



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 23, 2024)

## Transfiguration, Indian River, Eastern Michigan

8119 W M-68 Hwy, Indian River, MI 49749, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 12/31/24.

[tlittle@eastmich.org](mailto:tlittle@eastmich.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) <b>50</b>	Number of Weekend Worship Services <b>1</b>	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options <b>Full family</b>	Dental <b>Yes</b>	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks <b>4</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>\$501-\$1000/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision <b>Yes</b>	Travel/Auto Account <b>Yes</b>	Other Professional Account <b>No</b>

*Compensation will be commensurate with diocesan expectations*

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

Our congregation feels strongly about our mission to help those in our local community who are in need. Before Covid, we offered a Senior Lunch Program. Once a month we offer a free lunch and program to any Seniors in our area who would like to get out and enjoy fellowship and a meal. Each month we serve 40-45 seniors, many regulars and always some new faces. The money and volunteers come from our parishioners. We quietly ask for a free will offering from these Seniors who are attending the lunch. Any money we receive is given to the manager of the cafeteria at the local school. She uses the money to pay for a School Lunch for any student who for any reason is not able to purchase or bring his/her lunch. This is a joyful way for us to "pay it forward" and provide a way for an array of people to have their bodies nourished and their souls filled with joy for doing good for others. This program was very successful and we are planning for the time when we can bring it back.

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

We feel that the Church of the future needs to provide a spiritual place for all ages to come together to worship and have their "batteries" recharged as they lead their lives and try to do the things God would like us to do. For the older generation, there is the need for feeling secure in the church environment they grew up in. For the younger generation, there is the need for a flexible church that offers them security, love and a path to follow. Through Pastoral care we recognize that people need to feel that there is a place they can turn to in time of need. By interacting with people in our church and our community, we hope to provide the feeling that there is a friend available when you need one and that you might enjoy helping others with that friend. We hope to restart activities like Sunday School and Nature Camp as ways that we can bring young families into our church. We are actively looking for ways to involve others and reach out to them. In our area Interdenominational Group (South County Samaritans' Association), we hope to brainstorm together and come up with things that help all of us. As Christians, this is not a competition but a universal mission.

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

Spiritual guide  Traditional yet worldly and current  A rapport with all ages  Personalized sermons relative to today's world  Pastoral Care inside and outside our church  Appreciates the Ritual  Sense of humor  Open minded

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

The liturgical style of our church is open, relaxed yet liturgical. We follow the Book of Common Prayer with a Communion Service each Sunday morning at 10:00 led by our Rector and assisted by Lay Readers and our Deacon. Our congregation is made up of many different denominations, but we all seem comfortable with the traditional style of the Communion Service in the Book of Common Prayer. We appreciate the prayers and the lessons from the Bible. We look forward to a thoughtful and personalized sermon by our Rector which gives us something to take out into the world each week. We are a close-knit congregation, considering ourselves one big family, welcoming to all newcomers. We are open to trying new things and being stretched a little on any given Sunday, but there seems to be great comfort in returning to what we know. An important part of our worship service is the Peace. We look at this time in the service as a way to joyfully greet our fellow parishioners, prepare as a family for communion, and welcome anyone who is visiting our church. Music is also an important part of our worship service. We favor traditional music, whether from the Hymnal or other source.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Formally, we look for opportunities to have visiting ministers to broaden our experiences. Being in a small town sometimes limits our resources, but we have had a Hospice Chaplain and the leader of D.R.E.A.M (a ministry for the Dominican Republic). Informally, almost everyone in our congregation is involved in ministry of some sort. Ministering within our congregation is done by the Choir, the Lay Readers, our Church Secretary (who is also our music director and a "jack of all trades") and many people who are involved in Pastoral Care. We look at the ministry of Pastoral Care as a calling for all of us. Through our Mission Committee, we have found a wonderful variety of ways to minister to people in our community. There is a personal needs closet open to those in need, scholarships for Higher Education and Camp Chickagami, which is a Camp sponsored by our Diocese. Our Annex building is currently empty, but we are looking for a tenant who can be part of our mission and ministry work. Like so many rural churches, we are always watching our budget, so most of our ministry is done by the hard work and generous spirit of our congregation.

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

Our spiritual well being is complimented by our Rector, our experience in our church services, small discussion groups on a book or a topic at coffee hour and interacting with each other. As a congregation, we believe in "effective" pastoral care, pastoral care that meets the special needs of those in our congregation and in our community. We do this in many ways, i.e. visiting others, taking food to those who are in need, emails to everyone asking for prayers and help, praying for each other in church and at home, calls to say hello. We feel that our spiritual well-being is supported by where we live. There is much "beauty in the nature" around us. This beauty is evidence of God's gifts. Several years ago, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to put a large window in the front of our sanctuary, bringing this natural beauty into our service. The physical well-being of the church physical plant itself is handled by parishioners whenever possible. Our Jr. Warden has a big job. Our Mission Committee tries to keep a handle on just how much we can do as a small parish. We do not lack for new ideas, so we must constantly take the pulse of our congregation.

