

Dakotas Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church

2025 Journal

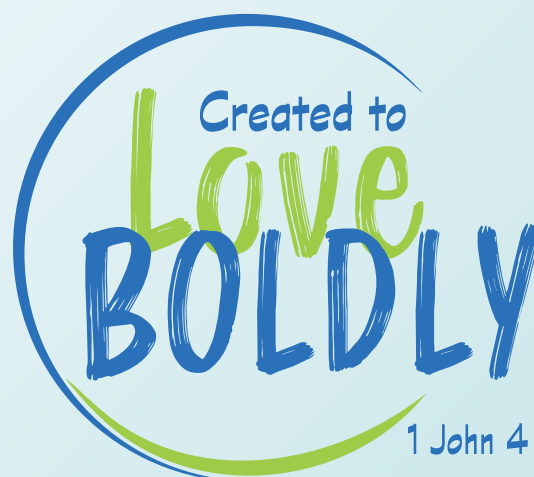


Dakotas Conference

The United Methodist Church



Grow. Reach. Heal.



The Dakotas Annual Conference Official Journal



THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

June 5-8, 2025 Annual Conference
Session Mitchell, South Dakota

Future Conference

June 4-7, 2026, Bismarck, North Dakota

Contributors: Jim Ducker, JoAnn Early, Doreen Gosmire, Laurie Langland, Rev.
Amber Laffey, Anna Mutzenberger, Susan Punt, Bea Stucke, David Stucke,
Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Rev. Dayne Zachrison

Dakotas – Minnesota Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church



Lanette Plambeck
Resident Bishop



Hope Hutchison
Executive Administrative Assistant
to the Bishop

A message from Bishop Lanette Plambeck (from the 2025 Episcopal Address)

One of the things that I love about John the Apostle is that he saw a word. He experienced the word in Psalms and said to himself, as he was hanging out writing Revelation, “I think I need to use that word.” You know that word that only shows up in one place in the New Testament? You know what that word is?

It’s “hallelujah.”

One time in the New Testament, hallelujah is used. It’s in the twenties in the Hebrew Scriptures—in the Old Testament—but you know, it all hangs out in the Psalms.

Hallelujah!

And what does “hallelujah” mean? Praise the Lord. When we say “hallelujah” or “alleluia,” what we’re saying is “Praise the Lord.” But more than that, it’s in the second person plural. Friends, it’s just a collective call. All y’all—all y’all praise the Lord. That’s what hallelujah means. Not just a single person—though, as single persons, we can praise the Lord, right? But it’s a collective summons. All of y’all—praise the Lord. So we sing it, we pray with it, we raise our hands to our hallelujah.

Hallelujah does not just describe an action. It invokes a posture. It’s the word that shows up again and again and again.

The last quadrennium—2020 to 2024—just sort of that season...how about I just say it—held some transition for us here in the Dakotas?

During that season, we journeyed through COVID-19 and how to figure out how to be church. We journeyed through the delayed General Conference. There were transitions in your Episcopal leadership—I call it the rotating bishops. And we experienced disaffiliation that pressed hard against our identity, our values, our theology, and our unity. We navigated feelings of betrayal, grief, and confusion. And we wondered what would be next for our beloved conference.

We rejoiced when 75% of the churches in the Dakotas Conference chose to remain United Methodist. This year we had legislation on reaffiliation, on how we bring congregations back in. And I just want to say to you—we already have one congregation prayerfully waiting for news on our legislation.

We recognized we needed to make a \$500,000 cut, and we knew that we would find creative, Spirit-led ways to do that. Our team has done that work. We have been reimagining our staffing model here in the Dakotas and innovating new expressions of ministry, outreach, development, and programming all across the conference. We are grateful for those of

you that serve on our Board of Pensions for stepping up and stepping in to help us fill that gap while we get ourselves rightly oriented again—to match what we're able to do with our resources and inflow.

We've seen the planting of new faith communities, the expansion of recovery ministry where lives are being transformed. We have doubled down on healing the world through humanitarian efforts and disaster response here in the Dakotas and beyond. We are embodying Matthew 25, and we are seeking new ways to bear witness to Christ in the world. That whole time—that last quadrennium—we did not lose our song. We still sing, “Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.”

