



# Lake Mills United Methodist Church

2020 Annual Church  
Conference November 19, 2020  
at 7:15 p.m.

Streamed online via ZOOM,  
led by the Rev. Forrest Wells,  
District Superintendent WIUMC

## Our Mission Statement

At Lake Mills United Methodist Church our mission is to G.R.O.W. as disciples of Jesus Christ and build an inclusive community of welcoming people who express a warm and caring spirit toward all people. This objective is met as we Gather to worship, Remember to study, Open ourselves to serve, and Witness as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Our Inclusive Statement

We, Lake Mills United Methodist Church, affirm that all people are part of the fabric of God's creation. We believe the fabric of God's creation is weakened when anyone is excluded. And complete only when everyone is included. Therefore, we welcome to our faith community all people without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status or human condition.

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NOTE: \*\* Represent Items That Need A Vote

## From the Pastor's Desk

*" I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6*

There is no doubt that 2020 has left an indelible mark on our lives. In the early days of the pandemic we were counting down the days before we could "get back to normal." Days became weeks, weeks became months until we slowly realized that we were living into a "new normal." While many things about this pandemic have imposed many restrictions the work of God in our lives and in our church has not been restricted. God has been good to us!

We have gathered faithfully to worship in our parking lot with our coffee in hand, with our children in the back seat – still in their PJ's, with the cranes and geese, and our pet dogs and cats. We would not be able to be a beacon of hope in our community without your faithful continued support. You are here, week after week, holding our church and community up with your prayers, the many gifts you bring to our church – enabling us to continue providing vital, relevant ministry to our community. What I want to say is, "**THANK YOU.**" Thank you for the way that you are living out your faith. Thank you for not letting this pandemic define who we are as God's people. Together, empowered by the Spirit, we will get through this!

Enclosed in this packet is a witness to the work that God has been doing through faithful members of Lake Mills United Methodist Church over the past year. Though we would be hard pressed to fully account for every single ministry achievement, within this report are snapshots of the ministry that we have been able to accomplish together, the vision and goals for the following year, as well as the 2021 financial budget. Along with the enclosed ministry reports, our budget also expresses our ministry plan – both the accomplishments and future goals. This year we have been especially careful to provide a clear accountability of the dollars given toward the ministerial priorities of LMUMC. Through this report we not only express our mission and ministry, but also our vision for the future. Indeed, all of the items highlighted in this entire report show how we are putting our faith into action in order to change people's lives and make a difference in our community and world for God's glory.

Therefore, I invite you to continue working in what God is doing through our beloved Church. And know that as God continues to open doors for us to serve him and the world he loves so much, we would not be able to do as much without your continued willingness and response to God's call to be in mission with Him. To all who served our church and community over the past year - especially those serving in a leadership capacity. **THANK YOU!**

I'm looking forward to what God is going to do in and through our beloved church community over the next year.

Blessings and Grace to you,

Pastor Edwin



# LMUMC Ministry Reports

## *Administrative Council Chair*

**Ministry:** Administrative Council      **Chairperson:** Tobi Bolt

### **Team Members**

Russ Roedl, Robin Wolff, David Hornickel, Dana Ostrowski, Kam Perry, Brianna Behselich, Sandy Whisler, Rachel Stark, Sharon Schmid, Jeff Luthanen, Dennis Landen, Linda Roedl, Matt Ludeman, Kelsey Perry, Martha Hornickel, Kristin Mock, and Michelle Quednow. Pastor Edwin Vargas also attends these meetings.

### **Purpose**

Administrative Council oversees teams, provides accountability, facilitates communication between teams and keeps LMUMC focused on our G.R.O.W. objectives of Gathering to worship, Remembering to study, Opening ourselves to serve and Witnessing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for our congregation, yet we remain strong and in ministry. As the year began, our congregation was enjoying full ministries with children and youth as we also served the broader community with our programs. In March, when the COVID-19 crisis began, we quickly transitioned to “Parking Lot Praise”, a radio broadcast format that has sustained our weekly worship attendance in a meaningful way. Giving has remained steady and we continue with virtual youth and children’s ministries.

Our church leadership mobilized a call tree for each congregation member to check in. Our mission team and welcome teams continue their work despite the COVID-19 environment. Our worship team worked creatively to provide a meaningful parking lot worship experience through radio broadcast technology.

Our administrative council has been meeting bi-monthly to monitor situations and respond faithfully.

Our trustees addressed HVAC and phone issues this year and are looking ahead to a carpet replacement and Hearthroom refresh project. Individual donors helped fund our landscaping needs this past summer. Our finance team obtained a PPE grant which has allowed us to remain financially stable during this environment. We are in a fortunate position to continue to invest in our ministries.

We have been served well by the leadership of Pastor Edwin Vargas who has remained creative, flexible, responsive and as a spiritual guide during this time. His personal ministry to shut-ins during this time helped enhance congregational connection. Kam Perry, Director of Youth Ministries, has been creative in his outreach to our children and youth. Our youth and children’s ministries remain strong as things have gone virtual. During our only in-person worship on October 4, we presented bibles to several children and youth.

Lake Mills United Methodist Church remains a strong witness to Christ’s love during these times due to God’s abundance grace, which we celebrate.

### ***Report Submitted by:***

*Tobi Bolt 10/17/2020*

## Worship Team

**Chairperson:** Sandy Whisler

### Team Members

Karla Ablanalp, Dan & Martha Hornickel, Martha Bollig, Rebecca Crenshaw, Matt Hanson, Dan Weber, Brandon Redmond, Mark Hoggatt, Jill Christian-Engels, Carol Battenberg, Linda Roedl, Gabby Redmond, Janet Mata, Pastor Edwin Vargas.

### Purpose

The Worship Team has a focus on the “G” of our G.R.O.W. statement - Gather to Worship. The team coordinates the ministries that support worship and assures that we have what is needed for our worship services to run smoothly.

### Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions

2020 began with the Worship Team planning for Lent and Easter and brainstorming the possibility of special worship opportunities throughout the year. When the pandemic hit in March, we had to reset our plans and focus on how to provide worship for our congregation during this unusual year. We moved to Parking Lot Praise services in late March and will continue with those services indefinitely. Any special worship opportunities we would have provided were not considered because of the pandemic.

### Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations

- We are blessed to be able to provide a Parking Lot Praise worship service.
- We’ve purchased new technology to provide transmission of our worship service from the sanctuary to the parking lot.
- Faithful volunteers have coordinated music, the broadcast of our service, usher duties, and the creation of a worshipful space during Parking Lot praise.

**Report Submitted by:** Sandy Whisler



## Welcome Team

**Chairperson:** Brianna Behselich

**Team Members:** Nick Roedl, Kelsey Perry, Mary Jo Hornickel, Mary Neupert, Ann Garthwait

### Purpose

The Welcome Team's purpose is to make the LMUMC a "welcoming" place for visitors, the community and our members.

### Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions

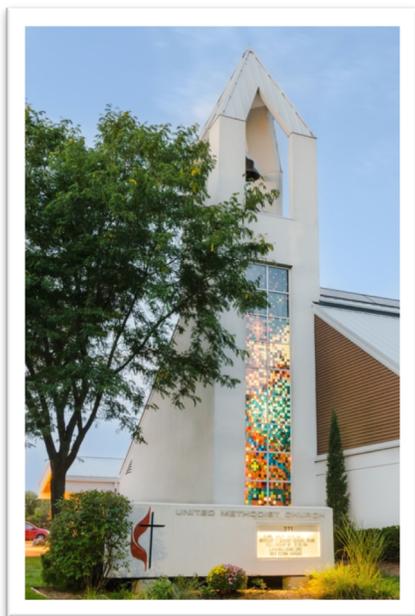
At the beginning of the year, we made sure to stay connected via email with those members who were living elsewhere during the colder months. We also continued to send Holiday post cards to our shut-ins. It was with great sadness that the Welcome Team was unable to have our 2 largest events this year: providing food at the garage sale and holding the chili supper. With COVID-19 safety guidelines and recommendations, it was the best choice to keep all members and guests safe. We continued sending "Happy Anniversary" emails to each couple for their anniversary. Before the pandemic, our team was working on starting college care packages but with the school shut downs we weren't able to continue that plan so we chose to honor and send a gift of congratulations to the 5 HS and college graduates at our church.

### Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations

Welcome Team has been trying to find a way to contact and connect with the Lake Mills Main Street Program to become better connected with the community. Although we haven't yet connected, we have been persistent in our attempts. We were working with Pastor Edwin on creating a New Member class. As we were face to face with a pandemic, we were relentless in continuing or finding ways to stay connected with our congregation. During a time where we were physically distant, we utilized technology and our US postal system to reach out and send God's love. Our team does a great job in thinking outside the box to G.R.O.W. our church.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We encourage our congregation to serve through their time, talents, and/or monetary donations. The previous year we were involved with the Lake Mills Children's Clothing Giveaway greeting and take down, the new Shut-In Visitation Program, donating food for the homeless meal, donating food or delivering food to our shut-ins for the Harvest Meal, and making food, serving, or cleaning up at the Community Meal. Although many of these things weren't able to happen, or didn't go on for very long we know that there will be a great need when the pandemic is over. We would like to work on getting new T-shirts printed so we can make ourselves known as we serve our church and community. We strive to make our church narthex a comfortable and welcoming place for fellowship. This is done by volunteers on our team changing the décor for each season or holiday. We updated and added Christmas trees and lights.



### Concerns/Special Needs

Welcome Team would like to work collaboratively with Membership and the Pastor for the services that honor new member to create a day that is memorable were they can be presented with a gift and celebration after. We would like to see growth within our church, more regular attendance with members and youth, and find ways to stay connected with all members. We are continually thinking about ways to bring in

new members and help them find a place in our ministry once they have joined. We want our church to be connected, even through the generations.

### **Future Ministry**

As the pandemic set in, many of our 2020 goals and plans were paused. We would like to continue working with Pastor Edwin to put together a New Member program, including a folder, class, party, and mentor program. We would like to focus on connecting our members by events that allow all members to attend and enjoy each other's comradery. Caroling and an End of the Summer Bash were two thoughts in process to bring this to life. We look forward to 2021 and the new opportunities.

**Report Submitted by:** Brianna Behselich

## ***Missions Team***

**Chairperson:** Kelsey Perry

### **Team Members**

Amy Hanson, Mary Werner, Rachel Stark, Holly Swain, Tina Sapp, Vanessa Vargas (Youth rep), Jessica Wellsandt

### **Purpose**

To support local, county, state, national and international missions through:

- Establishing a thoughtful vision and develop the ministry in accordance with that vision
- Increase congregational participation in world missions
- Aid members of the local church in responding to God's call to missions
- Prepare the annual missions budget and present it for approval
- Visit areas of priority or focus of the church
- Develop policy and procedures related to the ministry

### **Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

Some key achievements of the LM United Methodist Church include:

- Collection of loose coin and personal donations to Heifer International in total of \$1128, which was matched 3 times!
- Loose coin, personal donations and fundraising for youth camp scholarships in total of \$2,112.37.
- Hosting a rummage sale to benefit youth missions and camp scholarships. \$2698.70 was raised in total, over \$700 more than last year!
- Coordination of the collection of 20+ grocery bags full of school supplies donated to the LMASD.
- Coordination of the collection of gift card and cash donations to shop for grocery items safely for the Lake Mills food pantry.
- Participation in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry, sending around 30 boxes of gifts to youth in underdeveloped countries to spread the Gospel to new areas of the world.
- Continued participation in the Scrip program as a form of additional fundraising for mission opportunities
- Provide Christmas gifts to a local nursing home
- Coordination of a virtual "Giving Tree" for Jefferson County Social Services to collect PJs, lounge clothing, underwear and diapers for people in need.
- Coordination and collection of gift cards for United Methodist Children's Services of Milwaukee for distribution to families in need.