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

In being a small church, we expend most of our resources locally, either through our own church or through the local group of churches. Our last three Rectors have been involved with the Diocese as Dean's of the Northern Convocation and as members of the Commission on Ministry. Camp Chickagami is a camp sponsored by the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. We provide scholarships for several area children to attend. We try and answer the call when the Diocese points out a need in the larger world such as providing water for the residents of Flint. We send delegates to the Diocese Convention each year. We attend workshops when they are within a reasonable driving distance for us. Several of our members, with monetary support from the community, went to the Dominican Republic twice to help build a church. We have sent money to pay for two kitchens in the Dominican. We are fortunate to have a very special Deacon in our congregation. He highlights needs in the community which he observes, and he works as Chaplains in the Hospital and with Hospice. We enjoy being part of the wider church, but we feel our first responsibility is to our own community.

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

Our Missions Ministry and outreach to those in our community is a very important part of our church. Everyone is involved either through time or money. S.T.A.R. which stands for Sharing Together Area Resources is a program which provides personal needs items for those in our area who are trying to make it on their own but need extra help. We have a closet at our church, at the school, at the food pantry and we deliver when asked to other area sites. We participate in an Interdenominational organization in our immediate area with our time and money. We have a Nature Center and trail which is open to all and where we host a Nature Summer Camp when we have a teacher. Before Covid, we held a free Senior Lunch which provides a free lunch and chance for socialization to all seniors in our area once a month. We hope to return to this when people feel comfortable attending a group activity. In addition, we support the local backpack program, the Teen Center, School Lunches, the Salvation Army scarf program, Hospice and anywhere we can find a need on the local level.

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

As with all churches, Co-vid provided a special set of challenges. We were fortunate in that we started broadcasting our Sunday service live on the internet in January 2020 because we wanted to provide it for our Sunday School teachers, our parishioners who were at home or south for the winter, and anyone else who might want to bring a Sunday service into their home. In the past year, we have not used the Internet for broadcasting since we have no one who is in Indian River in the winter, who feels comfortable doing it. But as things have loosened up, we have formed a "Let's Grow" Committee and we are trying to bring us back to where we were Pre-Covid. We have been working very hard to fill our Annex building with a non-profit lessor who will fulfill our Mission goals. We are close to having that happen, which is very uplifting to all of our congregation.

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

Each fall we have a Stewardship campaign, talking about tithing and giving back to the church. We send out pledge cards accompanied by a letter from our Rector and our Senior Warden. We believe that our parishioners as a whole are committed in being good stewards of God and giving back to the church with their time, talents and resources. Like many churches in our area, half of our congregation are "snowbirds", so it is a challenge to keep our pastoral care and monetary commitments on an even keel. Each spring there is new life injected into our congregation as our summer residents return and become once again part of our ongoing commitment to pastoral care inside and outside of our parish. We are committed to stewardship to the Diocese also. Our past rectors were actively contributing to Diocese needs, and we make a tithe to the Diocese each year.

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

We have an older congregation and most of our conflict has been around change. If there is a change that the Vestry is considering, and it will have an impact on our church, we send informative letters and have open meetings to bring the information to the congregation. We hope that being open is a way to avoid conflict or at least resolve it. Most of our congregation did not grow up in the Episcopal church. It is our sense of community within ourselves and to the outside community that seems to attract people to our church. And as a community, we try to be inclusive and address conflicts. We appreciate a Rector who considers him/herself part of the congregation. All of us are encouraged to have new ideas and to share them with each other. We all have a right to be heard. The Vestry has the responsibility to listen to others and make the best decision they can for the congregation as a whole. We try to use our Senior Warden as a shield to identify areas of conflict and notify the Rector so the Rector can be a mediator in the conflict. We try to be open with the congregation and keep them informed, making them feel part of the decision-making process.

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What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Change could be a hard thing for our congregation as we balance the needs of future families and those of our current congregation. One change happened when we built the building which used to house the Jubilate Pre-School/Day Care. Some wanted a Senior Center or Senior Housing facility. Though there is definitely a need for that in our community, the majority decided on helping the younger families. Another example of change in our church was when we had a Rector who wanted to introduce folk guitar music into the service and to remove the middle of the prayer rail to make the altar seem more accessible to the congregation. A few parishioners left over these changes but most of us adopted a wait and see approach and eventually were happy with the changes. Our most recent disagreement was about how our Mission Money was spent. The majority of the Congregation wanted to keep the money local but our biggest contributor to the Mission Fund wanted us to give 1/3 to charities outside of the US. We did not handle this well and should have spent more time reaching compromise. We realize that the world is a different place, and we have to make accommodations for our future.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. James Harrison	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2012-07	2016-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Michael Herman	Interim	2011-12	2012-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Tyler Richards	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2018-01	2020-05

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	4	5

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
		1	

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School

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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.transfigepiscopal.org>

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/TransfigurationIndianRiver/?fref=ts>

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop: 989-752-6020 [sadams@eastmich.org](mailto:sadams@eastmich.org)

**The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams  
(Assisting Bishop)**

Diocesan Transition Minister 989-752-6020; [tlittle@eastmich.org](mailto:tlittle@eastmich.org)

**The Rev. Cn. Tracie Little**

Current Warden/Board Chair 231-238-8144; [bkpiotracz@gmail.com](mailto:bkpiotracz@gmail.com)

**Kathy Piotraczk**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair 231-238-9213; [mbmandy2@aol.com](mailto:mbmandy2@aol.com)

**Mary Biddinger**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader 231-420- 3360; [supervisor@tuscaroratwp.com](mailto:supervisor@tuscaroratwp.com)

**Mike Ridley**