Even when the melody cracked under grief, when the rhythm shifted with uncertainty, we kept singing. Not because we ignored the challenges, but because we chose to bear witness to something greater. We chose to bear witness to our God who never stopped moving, calling, and loving this conference into the fullness of its purpose. We chose to bear witness to something greater when all the yuck was going on.

With all of the yuck going on, we chose to not lose ourselves in that. We chose to not have hardened hearts. We chose to continue bearing witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ—our God, who never stopped moving, never stopped calling, never stopped loving this conference into the fullness of our purpose.

We raise our hallelujah because we know that our story ends well, right? That's what allows us to get through the stuff that we get through. We know the end of our story. Now, we don't know our journey, but we know the end of our story.

We know that we can raise a hallelujah during the hard chapters. We can raise a hallelujah on the good days and on the not-so-good days. We can raise our hallelujah when we're experiencing community and you just feel like you're in that groove with the Spirit of God. And we can raise our hallelujah when we are feeling isolated, lonely, and far away from one another—or from God's grace.

We raise our hallelujah because we know what it is to live in that in-between tension of what is and what should be. There are times where things happen in our lives, in our world, where—we all get here—we can look at something and say, “Yeah, God did not intend for that to happen. That's not God's will. That's not God's grace.” Anything that's counter to the love of God—we can look at—and we see that hard, horrible, ugly stuff that happens in our world. Even in that, we can raise our hallelujah because we know that God is working in and through the people for God's good work in this world.

So, we raise our hallelujah as testimony to what God has done. We raise our hallelujah as an act of resistance, as an act against fear and lies. And we raise our hallelujah as a commitment to what God will do through us.

The earliest Wesleyans and the Wesleyans in this place sing our hallelujahs—even though John Wesley might not have written the Psalms, he wrote that hallelujah into his bones when he preached in the fields and at the coal mines and when he called people Methodists and sang them into class meetings through mutual accountability. He sang hallelujah in mercy ministries—for the poor, the sick, the imprisoned. He sang hallelujah in his teaching and stewardship and organizing faith into action.

A Wesleyan hallelujah is sung with our lips and through our lives when we pray, “I am no longer my own, but thine.” So we are committed to raising our hallelujah here in the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

And raising our hallelujah is not hard to say, right? It's not hard to praise. But I want to say to you that it's not a small act. It is not sentiment that we raise—it is sacred resistance. It is our refusal to let cynicism be the final word. It is our declaration that even now—especially now—God is worthy of praise. Not because all is well, but because God is still at work.

To raise our hallelujah is to side with the Lamb and not with the dragon—to praise not as escape but as engagement. Not to deny suffering, but to testify that suffering does not get the final say. And we do something about it. What a privilege it is to raise our hallelujah in this moment—not out of triumph, but out of trembling trust. Not because we avoided the fire, but because we have met God within it. We raise our hallelujah not as those who have arrived, but as those who believe that resurrection is real.

It is the hallelujah of the prisoner singing at midnight, the farmer praying over dry soil, the rancher working to feed the hungry in the world, the business owner still trying to serve their community, the human service agency still tending the

most vulnerable in our communities despite loss of funding, the pastor preaching to a half-empty pew, and the child lighting a candle in the sanctuary.

As we gather under the banner of “We Raise Our Hallelujah,” as we gather under the theme of “Loving Boldly,” we do not do so in a vacuum, but in a world where false gospels are on the rise and where the name of Jesus is too often used to bless what Jesus himself would resist.

That’s why 1 John 4 was written. That’s why the language of antichrist found throughout the Johannine letters is not just about some distant villain. It is at its heart a lens of discernment. It is a theological lens through which we identify those forces—personal, systemic, ideological—that stand in opposition to the truth and meaning of Christ’s incarnation: that God is with us in flesh.

As we follow Jesus through the gospels, we find him with the vulnerable, the wounded, and the stranger. The antichrist is not just who denies Christ. The antichrist also denies the meaning of his coming on earth. It’s what twists grace into exclusion, love into domination, and truth into power games. Any movement—political or ecclesial—that trades the cross for a sword, that substitutes nationalism for the kingdom of God, that cloaks white supremacy in Christian language, must be named for what it is: a distortion of the gospel. In the church—and we are the church—we need to resist that language. Not with fear, but with the clarity of bold love.