### **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

In this difficult year we would like to recognize the dedicated work of our mission team and the faithful giving of our congregation even through a pandemic. Our accomplishments this year look a little different than in others, but we are so inspired by the mission work and creativity of our congregation this year.

1. Our congregation raised \$2698.70 for youth missions and camp scholarships through our annual rummage sale this year. The event was moved outside to accommodate safer interactions between customers and volunteers. This sale was not only much more successful than we anticipated, but has inspired the mission team to change how we run the sale in the future to be more effective.
2. Our congregation collected 20+ grocery bags (a full car load) of school supplies to donate to the Lake Mills Area School District in September this year, shortly after the school year started. These supplies were distributed to students and classrooms throughout the district as they were needed.

Our congregation, through personal donations, fundraisers and loose coin, collected \$2,112.37 for camp scholarships that the mission team donated to WI UMC Camps in their absence of having campers on site this year, supporting a ministry that does so much for our youth in their time of need.

### **Describe The Work In Your Local Congregation That Aligns With The Conference Priorities:**

The mission team work and activities mainly align with the conference values of engaging in peace and justice ministries in our communities and engaging in feeding/hunger ministries that allow us to be in relationship with people in need. This year that has been accomplished through a close relationship with our local food pantry and meeting their needs throughout the pandemic.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Throughout the year the congregation has many opportunities to volunteer with mission team fundraisers and events. Any level of participation is welcomed from donating funds, donating time, or donating creativity and ideas. We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our ministry at any level. We depend on volunteers not on the mission team for several planned events in 2021 including:

- The annual rummage sale (donations, set-up, working the sale, tear down)
- The Fall Harvest Meal to benefit shared giving (food donations, baked goods for bake sale, servers, dish washers, cooks, clean-up)

### **Concerns/Special Needs**

With the transition of worship to a safer, parking lot praise service, we have been thrilled with our congregation's ability to continue to feel like a faith community. However, this worship format has led to several challenges in how we usually solicit participation in the various missions and fundraisers we plan. The missions most impacted by this change have been the Scrip gift card program and the loose coin offering. We are continuing to brainstorm solutions to the decline in participation of these programs as they are a vital part of our fundraising for the year. One additional need that we have identified is one many others are struggling with during the pandemic and that is a struggle to communicate ideas to others. As a mission team we are coming up with safe ways for the congregation to continue to be missional during this time, but communicating those initiatives broadly has been difficult. We suggest the implementation of a missions email that could go out when we have important (and often timely) announcements for the congregation to notify everyone of opportunities to participate in the many missions we support.



## **Future Ministry**

We see our congregation being vital and healthy when our focus is outward, and our priority is how we can best serve the community we are in.

1. Renewed participation in the Rainbow Covenant conference mission initiative (or a new program that is similar). We set and met our goal in 2019 to become a Rainbow Covenant congregation through giving to many different types of missions within the UMC and faithfully contributing 100% of our apportionments to the conference. This year, the diversity of missions has been set aside to prioritize the immediate needs of our community. Next year, we would like to renew participation in a diverse mission program.
2. Supporting both High School and Middle School mission trip opportunities for our youth and increasing youth participation in local mission events. Mission work is transformative for everyone involved and our youth can benefit from these experiences in ways that can build and strength their faith journeys.
3. Increased opportunities for church-wide participation in mission events and initiatives. This will involve increase communication of mission happenings to the larger congregation and an identification of gifts on an individual level to recognize where one might best serve the mission of the church.

**Report Submitted by:** Kelsey Perry

## **Trustees**

**Chairperson:** Robin Wolff

### **Team Members**

Jon Erb, Dan Hornickel, Barb McMurry, Ned Werner, Glenn Bolt, Kris Walter, Will Dolwick, Jay Ludeman

### **Purpose**

The Trustees oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property: church building, parsonage, and cemetery. Project future needs of these properties for proper maintenance.

### **Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

- We purchased and installed wall mounted automatic hand sanitizer stations outside the restrooms, kitchen, and classrooms.
- We purchased pedestal mounted automatic hand sanitizer stations for the entryway, narthex and sanctuary.
- We purchased and installed wall mounted automatic soap dispensers for the restrooms.
- We purchased loose hand sanitizer bottles for use in the pews.
- We formed a carpet replacement committee and have begun looking at carpet samples.
- We formed a hearth room upgrade committee.
- We contracted for annual roof inspections which resulted in discovering some deficiencies with our roof which will be repaired this fall.

### **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

- Dan Hornickel completed the cemetery sexton job outline and cemetery operating procedure documents.
- Glenn Bolt balanced our HVAC system and installed new thermostats.
- Jay Ludeman provided security for the sacristy doors and purchased resources for the annual training recommended by Church Mutual for volunteers and staff working with youth.

**Describe the work in your local congregation that aligns with the Conference Priorities:**

We have worked hard to comply with guidelines and recommendations to provide for safe worship and ministries during this pandemic. We have provided our community with a non-contact in-person way to worship with “Parking Lot Praise”.

### **Our Future**

The Trustees continue to make improvements and maintain our building and grounds to enable the other ministries of our church to prosper.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The Trustees always have volunteer opportunities to help maintain the landscaping and building upkeep.

### **Concerns/Special Needs**

We need to make emergency lighting upgrades to comply with current building codes.

**Submitted by:** Robin Wolff

## ***Finance Team***

**Chair:** Dave Hornickel

### **Team Members**

Linda Roedl, Dana Ostrowski, Tobi Bolt, Robin Wolff, Russ Roedl, Jon Otto, Jill Christian, Matt Ludeman, Mary Neupert, Debbie Jardine, Bruce Gibson, Kelsey Winchell Perry, Connie Hesse, Pastor Edwin Vargas

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to review the financial status of LMUMC by overseeing reports and balances of all funds and holdings. Verify through an annual audit that all funds balance and accounts are paid in full or as needed. Keep the church body aware of our financial status and obligations and needs as they arise.

