

**2016 Annual Report of the Pilgrim Point Camps & Retreats Committee**  
**Submitted by Phil Kasten, chair**

***“We will love God, one another, and the earth by providing sanctuary, radical hospitality, and faith-forming ministry in a sacred outdoor space.” (New Pilgrim Point Camp Mission Statement created by PPC&R committee and adopted by the BoD of the MN Conference in March 2016).***

It is wonderful to be in service with our committee responding to God’s call to see our camp become all God intended it to be from the beginning. We remain grateful for Wade Zick’s leadership of the camp and committee, and recognize the importance of his style and strong oversight model during that transformation and re-building success phase. Now, PPC&R committee are assuming increased ownership and responsibility along with Camp Director, Gigi Nauer, for increased programming, projects and planning for improvements to Pilgrim Point, and we believe this is a healthy shift for this phase of camp life.

Our committee’s current priorities are planning for a longer camp season now that Wayzata Community Church is leasing space for their program elsewhere plus building strategies for programming, staffing, and capital development to deal with ever-increasing demand and aging facilities.

PPC&R and Wayzata Community Church (WCC) were partners in the work of transforming lives through outdoor ministries at PPC since 2010 through last summer. Both experienced incredible growth through this time which led to a tension, with both needing more time and space each summer. This past summer, fall, and winter the two entities formed a joint task force with Shari Prestemon as facilitator and gracefully leading us through a number of conversations and considering all possibilities. Many of us remembered the time when the preservation of Pilgrim Point Camp as a venue for outdoor ministries of the conference was at risk due to low numbers and commitment; now the BoD has affirmed this as a vital part of our ministry and PPC doesn't have enough capacity! WCC was able to incubate and grow their youth camp program. At the same time, through careful guidance and planning, conference sponsored and congregational camps at Pilgrim Point Camp thrived and facilities were improved. Ultimately, Wayzata walked away from the arrangement with Pilgrim Point and is leasing a different facility, but we celebrate the partnership which created the space for both of our outdoor ministry programs to grow, develop, and flourish.

100% of the congregation sponsored camps from last summer are coming back in 2016, and now there is room for growth (and for your congregation to renew or strengthen connections - sign up!) PPC usage has more than tripled over the past six years, from 600 to close to over 1900 in 2015! Wayzata lease income represented only 16% of our budget income, and we are confident we can offset this longer term, with an additional five weeks of programming available. New camps for 2016 include Taller & Smaller, young adult reunion week, intergenerational mission week, Taize Meditation, Camp Awesome (for families with autism), and a Deaf Family week as well as more congregational retreats. Projects for 2016 include new roofs for the Lodge and Dining Hall, a new furnace for the North Shore cabin, room dividers for the North Shore and Annex, significant amount of painting/staining and others. We have initiated a Facilities sub-group to inventory all camp buildings and plan longer term for maintenance and improvements and a longer term capital plan. Our finance subcommittee is also active and will now work more closely with conference financial staff and it’s Finance Committee and BoD treasurer.

I want to express deep gratitude to all the members of our committee, Site Director Gigi Nauer, our Conference Minister, Shari Prestemon, Supply ACM Garth Schumacher, and Conference staff Zac Norenberg, Sandy Kellen, new Finance Director Eric Stoebner plus Kim Shaffer and Al Obernalte for

serving on our finance sub-committee. Many thanks to the Friends of Pilgrim Point and all who made financial contributions in the past year, your gifts make a very real difference in our ministry!