As United Methodists, we are not called to be polite chaplains of the empire. We are called to be people of discernment and witness—shaped by Word made flesh, guided by the Spirit of truth, and anchored in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a time in our history where we need to discern. Where we need to find the courage of our leadership. Where we need to re-anchor ourselves in the joy of service. Where we need to find again that bold love that tethers us to the Spirit of Christ so that we can raise our hallelujah—to do our work in this world that is crying out for the goodness, the goodness of our God.

To raise our hallelujah is to proclaim in the face of every false gospel and counterfeit kingdom that Christ, and Christ alone, is Lord. It is to remind ourselves and the world that love is stronger than hate, grace deeper than grievance, and resurrection more powerful than any attempt to crucify the truth again.

So, friends, if you wonder where we’re headed as the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church—well, we’re headed into the world to raise our hallelujah. Hallelujah! Amen.



Bishop Lanette Plambeck sharing her Episcopal Address, "Raise a Hallelujah".
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

The Five Love Languages of United Methodists

*How Spiritual Descendants of John Wesley
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*



DIAKONIA

ACTS OF SERVICE

We speak love by serving our neighbors with compassion.



KOINONIA

QUALITY TIME IN HOLY CONFERENCING

We express love through authentic community



KERYGMA

WORDS OF LIFE AND WITNESS

We proclaim love in words that awaken hearts and transform lives



DIDACHE

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND GROWTH

We receive love through spiritual formation and mutual accountability



LEITOURGIA

WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE

We feel loved in communal worship and sacred rhythms



The United Methodist Church

OUR MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of the world

OUR VISION

Forming disciples of Jesus Christ who,
empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly,
serve joyfully, and lead courageously in
local communities and worldwide connections.

GUIDING SCRIPTURES

The Great Proclamation

Luke 4:18-19

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

The Great Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all
your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*

The Great Requirement

Micah 6:8

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

SPIRIT-LED, SERVICE-ORIENTED, SANCTIFIED IN LOVE

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I. BISHOP, CABINET, AND OTHER LEADERS

OFFICERS

President Bishop Lanette Plambeck	612-870-4007	bishopoffice@dkmnareaumc.org
122 W. Franklin Ave, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404		
Assistant to the Bishop for Connection & Communication Rev. Rebecca Trefz	605-990-7781	rebecca.trefz@dakotasumc.org
1331 W. University Ave, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301		
Conference Co-Lay Leaders		
Karl Rockeman	701-590-9093	cowboyk@gmail.com
PO Box 31223, Dickinson, ND 58602		
John Srstka	605-941-6048	j1srstka@aol.com
5604 West Circle Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57106		
Conference Secretary Rev. Amber Laffey	605-996-6552	conference.secretary@dakotasumc.org
1331 W. University Ave, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301		
Conference Statistician Rev. Joel Winckler	701-269-9960	joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org
1331 W. University Ave, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301		

CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENTS (see back cover for more information)

Kris Mutzenberger	701-532-0455	kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org
Joel Winckler	701-269-9960	joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org
Brandon Vetter	605-630-7882	brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org
Dan Bader	701-840-9802	dan.bader@dakotasumc.org

CONFERENCE LEADERS (see back cover for more information)

Executive Director, Finance & Administration		
Conference Treasurer Jim Ducker	605-990-7786	jim.ducker@dakotasumc.org
Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry Keith Shew	612-230-613	keith.shew@dkmnareaumc.org
Area Program Director, Clergy Well-Being, Diane Owen	612-230-6129	diane.owen@dkmnareaumc.org
Missional Impact Development Coach Al Roll	701-391-2015	al.roll@dakotasumc.org
President / CEO, Dakotas Methodist Foundation Sheri Meister	605-990-7789	sheri.meister@dakotasumf.org
1331 W. University Ave, PO Box 460 Mitchell, SD 57301		Fax: 605-996-1766
United Women in Faith President, Colleen McKirdy	605-269-1054	captkeys@speartown.com
Spearfish, SD		
Conference Historian Cheryl Finney	605-332-9959	fcheryl6@aol.com
235 S. Hawthorne Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104		

Extended Cabinet



Bishop Lanette Plambeck
Dakotas-Minnesota Resident Bishop
Episcopal Area
612-870-4007