### **Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

1) Continue to promote the additional methods for giving that have been instituted for all congregational members to participate in. A member can go online through our website and give electronically through their bank account or they can load an app reader onto their cell phone and give to LMUMC. 2) Financial Peace University, a 9 week course on financial guidance, led by presenter Dave Ramsey, was offered during the spring months to our church members and also opened to the citizens of Lake Mills, regardless of religious affiliation. Several family units from outside of LMUMC did participate.

### **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

LMUMC was very fortunate to have a caring supportive family of givers. The Pandemic shut down in-person worship and creative ways to give had to be established. Because on-line giving was already in place the transition was painless. We secured a grant/loan from the Federal Gov't through the Payroll Protection Program which enabled us to keep paying essential employees. Also through the UM Foundation, an additional grant of \$1000 has been secured and we have applied for an additional \$500 through the same program. Because of our generous members, the PPP, and UM Foundation grants, we have been able to maintain positive balance and cash flow and will be able to pay our Shared Giving in full as well as give Second Mile donations to UMCOR and various other needs.

### **Describe the work in your local congregation that aligns with the Conference Priorities**

Before the Pandemic, LMUMC participated in Feeding the Homeless once every two months. This is a program operated in Madison that feeds 75-125 homeless men and women at Grace Episcopal Church on the square by the capitol.

During the months of April and May, a virtual 9-week financial educational course entitled Financial Peace University was presented. Several different family units participated to learn how best to “own their own money”. Several units were nonmembers.

LMUMC provides a meal, if requested, immediately after a funeral or memorial service to the surviving friends and family members of the deceased. This year several meals were served in a short few months.

The meal is served by volunteer workers and many members contribute a salad or desert. Many attending are from the community and out of town.

Lastly, every 2 months our church is asked to help provide food or labor for the Lake Mills community meal which is held at the EMS building every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This meal is open to all and serves many residences of various ages and income levels. This meal was participated in till April when the Pandemic caused the meal to discontinue.



**Volunteer Opportunities**

LMUMC will be financially stable with many members presenting offerings between 5 and 10 % of their income. Legacy gifts will also be a part of the financial plan. We will be able to pay Shared Giving earlier than Dec 31, will give more to Second Mile giving, UMCOR disasters will be funded better, and we will be outgrowing our current building and will be having focus groups and visioning sessions and beginning fund raising to create a usable structure.

**Concerns**

Need to find different ways to create financial awareness without making people become unconcerned. Also find ways to encourage more members to participate with their physical talents as well as their money and gifts. A desire to work closer with the Mission team to promote different opportunities for our congregation to get involved in. The wish list to refurbish the church carpet, lighting, and possible Hearth Room furnishing. This may require raising of additional funds to secure the needed funds.

**Submitted by:** Dave Hornickel

***Memorials Team***

**Purpose**

To utilize funds, which have been received in memory/honor of a loved one, in a way to carry on their memory

**Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

**2020 Memorial Fund Recap**

As of November 1, 2020

Banks of Lake Mills: Checking Account	\$ 1,020.48
UMC Foundation: Memorial Fund	\$ 26,505.53
UMC Foundation: LeRoy Lawrence Fund	\$476,889.43

**Memorial Funds Received: (November 2019 thru October 2020)**

Pear Renz	\$ 850.00	Non Designated
Cathy Pate	\$ 190.00	Non Designated
John Garthwait	\$ 140.00	Non Designated
Howard Gallup	\$ 20.00	To Be Determined
Pam Mueller	\$ 120.00	Non Designated
LeRoy Nelson	\$ 1,402.00	Prayer Garden/Non Designated

**Memorial Fund Requests:**

New Candlelighters (Non Designated)	\$ 99.98
New Telephone System (Non Designated)	\$3,585.00

**Designated Funds:**

Landscaping/Prayer Garden	\$1,232.00
Music Ministry	\$3,241.76
Dishwasher	\$ 956.00
Kitchen Remodel	\$ 450.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$1,025.00
To Be Determined	<u>\$1,795.00</u>
<b>Total Designated</b>	<b>\$8,699.76</b>

**Non Designated Funds:** \$18,826.25

**Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

The Memorial Team has done an outstanding job of not only getting information organized in regard to the memorial fund account. The information going out to the congregation in regard to ideas for memorial dollars to be spent on is a great idea and will be very helpful to people. Knowledge is a good thing. To sum it up, we more or less have our act together with the guidance of a great leader and team members.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

We continue to need guidance on the desired use of non-designated funds

**Tech Team****Members**

Dan Weber, Pastor Edwin Vargas

**Purpose**

We believe technology is a resource we can use for God's glory: It improves communication, both inside and outside the church.

**Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

The global pandemic has required a steep ascent in our use of technology. We have acquired tools and audio/video equipment that would enable us to better transmit our services via YouTube and for worship outdoors. At the start of the pandemic, we were blessed to an FM transmitter to continue providing Sunday worship via the Parking Lot Praise services and the funerals we have held. Special thanks to Russ and Linda Roedel for providing us with the FM transmitter. We recently purchased a new FM transmitter that has allowed us to further extend the transmission our services to ~4 blocks. Finally, we also continue to extend our outreach through the community cable access channel and have now further simplified the submission process to the local cable company.

## **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

A very special and big THANK YOU to Dan Weber for his tireless work in all things related to technology. Dan is not only our principle sound tech, but he also records, revises, and submits our Sunday services to the Lake Mills Community Cable Channel and online, but he is always working to improve the quality of our worship experience through technology.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Seeking more volunteers to help during Sunday worship services.

