Our practice of sharing a weekly brunch following the Sunday Eucharist is an important time of sharing with each other and our guests. Yoga classes: After a necessarily flexible pandemic period, complete with Zoom yoga, in-person yoga is popular and now meets six days each week. During the pandemic, we were creative in our ways of remaining connected. We had Morning Prayer, Eucharist when we had supply clergy, in our parking lot or on Zoom, and a Buddy System to check on one another. Meditation/Centering Prayer managed to go on through the pandemic online. Now we offer in-person Centering prayer twice a week. A recent day-long Centering Prayer workshop drew almost 50 participants. Our weekly Ecumenical Healing Service continues to serve the spiritual needs of participants.



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

We engage in pastoral care in myriad ways: participation in SHAMA (South Haven Area Ministerial Association); membership in Ward One Community Action; attention by our Parish Care Team to the food pantries, to rides and food needs brought to their attention from the community; the ecumenical healing service which is open to and attended by many from outside Epiphany; Meditation/Centering Prayer group, yoga, provision of space for 12 Step meetings, book club for discussion of books of a spiritual nature, all inclusive; participation in We Care to care for the needy; membership in Southwest Michigan Interfaith Action Group from whom we earned Green Faith Certification; participation in Pullman food pantry; providing meals for Open Door Feeding Ministry.

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

Various members serve or have served on Diocesan Committees such as the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee. We serve at diocesan and provincial Episcopal conferences. We collaborate with other Lakeshore Episcopal Churches.

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

We have been home base for a Refugee Task Force (presently paused due to pandemic and continuing immigration issues). This ministry grew from our hosting a Syrian family to cook with us and share stories of refugee life. Through a resultant relationship with Bethany Christian Services, we were advised that while we were too small of a community to settle a refugee family, we could serve the unaccompanied migrant children (mostly Central American) placed in our area, by providing needed school supplies and hosting fun days for the children. We also hosted a Refugee Informational Night and "Know Your Rights" talks for our immigrant neighbors. Presently we are an outlet for the serving agencies to publicize current needs. Contact: Mary Moore (269) 569-1552

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

The Stewardship Drive maintains a focus on abundance over scarcity. Story telling is a central part of our community life and because of that our campaign includes stories of members each week. During one campaign, members narrated their personal faith journeys and the role of Epiphany. This year we had stories about the ministries we managed to maintain through the pandemic and personal meanings taken from participation in those ministries. Our focus on abundance led us not to lose energy over issues of building maintenance, but to seek an engineer's assessment and begin the task of keeping the building sound. We replaced our roof with assistance from a grant and capital pledges from members.

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

We know we will disappoint each other. Our community is a school of love, where we learn to stay in place when we have conflicts, by entering into the conflict and listening to each other. We listen to each other, ask for forgiveness when necessary, and stay in place for one another. We value talking not about each other, but to each other.

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 2007, our Rector left the Episcopal Church, due to the ordination of partnered homosexual persons. To complicate matters, the Rector took more than half of the congregation with him. With diocesan help, the remaining members worked through our grief, learned to stop counting "bodies in the pews," and focused on maintaining a welcoming community of the faithful. Our new Rector arrived, and after a year of listening and healing, we again had some significant changes. As an example, we rearranged the nave by moving the altar closer to the congregation. It took some getting used to. Now, none of us can imagine returning to the old arrangement. What did we learn? That if you give people time to understand what is happening and give everyone a chance to express themselves, you are ready to act for the good of the whole community. Listening is the key. When our rector left in 2020, we had been prepared for this during his sabbatical, when members took on additional responsibilities. Two years without a rector and with a pandemic showed us how vital an empowered and committed laity can be.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Michael Ryan	Rector	2009-01	2020-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Andrew Gross	Rector	2002-07	2007-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
James Corbett	Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry	2001-01	2002-01

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
None			

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
		7	25

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: www.epiphanychurchsouthhaven.org

Media Links:
<https://www.epiphanychurchsouthhaven.org>

Online References:
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyChurchSH/

Languages Significantly Represented
English

Provide Worship or Classes in:
English

References

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, Provisional Bishop

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Tracie Little tlittle@eastmich.org

Lisa Rostar lisarostar@yahoo.com; (269) 214-1485

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Mary Moore czmoore@aol.com; (269) 569-1552

Search Chair

Jim Wright jameswright225@comcast.net; (269)-767-7592

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader

Joe Reeser 1949joey@gmail.com; (269)547-0150