Rev. Dan Bader
Conference Superintendent
605-9907006



Jim Ducker
Executive Director of
Finance and Administration
Conference Treasurer
605-990-7786



Sheri Meister
President/CEO
Dakotas and Minnesota
Methodist Foundations
605- 990-7789



Rev. Kris Mutzenberger
Conference Superintendent
701-532-0520



Anne Osborne
Laity at Large



Diane Owen
Area Director
Clergy Well-Being
612-230-6129



Al Roll
Mission Impact
Development Coach
605-990-7005



Keith Shew
Area Director
Camp and Retreat Ministry
612-230-6130



Karl Rockeman
Conference Co-Lay Leader
701-590-9093



John Srstka
Conference Co-Lay Leader
605-941-6048



Rev. Jeanne Sortland
Chair
Common Table
701-320-1477



Rev. Rebecca Trefz
Assistant to the Bishop for
Connection and Communications
605-990-7781



Curtis Van Dyke
Chair
Board of Pensions
605-990-7785



Rev. Brandon Vetter
Conference Superintendent
605-630-7882



Rev. Joel Winckler
Conference Superintendent
701-401-8800

Conference Staff



Dana Bassett
Assistant Treasurer
605-990-7787



JoAnn Early
Conference Benefits and
Human Resources Officer
605-990-7785



Stacy Edwards
Area Coordinator
Camp and Retreat Ministry
612-230-6131



Barb Goldammer
Director of Communications
Dakotas and Minnesota
Methodist Foundations
605-990-7797



Katie Meister
Event and Program Coordinator
Dakotas and Minnesota
Methodist Foundations
612-230-3336



Anna Mutzenberger
Communications Assistant
605-990-7793



Susan Punt
Ministries Assistant
605-990-7796



Kathy Roll
Senior Account and Payroll
Administrator
605-990-7004



Kaylynn Schutte
Finance and
Benefits/HR Assistant
605-990-7782



Lisa Schultz
Director of Accounting and Finance
Dakotas and Minnesota
Methodist Foundations
612-230-3339



Bea Stucke
Ministry Operations
Coordinator
605-990-7791



David Stucke
Communications Associate
605-990-7794



Diane Weller
Director of Foundation Relations
Dakotas and Minnesota
Methodist Foundations
605-990-7790

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
CONFERENCE				
THE COMMON TABLE (CT)	Jeanne	Sortland	2020	Chair, Clergy
	Michele	Slott	2022	Clergy at large
(3 Lay, 3 Clergy) Description: Discerning and keeping accountability to the vision, to Common Table guides and holds accountable the work of the agencies of the Annual Conference as they	Rod	Knock	2023	Clergy at large
	Cody	Warns	2014	Lay at large
	Terry	Nebelsick	2021	Lay at large
	Cindy	Yeager	2022	Lay at large
Ex officio (with vote)	Ray	Baker	2022	CCFA Representative
	Brandon	Vetter	2024	Cabinet Representative (SE DS)
	John	Srstka	2021	Conference Co-Lay Leader
Ex officio (without vote)	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
CONFERENCE CHANCELLORS	Eric	Olson	2024	North Dakota
	Nancy	Oviatt	2012	South Dakota
THE EXTENDED CABINET	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Kris	Mutzenberger	2020	NE DS (District Superintendent)
	Joel	Winckler	2020	NW DS (District Superintendent)
	Brandon	Vetter	2024	SE District Superintendent
	Dan	Bader	2022	SW DS (District Superintendent)
	Diane	Owen	2021	Director of Clergy Well-Being
	Keith	Shew	2016	Area Director Camp & Retreat Ministries
	Sheri	Meister	2014	President/CEO Dakotas and Minnesota Foundation
	Jim	Ducker	2023	Director of Finances, Treasurer
	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
	John	Srstka	2021	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Karl	Rockeman	2022	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Al	Roll	2021	Mission Coordinator
	Curt	Van Dyke	2025	Board of Pensions Chair
	Anne	Osborne	2023	Pensions Chair
Ex officio (without vote)	Jeanne	Sortland	2021	Common Table Chair
	Bea	Stucke	2014	Coordinator of Ministry Operations
DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS				
MISSIONAL LEADERS LINK	Melissa	Gall	2022	Chair & CCYM Representative
	Taryn	Ragels	2024	Clergy
Description: The Developing Missional Leaders Link convenes several groups that are charged with ensuring systems and resources are in place to develop a Culture of Call and Discipleship. They also ensure processes are in place to be empowered to live that call, and to be equipped to become leaders in their local churches, and ministries throughout the Conference.	Anita	Tulp	2019	Lay
	Jo Anne	Hipple	2020	SW Co-Lay Leader
	Scott	McKirdy	2022	Clergy
	Kris	Rees	2025	Lay
Standing Committee (Member with vote)	Sharla	McCaskell	2021	Board of Ordained Ministry
	Nicole	Anderson	2020	Camping Representative
Ex officio (with vote)	Karl	Rockeman	2022	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Kris	Mutzenberger	2020	Cabinet Representative (NE DS)
	Rebecca	Trefz	2024	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
	Keith	Shew	2016	Area Director Camp & Retreat Ministries
	Diane	Owen	2022	Director of Clergy Well-Being
				Director of Lay Servant Ministries - to be filled