## **Children and Youth Ministry**

**Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Kam Perry

**Youth Council Chair:** Kristin Mock

### **Team Members**

Wendy Radloff, Holly Swain, Kyle Hornickel, Stan Bond, Bronwyn Bond, Val Schmitt, Rachel Stark, Becca Smith, and Edwin Vargas

### **Purpose**

We exist to impact lives for Jesus Christ by reaching out, growing as disciples, serving others, worshipping God, and praying always.

LMUMC Youth Groups aim to break the chains that bind us and burst beyond the walls of our church and community in order to spread the love of Jesus Christ wherever God would lead us.

“We love because Christ first loved us...” - John 4:19 <><



### **Vision:**

My vision as director of youth ministries for LMUMC youth is to provide an environment in which young people may grow, learn, connect, and strive toward a life of serving God. The best environment to grow in is one rooted deep in love. I want to reflect Christ’s love on our youth and together reflect His love on all of those we encounter. Our youth groups will focus on discovering God and spreading the good news by living out the model set by Christ.

My goal would be for our youth to focus in on the relational side of Christ. By doing so the youth will discover who they are, who God is, and who God wants them to become.

### **Scope and Sequence**

The idea behind a Scope and Sequence is to focus on a beginning and an end; where are the youth at? Where do we want them to end up? Each “stepping stone” in between is an aspect or theme we want them to hit on their journey from point A to point B. The scope and sequence can remain the same while the teaching points change each year, the themes stay the same.

The scope and sequence acts as the frame work of a year of ministry from k-12th grade. The scope and sequence will change as the climate and vision of the church changes but it offers a solid footing to build upon.

Children’s ministry acts as an introductory course as to who God is. We introduce them to God and Jesus and move through an understanding of the characters and themes of the Bible. We touch on who Jesus is

and how we can be like him. That takes us to youth moving into middle school. Middle school are formative years where youth are critically thinking about who they are and where their identity is found. We focus on aspects of Christianity young people will cling to in the idea that their identity will be found in Christ. In high school is where we start to develop themes and understanding into practice. We explore where, we as individuals, fit into a life of serving and honoring God. We start to form their faith into something they take ownership of in the hopes of taking that with them beyond high school. The ultimate through all of this is not to make believers but Disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **Ministry Activities, Special Events and Missions**

Currently: Virtual Kids Club, Virtual Youth Group; Middle School and High School. Virtual Groove for middle school on Sunday, Virtual Confirmation-2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Virtual Christmas Program

Normally:

Family Corn Maze

Zombie Corn Maze

Christmas Program

Winter Camp

High School Mission Trip

VBS

### **Blessings, Accomplishments, and Commendations**

It has been a tough year to stay active and engaging in our community, but what we have been able to do during this pandemic is to refocus and really focus on the future of our children and youth programs. I would first like to praise the work done by our youth council. The time and effort they put in to make a program stronger really shows and I could not be more thankful to have them all.

I am also very happy with the virtual transition we have been able to make this year. The most important part of any ministry is the connection we make and the report built with those involved. Though it is not the same as in person experience the children and youth of our church have the opportunity to connect every week with each other, read scripture, and learn about the love of God.

Lastly, I am very pleased to announce the renovation project to the Hearth Room. For the past 4 years the youth have been using the Hearth Room as our home base for all Children and Youth programs and events. After discussing with the other leadership of the church, we have come up with an idea to re-do the space that will revamp, revitalize, and help utilize the space in the Hearth Room to its fullest potential. This “revamping” of the space will not only serve our youth better but every person and ministry that uses the space!

Describe the work in your local congregation that aligns with the Conference Priorities:

In the works:

Christmas Lanterns

Middle School Mission Trip

International Church Mission Trip: Haiti 2022

### **Our Future**

As I look at the time Kelsey and I have left in Lake Mills, I think a lot about the future of the Children and Youth programs at LMUMC. The biggest needs I see to benefit the church the most looking forward is space and designated leadership. With the renovations we are making to the Hearth Room we are moving forward, rapidly, to make sure there is a space for our youth to call their own. One thing that I feel is very important when it comes to our youth is intentionality. I am ecstatic about the changes being made for youth in the Hearth room but one thing I would love to see in our future is a renaming of that space from Hearth Room to Youth Room. The function and accessibility of the space would not change for anyone but it would send a very clear message to our youth, our church, and our community that we are intentionally investing in them and the future of our program.

The other “need” I see is a designated leader for children’s ministry and a designated leader for middle and high school youth. I feel that bringing on another staffed leader for children’s ministry would benefit the church greatly. I love and cherish my time with the children of our church and I put my all into making our programs meaningful and fun; having a person who puts all their focus on specific area of ministry will only help it grow. A children’s director would oversee Children’s church on Sundays, Kids Club on Monday nights, VBS, volunteers, and nursery. It also leaves open special attention for music, Christmas program, holiday events, and outreach.

A designated youth director could focus their time solely on middle school and high school aged programs and events. Youth group Sunday and Wednesday, monthly events, Confirmation, mission trips, winter camp, volunteers, and VBS. The two positions would work together to transition our youngest members to independent disciples of Christ. I feel that having two positions puts more time and focus on each program and will allow for more growth in the future.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you want to be a support system and make meaningful connections with young people in our church contact Kam at any time.

**Report Submitted by:** Kam Perry, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator



**CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Initial Application or Request for Renewal

Report for year ending 2020



**SECTION I: DATA ON THE LAY SERVANT**

Name (Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_ Mr. )  Matt Hanson  
Address  W5973 County Road B City/State/Zip  Jefferson, WI 53549  
Telephone  920-699-5269 E-mail  matthanson@tds.net  
Name of District  South East District Circuit 19  
Name of Church  Lake Mills United Methodist Church  
Church Address  271 E. Prospect Street City/State/Zip  Lake Mills, WI 53551  
Church Telephone  920-648-2614

**SECTION II: STATUS OF THE LAY SERVANT**

**For initial application** as a Certified Lay Servant  
1. What year did you complete your Basic Course? \_\_\_\_\_  
2. What year did you complete your Advanced Course? \_\_\_\_\_  
3. What was the title of your Advanced Course? \_\_\_\_\_  
 **For renewal** as a Certified Lay Servant  
1. What year did you complete your last Advanced Course?  2016  
2. What was the title of your last Advanced Course?  Leading in Prayer

**SECTION III: REQUEST OF THE LAY SERVANT**

I request recommendation of my pastor and my church council/charge conference to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.

