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Bay View Association Finalizes Agreement

Petoskey— July 10, 2019 — The Bay View Association of the United Methodist Church has executed agreements with the United States and the group that had sued Bay View over its membership criteria. Importantly, Bay View’s programs and activities that members and the public alike have come to love and enjoy remain unchanged.

Bay View’s Mission Statement also remains unchanged:

To be an institution in which Christian values and traditions are central; to enrich the human experience for individuals and families within Bay View and the surrounding community through a seasonal program of religious, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities; to provide a Christian perspective in a changing world.

In August 2018, Bay View’s membership brought forward an initiative and voted overwhelmingly to no longer limit membership to those of the Christian faith. The agreements make two refinements to the 2018 changes and membership remains open to all. Bay View’s programming and activities have never been limited to members. Everyone is welcome to experience summer in Bay View.

Bay View has been affiliated with the United Methodist Church for 144 years. That affiliation is not changing, but we no longer require that a majority of the Board of Trustees be members of the United Methodist Church.

While the settlement pays attorney’s fees for the plaintiffs totaling \$75,000, no damages were paid and no fines or penalties were assessed by the United States Department of Justice.

President Jon Chism stated “We are very happy with these agreements. We believe that they will be positively received throughout Bay View and allow us to focus on reconciliation and fulfilling our Mission Statement.”

Executive Director Mike Spencer stated “We are looking forward to focusing on our four program areas and enhancing the summer experience for members, families, guests and the public.” To learn more about Bay View, please visit www.bayviewassociation.org.

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