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (BOM)	Katie	Ricke	2017	Chair - BOM Chair - BOM Executive & CLA Committee
	Jennifer	McDonald	2020	Clergy - BOM Vice Chair - BOM Executive & Continuing Education & Elisha/Samuel Internship Committee
Description: The BOM is responsible for recruitment, credentialing, and care of candidates for ordained and licensed ministry.	Mark	Finck	2022	Lay - BOM - Secretary - BOM Executive & CLA Committee
	Sara	McManus	2016	Clergy - BOM Registrar - BOM Executive & CLA Committee
	Jen	Tyler	2018	Clergy - BOM Treasurer - BOM Executive Committee
	Jerry	Baas	2025	Retired Clergy - Extension Ministries Liaison & Elisha/Samuel Internship Committee
	Bruce	Forbes	2016	Extension Ministries Liaison
	Laura	Walters	2025	Clergy - Deacon Liaison
	Becky	Holten	2025	Lay - NE District Representative
	Rick	Craig	2021	Clergy - NW District Rep. & LLP registrar, BOM Executive Committee
	Keith	Nelson	2022	Clergy - SE District Representative
	Jeff	Lathrop	2024	Clergy - SW District Representative & Continuing Education Committee
	Marilyn	Spurrell	2017	Clergy, Continuing Education Chair, Conference Relations & Psychological Assessment Review Committee
	Julie	Gregg	2025	Clergy
	Scott	McKirdy	2023	Clergy
	Sharla	McCaskell	2014	Clergy - BOM Conference Relations Committee & BOM Rep. to Miss. Leaders Link
	Jean	Larson	2022	Lay - Psychological Assessment Review Committee
	Rita	Lepp	2023	Lay - Conference Relations & Psychological Assessment Review Committee
	Brent	Koens	2025	Lay
	Jeremy	Lapka	2025	Lay & Elisha/Samuel Internship Committee
Ex officio (with vote)	Kris	Mutzenberger	2020	Cabinet Representative (NE DS)
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS				Chair - to be filled
	Karl	Rockeman	2024	NW District & Conference Co-Lay Leader
Description: The committee on nominations works to identify clergy and lay leadership to serve on various boards and committees at the Conference and district levels.	Sharman	Zachrison	2016	NW District
	Amber	Laffey	2019	SE District & Conference Secretary
	Nancy	Hallenbeck	2015	SE District
	John	Britt	2024	SW District
				NE District
	Wayne	Millar	2024	NE District
	Kim	Hastings		NE District - to be filled
				SW District - to be filled
				SE District - to be filled
	Ginger	Phillips		SE District
Ex officio (without vote)	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Assistant to the Bishop for Connection & Communications
	Susan	Punt	2025	Admin. Assistant for Ministries