Date  11/2/2020 Lay Servant  Matt Hanson

**SECTION IV: RECOMMENDATION OF THE PASTOR**

I recommend concurrence with the request of this person to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.

Date  11/16/20 Pastor  Rev. Edwin Vargas

**SECTION V: RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL/CHARGE CONFERENCE**

The church council/charge conference of  Lake Mills UMC (church/charge)  
recommends the above person begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.

Date  11/16/20 Church Council Chair or District Superintendent  Tobi Bolt



### Additional Writing Space

*(Please be sure to indicate which question you are answering.)*

Section VI A: Provided complete worship service on 17 occasions over 7 different dates, largely covering Sullivan, Concord and Johnson Creek. This is about half the number of services as last year as the churches are likely closed through the end of the year.

#### Section VII

B: I continue to supplement my Bible reading with the J. Vernon McGee "Through the Bible" Series. I continue to listen to Christian Radio and podcasts, however with COVID, my travel time has decreased significantly this year. Also recently, I serve on the executive committee for the Jefferson County Ruby's Pantry. This Christian based organization helps support a pop-up food pantry that provides food monthly to help people having trouble making ends meet. Although there is a modest cost of \$20 for approximately \$200 worth of food, we do have gift certificates for people who cannot afford that cost. To centralize the event in the county and have access to the Fair Park in Jefferson, we partnered with Immanuel United Methodist Church in Jefferson. Several volunteers from Lake Mills and surrounding churches help with the monthly food distribution. While we are always a bit nervous about finding help to distribute 2 semi loads of food weighing over 65,000 pounds, God continues to provide and we have found ways to do the work more efficiently. In October we provided 540 shares of food to about 500 families that drove through the line. We started in September and are growing each month. We are already tied for the largest single distribution in Wisconsin and may surpass that. Many churches only have enough volunteers to handle about 200 shares on a first come first serve basis. We don't want anyone to go away without food. Extra food is donated to about 7 food pantries and to the local Jail in Jefferson which also conserves county funds.

#### (Part 8)

Other Christian books I've read this year include:

Preaching in the Age of Distractions - J Ellsworth Kalas

Abraham - A journey to the heart of Three Faiths - Bruce Feiler

A shepherds look at Psalm 23 - Phillip Keller

Famine in the Land - A passionate call for Espository preaching - Steven Lawson

Angels: Gods Secret Agent - Billy Graham

#### Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary 2020

In January 2020 Pastor Dan Fahs (Good Shepherd UMC in Oconomowoc) again offered to host a group of area Lay Speakers and Pastors to participate in the Peer Learning Preaching Group in the Southeast District. This group consists of local church pastors gathering monthly to focus specifically and deliberately on their preaching. Pastor Dan Fahs is a trained facilitator through Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The program focuses on topics related to helping group members to be effective preachers as we learn ways to analyze our own preaching as well as listening to the preaching of others and offering feedback that is both affirming and constructive. The group meets met monthly throughout 2020 at Good Shepherd UMC in Oconomowoc. As part of the group meeting, we also spent time reading and reflecting on the book, "Preaching in the Age of Distractions - by J Ellsworth Kalas. We consistently have a group of about 8-10 people who regularly attend the monthly meetings. Each month a person volunteers to share their message for an upcoming service. We provide constructive feedback and ideas to help improve the message that will be delivered. Overall, the program has been very informative, worth while, uplifting and edifying experience that more lay servants and pastors would benefit from.

Section VIII 3. Continued: I feel a bit in the dark about the purpose of finishing the two or so classes that I haven't been able to take to become a certified Lay Speaker. Given the regular services I conduct at the three churches, and occasionally invited a few times a year to other churches including Watertown, Lake Mills, Oconomowoc and others, I feel like I'm doing what God has called me to do. I have yet to be contacted by anyone from the conference. Perhaps that's a good thing? :)

**Continuing Education Report: Rev. Edwin Vargas**

**WI Annual Conf. of UMC Policy 150.0.0: Guidelines for Continuing Theological Education**

(Please print or type)

Clergy Name: Edwin Vargas  
Status: Provisional Member

COPIES TO:

\_\_\_\_\_ District Superintendent  
\_\_\_\_\_ Recording Secretary/Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_ PPRC/SPRC Chair

Year: 2020 (for January 1 – December 31)  
Church: Lake Mills United Methodist Church  
Charge: Lake Mills  
District: Southeast

**1. Professional Reading (ten hours of reading = .5 CEU's):**

**TITLE:**

**AUTHOR:**

**TOPIC:**

1. Love Like That: 5 Relationship Secrets from Jesus, Les Parrott III – Church Unity, Relationships
2. Worshipful: Living Sunday Morning All Week, James C. Howell – Theology of Worship
3. The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, Richard Rothstein – Social Science, Race & Class Issues
4. Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church, Sue Nilson Kibbey, Gregory V. Palmer – Church Growth, Evangelism

**TOTAL CEU's Earned for Reading = .5**

*You may earn a maximum of .5 CEU's for professional reading regardless of total number of hours.*

**2. Seminars/Conferences/Workshops (on site or distance learning):**

Title of Event: New Testament Survey II – GBST164 (8)  
Leader(s) of Event: Various , Liberty University, iTunes U  
CEU's Earned for Event: 1

Date of Event: Online, Self-guided

Title of Event: History of Christianity I (12)  
Leader(s) of Event: Dr. Donald Fortson III, Reformed Theological Seminary, iTunes U  
CEU's Earned for Event: 1

Date of Event: Online, Self-guided

Title of Event: The early Middle Ages (11)  
Leader(s) of Event: Dr. Paul Freedman, Yale University Open Courses, iTunes U  
CEU's Earned for Event: 1

Date of Event: Online, Self-guided

Title of Event: Pauline Epistles (12)  
Leader(s) of Event: Dr. Robert Cara, Reformed Theological Seminary, iTunes U  
CEU's Earned for Event: 1

Date of Event: Online, Self-guided

**Total CEU's Earned for Seminars/Conferences/Workshops = 4**

**GRAND TOTAL OF CEU'S EARNED (ADD totals of Categories 1-5 above) = 4.5**

**What are your continuing education plans for the next year?**

I will continue seeking online continuing education opportunities. I will also take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Annual Conference.

