



**Statement of Shared Ministry** between St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Montague and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Muskegon.

After much discussion between the vestries of each parish, we have come to the following conclusions:

1. Opportunity for a shared full-time call exists, allowing each parish to be served half-time by the same priest.
2. Due to the newness of this collaborative relationship, we are initially looking to call someone to serve as Priest-in-Charge, with the possibility of electing this person to serve as rector. The initial call will be for 3 years, with mutual discernment about extending the agreement or calling the priest as rector beginning after 2 years of shared ministry.
3. Parishes shall remain administratively and financially independent, this agreement does not dissolve current vestries or remove current parish staff (paid or volunteer)
4. Each parish will maintain complete control over facilities and properties managed prior to this agreement.
5. We are interested in developing collaborative ministries between our two congregations to increase our ability to live into the mission we believe God is calling us towards. We do not currently, however, see that extending into a merger of the congregations. A cooperative council shall be established to enhance communication amongst all parties. The council shall:
  - a. Consist of both wardens from each parish and the priest-in-charge.
  - b. Meet monthly in order to identify areas of collaboration, eliminate conflict or any other discussion at the discretion of the priest.
  - c. have no binding authority to govern either of the two parishes, but shall make recommendations to both vestries
6. Each parish shall contribute equally to the collaborative Rector/Priest-in-Charge Compensation package (salary, benefits, pension, et.al).  
For the purposes of this collaboration, the rectory at St. Peter's-by-the-Lake is offered as the home of the Priest-in-charge.
7. Any additions or amendments to this statement of shared ministry deemed necessary by the cooperative council shall be considered & recommended for adoption to the respective vestries.

Faithfully supported,

/s/ **Jim Thommen**

Jim Thommen  
Senior Warden  
St. Peter's By-The-Lake, Montague

/s/ **Rod E. Hayhurst**

Rod Hayhurst  
Senior Warden  
St. Paul's, Muskegon

/s/ **Lyle VanDenHeuvel**

Lyle VanDenHeuvel  
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St. Peter's By-The-Lake, Montague

/s/ **Eric H Nisja**

Eric Nisja  
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/s/ **Tim Salach**

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