

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America and am currently serving a Presbyterian Church (USA) in Dimondale, MI. I have been in ministry since 1992.

Throughout the years, I have seen many programs and processes that offer some type of growth, for individuals and for the church. Each one is promoted for awhile and then something else comes along. As a pastor, I realize that a variety of opportunities can have value if they engage an individual to reflect on their faith. One must not simply look at the information given but the possibilities and opportunities for formation.

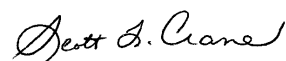
Indeed, there is no perfect experience for every individual. Yet, I believe that Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage (MPP) does offer a space where any person can find a valuable time of reflection. Guests all partake in listening to talks, singing, eating well and participating in meaningful conversation about their own faith journey.

The weekends all have a two-fold purpose. First, team members hope to help participants engage in a meaningful time of Christian study, action and piety. Second, not only do they desire for individuals to mature in their faith, they also wish them to return to their local church and make an impact.

MPP, like other fourth day communities, are led by lay members. Two or three pastors serve as spiritual advisors on each weekend but laity are in charge of the program and lead the retreat. All team members have the opportunity to share their story and, hopefully, encourage the guests to share theirs.

Throughout several years of my involvement in MPP, I have observed many individuals as guests. Some return on subsequent weekends to be a part of the team themselves. Like the old adage, I have found that people get out of a weekend what they put into it.

To be sure, all won't take full advantage of this directed spiritual weekend. Some may find it too confining and others will find it makes them feel too vulnerable. But, for those who are at that point of seeking God's presence in a new way, a weekend with other engaging Christians can be quite helpful. Please know that, if you have someone that could use a weekend of spiritual self-reflection, I invite you to consider Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage.



Rev. Scott L. Crane