**Note: A signature is not required on this form. A copy of this report may be submitted to the Annual Church/Charge Conference to fulfill the requirements of ¶351.5 or 351.6 of the 2012 Book of Discipline.**

A COPY OF THIS FORM WHEN RECEIVED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE DESIGNATED BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

LMUMC BUDGET WORKSHEET 2019

10/30/2020

**INCOME**

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Offering	\$ 235,450.00	\$ 238,000.00
Building Use (Including TB/4K)	\$ 66,809.00	\$ 62,309.00
Other	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Capital & Misc Giving/Fundraising	\$ 65,000.00	50000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 387,259.00</b>	<b>\$ 390,309.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

**Pastor Compensation/Benefits**

Pastor's Salary	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Pastor's Travel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Pastor's Cont Ed/Prof Exp	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
GHC Health	\$ 22,944.00	\$ 23,136.00
CRSP	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,282.00
CPP	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,864.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 79,844.00</b>	<b>\$ 81,782.00</b>

**Youth Director's Compensation/Benefits**

YD's Salary	\$ 33,599.72	\$ 44,782.40
YD's Travel	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
YD's Cont Ed/Prof Exp	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
GHC Health	\$ -	\$ -
RSP	\$ -	\$ -
CPP	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 34,349.72</b>	<b>\$ 45,532.40</b>

**Staff Salaries**

Staff	\$ 41,051.36	\$ 40,283.73
+ Teddy Bear	\$ 47,437.00	\$ 47,437.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 122,838.08</b>	<b>\$ 133,253.13</b>

**Operational**

Office Supplies	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00
Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Advertising	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Office Equipment Purchase	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Office Equipment Lease	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
Office Equipment Maint Agr	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Software/web support	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00

LMUMC BUDGET WORKSHEET 2019

10/30/2020

\$ 5,800.00

Admin Expenses		
ADP Payroll	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Vanco Services	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Ann Conf Expenses	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
Subscr/Periodicals	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
Other	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>\$ 3,930.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,930.00</b>

Communications - Ch	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
Communications - Pars	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
	<b>\$ 3,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,700.00</b>

Late Fees

**Conference Apportionments** \$ 36,000.00

total Apportionment allocated

**Trustees**

Church Utilities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Parsonage Utilities	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00
Property Services	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 17,700.00
Insurance	\$ 8,136.00	\$ 8,136.00
Maintenance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Supplies (Custodial & Kitchen)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Custodial Services	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
	<b>\$ 52,936.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,936.00</b>

Education \$ 1,000.00

Music \$ 800

Worship/Ministry \$ 6,200.00

Ministries (Welcome, Missions, Tech) \$ 3,300.00

Children & Youth Ministries \$ 16,000.00

Teddy Bear Expenses \$ -

Dedicated Fund Debt Repayment \$ -

Loan Payment \$ -

Capital Projects Fund \$ 85,000.00

**TOTAL** \$ 414,048.08

Budget

NET (26,789.08)

**\$ (35,192.13)**

## **\*\*Parsonage Allowance Resolution**

### **Church Owned Parsonage**

**Whereas**, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income “the rental value of a home furnished as part of compensation,” and any church-designated allowance paid as part of compensation to the extent used for actual expenses incurred in maintaining a church-owned parsonage;

**Whereas, Rev. Edwin Vargas** is compensated by **Lake Mills** United Methodist Church exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel;

**Whereas**, Lake Mills United Methodist Church provides **Rev. Edwin Vargas** with rent-free use of a church-owned parsonage as compensation for services provided to the church in the exercise of ministry;

**Whereas**, as additional compensation to **Rev. Edwin Vargas** and the **Lake Mills** United Methodist Church also desires to pay **Rev. Edwin Vargas** for expenses incurred in maintaining the parsonage;

**Resolved**, that the annual compensation paid to **Rev. Edwin Vargas** for the calendar year **2021** shall be **\$44,000** of which **\$3000** is hereby designated a parsonage allowance pursuant to Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code;

**Resolved**, that the designation of **\$3000** as a parsonage allowance shall apply to calendar year **2021** and all future years unless otherwise provided; and,

**Resolved**, that as additional compensation to Rev. Edwin Vargas for calendar year **2021** and for all future years unless otherwise provided, Rev. Edwin Vargas shall be permitted to live in the church-owned parsonage located at **235 E. Prospect St. Lake Mills, WI 53551**, and that no rent or other fee shall be payable by Rev. Edwin Vargas for such occupancy and use.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_, Charge Conference Secretary      Date: 11/19/20

\*NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code Section 102(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

## **\*\*Resolution On Accountable Reimbursement Plan**

**Whereas**, Lake Mills United Methodist Church desires to establish an Accountable Reimbursement Plan pursuant to income tax regulations 1.162-17 and 1.274-5T(f);

**Resolved**, the Lake Mills United Methodist Church (church) hereby establishes an accountable reimbursement plan for the benefit of Rev. Edwin Vargas (pastor) for the calendar year **2021**.

**Resolved**, the total amount of this reimbursement plan shall not exceed **\$3,500.00**. Funding for the reimbursement shall be through a line item in the church budget and shall be in addition to the stated salary for the same period.

