

## Our Church Did All That?

Did you know that “Ministry Shares” are the expenses Portage Chapel Hill Church shares across the United Methodist denomination that allow us to reach out to our communities and the world in ways we would not be able to from our local church? We, as a denomination, support many large initiatives that require the support from a large number of people to be successful. And despite a rough 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic, Chapel Hill has once again kept its commitment in paying 100% of its Ministry Shares. The amount asked of us is based on many factors and for 2020 it came out to over \$77,000!

Did you also know that Ministry Shares is only the first step of giving in a 6-step invitation of outreach that the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church challenges us to be involved in? The other steps encourage each congregation to spread its outreach from the local level to the national level and even internationally. In 2020, we honored those commitments as well and provided financial assistance to the following areas totaling over \$12,000!

### GIVE

#### Step 1: Ministry Shares

#### Step 2: Michigan

##### The NOAH Project

The Networking, Organizing, and Advocating for the Homeless Project (NOAH) operates a Community Center in downtown Detroit for homeless and low income individuals. NOAH provides case management, wellness counseling, a computer lab, an art program, a quarterly Earn-A- Bike Program, and quarterly dental clinic.

##### JFON-Kalamazoo

Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) welcomes immigrants and refugees living in Southwest Michigan by providing legal assistance that those seeking residency in the United States need but cannot afford or access.

#### Step 3: National

##### NJFON - National Justice for Our Neighbors

Creating a welcoming community by providing immigration legal services, education and advocacy.

#### Step 4: International

##### Mujila Falls Agricultural Center

Addressing hunger and poverty with sustainable agriculture and leadership training in Zambia, Africa.

##### HAPI - Haitian Artisans for Peace International

Transforming Haiti through the empowerment and advocacy of women.

### Brighter Future Children Rescue Center

Helping ex-child soldiers, prostitutes, rural teen mothers and poor children build better lives in Liberia.

## Step 5: Mission Personnel

### Asti White - Served at Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo.

Asti Nicholas White was a Global Mission Fellow with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, engaged in a two-year term of service with the Michigan Annual Conference. He was commissioned from 2018 to 2020.

## Step 6: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

### Disaster Response International

Responding quickly to meet emergency needs around the world.

## But the fun doesn't stop there!

More importantly, the Michigan Conference also encourages each congregation to shift from a transactional "ministry to" model to a deeper "ministry with" relationship with vulnerable people and communities. So in addition to the "Give" element, they encourage congregations to "Learn" and "Act". Among the many wonderful things Chapel Hill has done in 2020, here are a few in those categories:

## LEARN

### ISAAC:

- Partnered with Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community of Kalamazoo (ISAAC), having several members join 3 action teams to learn about community issues and participate in solving them with elected officials and community leaders:  
(1) Anti-Racism (2) Housing (3) Anti-Gun Violence

### Anti-Racism:

- Held a congregation-wide book study of *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson.
- Several members attended 2-day workshops for "Introduction to Systemic Racism" by Eliminating Racism and Creating/Celebrating Equity (ERACCE).
- Promoted several community-led anti-racism lectures and discussions.
- Shared a list of books about anti-racism.
- Led a local Black Lives Matter protest.
- Fundraised for ISAAC's "Virtual Walk to DC for Racial Justice".

## ACT

- Sponsored a refugee family of 6 from Afghanistan, with a team of over 20 people supporting their settlement into the community.
- Monthly partnership to provide volunteers to serve meals for Ministry with Community.
- Partnership with local school, Haverhill Elementary, to provide backpacks, books, and donations.
- Location for food pantry and large source of volunteers for Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.

- Strategic partner with the ISAAC organization of Kalamazoo, including members on their leadership board and action committees.
- Consistent source of volunteers for Meals on Wheels for the community.