

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of White Pigeon, MI
Report and Recommendation of the Administrative
June 11, 2024

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan approved the appointment of an Administrative Commission on September 16, 2023, to support the congregation who had decided to end their ministry as a Presbyterian congregation in White Pigeon.

As reported in March 2024 representatives of the Commission met with members of the White Pigeon session on January 19, 2024, and received their resignations effectively dissolving this congregation. The AC worked with the former session members and clerk to find new church homes for the former members.

The church building, built in 1887, was listed by Patriot Realty in February 2024 for \$199,900. The building was viewed by those who envisioned a variety of potential uses for the building. Worshipping communities who viewed the building withdrew their interest either because the building was not large enough for them, or they were unable to afford the purchase and maintenance of the building which shows signs of deferred maintenance. Consultation with Patriot Realty revealed that there are many former churches and schools currently for sale in Michigan and relatively few of them are selling, especially in smaller towns and villages. Most that have sold did so at a price discounted from the original list price.

The utilities were transferred to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. The AC also ensured that lawn care, routine exterior maintenance, and insurance coverage are being provided. Monthly expenses average about \$1,100.

The AC received an offer from a White Pigeon area businesswoman for \$120,000 cash with no additional inspections to be conducted. If the following recommendation is approved by the PLM at this Stated Meeting, closing on the sale is anticipated within one week of that decision.

The Administrative Commission recommends:

1) That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan approve the sale of properties described below for the sum of \$120,000 to Shari Morris, if the way be clear.

Land situated in the Village of White Pigeon, St. Joseph County, Michigan: Lot 43, Plat of the Village of White Pigeon, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber A of Plats, Page 16. 75-045-200-051-00 If provided above, any address and tax parcel number are solely for informational purposes, without warranty as to accuracy or completeness. If inconsistent in any way with the legal description above, the legal description shall control.

2) That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan authorizes the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Fran Lane- Lawrence; the Treasurer, Kirk Truesdell; or the President of the Corporation, Beth Dyer, jointly or individually, to execute all documents necessary to implement this decision.

Thank you for your prayers for us and please continue to hold us in your prayers.

Laurie Tupper

Chrissy Westbury

Calvin Bremer