**Resolved**, the following terms and conditions shall govern both the church and the pastor:

1. The pastor shall be reimbursed for expenses deemed ordinary and necessary for the conduct of his/her ministerial office if these conditions are satisfied:
  - a. The expenses are reasonable in amount.
  - b. The pastor documents the date, amount, description and business purpose of such expenses with sufficient evidence that would support a federal income tax deduction.
  - c. The pastor provides the documentation of such expenses no less frequently than monthly, however, in no event will an expense be reimbursed if substantiated more than 60 days after the expense is paid or incurred.
2. The church may provide advances to cover anticipated expenses; however, the pastor must provide an accounting for such advances as well as the refunding of any excess amounts to the church treasurer within 90 days from the issuance of any such advance.
3. In the case of any questions regarding the appropriateness of any expense submitted for reimbursement, the discretion of the Staff Parish Relations Chair, subject to the approval of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, shall prevail.
4. No unspent balances in the reimbursement budget shall be paid to the pastor as additional compensation. However, subject to the discretion of the Committee on finance and the approval of the Administrative Board, unspent balances may be carried over the next year's budget.

Adopted **November 19, 2020**, by the Church Conference of Lake Mills United Methodist Church of Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

Administrative Board Chair

Church Conference Secretary

## **\*\*Membership Audit for Charge/Church Conference**

¶247.15 and ¶231

1. Names of persons **received** into membership since last charge/church conference and method of reception:

BARTLETT, James III & Elinor	Transfer
BRUSS, Doug & Mary	Transfer
WADDELL, Dave & Sally	Transfer

2. Names of persons **removed** from membership since last charge/church conference and method of removal:

BRIEN, Mike & Wanda	Transfer to Other
GARTHWAIT, John	Death
MUELLER, Pam	Death
NELSON, Leroy	Death
ORCUTT, Darleen	Death
PETER, Larry	Death
RENZ, Pearl	Death

## **\*\*Care of Members & Removal of Names**

Church Name: Lake Mills United Methodist Church ¶228.2.b

1. **First** time to be listed:

**Due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic the United Methodist Conference has advised that no members be removed in 2020.**

1. **Second** time listed.

(If the charge/church conference deems it appropriate, it may vote to authorize the removal of these names from the full membership role. The record of names so removed shall be kept so that, if appropriate, the person whose name has been removed may be restored to membership).

## \*\*Leadership Directory - 2021-2023 Updated on 10/27/2020

Team	2021	2022	2023
Staff Parish Relations Committee	Russ Roedl – Chair Greg Hesse Youth rep: Holden Mock	Jim Colegrove Marian Timmerman Jeremy Smith	Jeff Luthanen Marianne Schick Tobi Bolt
Trustees		<b>Chair: Jay Ludeman</b> Glenn Bolt Ned Werner Kris Walter Jon Erb (yearly) Barb McMurry	Dan Hornickel Robin Wolff Youth: Braxton Walter
Salem Cemetery Sexton			Dan Hornickel
Finance Team	Treasurer: Matt Ludeman Bruce Gibson (yearly) Dana Ostrowski (representing Memorial) Deb Jardine Connie Hesse	Mary Neupert Kelsey Perry (representing Missions) Russ Roedl (representing SPRC)	<b>Chair: Linda Roedl</b>  Jim Bartlett
Memorial Committee	Rachel Stark Carol Battenberg	<b>Chair: Dana Ostrowski</b> Linda Roedl	Mitch Degolier Joe Trytten
Youth Council	<b>Youth Director: Kam Perry</b>	<b>Chair: Kristin Mock</b> Holly Swain Kyle Hornickel Stan Bond Youth rep: Bronwyn Bond	Becca Smith Christa Walter Wendy Radloff Youth: Bennette Walter
Adult Education Team		Edwin Vargas, Steve Zekoff, Marian Timmerman	
Nominations Team (yearly)	Tobi Bolt, Jeff Luthanen, Marian Timmerman, Martha Hornickel		
Welcoming & Inviting Team	Mary Neupert (yearly) Robin Wolff—chili supper kitchen only Kelsey Perry Ann Garthwait Nick Roedl	Laura Gibson <b>Chair: Martha Hornickel</b>	Shari Degolier Ellie Bartlett Marian Timmerman
Worship Team – 1 year rotation	<b>Chair: Dan Weber</b> Communion Steward: Karla Abplanbalp Altar Guild: Dan and Martha Hornickel Music: Marty Bollig Acolyte Coordinator: Beckie Crenshaw Tech Team: Matt Hanson, Brandon Redmond and Dan Weber	Usher Coordinator: Dan Hornickel Nursery Coordinator: Liturgist Coordinator: Mark Hoggatt Greeter Coordinator: Chris Anderson Fellowship Host coordinator: Carol Battenberg At large members: Sandy Whisler, Dave Anderson	
Membership	Mallory Hines (Staff), Dana Ostrowski		
Mission Team	Rachel Stark Gabby Redmond Holly Swain	<b>Chair: Kelsey Perry</b> Tina Sapp—not able to attend meetings but will assist with events. Mary Werner Jessica Wellsandt Amy Hanson Youth: Vanessa Vargas	Sharon Schmid
Tech Team –	Dan Weber, Mark Hoggatt, Russ Roedl	Brandon Redmond	Youth: Edwin Vargas
At Large Members to the Ad Council	Jeff Luthanen		Dan Hornickel
Administrative Council Chair	<b>Chair: Stan Bond</b>		
Lay Member to An. Conf.	Matt Hanson	Rachel Stark	
Lay Leader			Sharon Schmid
Kitchen Team		Rachel Stark, Amy Hansen, Bonnie Roglitz, Claire Jones	
Highway Cleanup	Jeff Luthanen		
Camp Coordinator	Val Schmitt		
Teddy Bear Board	Russ Roedl (financials) <b>Chair: Michelle Quednow</b> Val Schmitt		Jana Dierksmeier Tobi Bolt