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY COUNCIL (CRMC)	Tyrel	Schlecht	2017	Chair, Lay
	Amber	Laffey	2024	Clergy
Description: The CRMC is an Area-wide advisory committee that supports the mission, vision and values of	Lyall	Workman	2012	Lay
	Rydel	Samuelson	2024	Clergy
	Erin	Woods	2022	Lay
Ex officio (without vote)	Keith	Shew	2015	Area Director Camp & Retreat Ministries
Auxiliary / Invited (without vote)	Nicole	Anderson	2023	Site Director, Lake Poinsett
	Tanner	Clark	2023	Site Director, Storm Mountain
	Lori	Faleide	2024	Site Directors, Wesley Acres
CONF. COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES (CCYM)	Peggy	Hanson	2016	Chair, Clergy
	Seth	LaBounty	2024	Clergy
	Paul	Lint	2022	Clergy
	Steve	Hilton	2018	Lay
	Andrea	Plueddeman	2022	Lay
	Melissa	Gall	2021	NE District Coordinator
				NW District Coordinator - to be filled
	Clay	Lundberg	2022	SE District Coordinator
	Quaya	Ackerman	2024	SW District Coordinator
District Youth Representatives (to be elected at AC2024 CCYM meeting)	Ava	Laffey	2024	President, SE District
	Kenzie	Giziewski	2024	Vice President, SE District
	Kylie	Ellis	2024	Secretary, NW District
	Noah	Mutzenberger	2024	YSF Chair, NE District
	Maliya	Mikkelson	2024	Member, NE District
	Camden	Flemming	2024	Member, SW District
EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS				
MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS LINK				Chair - to be filled
				Lay - to be filled
Description: Builds capacity by starting new congregations in strategic missional settings and providing resources/training for existing congregations seeking to re-inventor revision their mission and ministry and become fruitful. The Link accomplishes this through encouraging local churches to do ministry and be vital congregations, helping local churches with needs assessments to determine viability and direction using the viable church criteria in Section 1.4, resourcing local churches through people, programs, and financial support, developing strategies for reaching new people, starting new faith communities				Lay - to be filled
	Tia	Felberg	2024	Clergy
	Kori	Lehrkamp	2020	Clergy
	Matt	Morrison	2018	Clergy
	Cory	Thrall	2015	Clergy
Ex officio (without vote)	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Al	Roll	2022	Rural Ministry Grant
	Dan	Bader	2022	Cabinet Representative (SW DS)

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT				
MISSIONAL IMPACT LINK	Marty	Toepke-Floyd	2014	Co-Chair, Clergy
	Karl	Kroger	2015	Co-Chair, Clergy
Description: The Extending Missional Impact Link enhances the church by providing avenues for congregations to more effectively utilize our “connection” to have a greater impact on transforming their communities and the world. These include developing strategic ministry initiatives beyond the local church, and developing cooperative ministries.	Jordan	Louks	2025	Peace with Justice Coordinator
	Janice	Thompson	2024	Clergy
	Laura	Borman	2017	Clergy
	Cindy	Coates	2025	Clergy
	Gail	Arnold	2014	Clergy
	Ron	Olson	2021	Clergy
	Lindsey	Weich	2021	Lay
	Deb	Holland	2021	Lay
	Deb	Brooks	2023	Lay
Standing Committees (Membership with vote)	Colleen	McKirdy	2023	United Women in Faith President
	Al	Roll	2020	Secretary of Global Ministries
Ex officio (with vote)				
	Linda	Dodds	2021	UWF Coordinator Social Action
	Shirley	Deethardt		UWF Mission Coord. for Education
Ex officio (without vote)	Dan	Bader	2022	Cabinet Representative (SW DS)
NON-PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS AND MINISTRIES Description: Support and resource individual churches, groups, districts, or other United Methodist groups in facilitating formal and informal groups such as Circle of Friends or other ministry and outreach programs to be in ministry to and with persons with disabilities.	Quaya	Ackerman	2024	Chair - Clergy
	Veronica	Fleming	2024	Clergy
	Katie	Clark	2024	Lay
	Gene	Mason	2024	Lay
	Al	Aman	2024	Lay
	Josh	Russiff	2024	Lay
INTER-METHODIST STANDING COMMITTEE Description: This Committee was formed through legislative action of the 2022 Annual Conference to explore cross-Methodist partnerships. It will expire in 2026.	Rebecca	Trefz	2022	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
	Fern	Bailey	2022	Lay
	Connie	Eichinger	2022	Clergy
	Mary	Hayenga	2022	Lay
	Rodney	Knock	2022	Clergy
	Paul	Lint	2022	Clergy
	John	Lomheim	2022	Lay
	Lou	Whitmer	2022	Clergy
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF) Description: UWF is the official women’s organization of the United Methodist Church. Membership is voluntary and open to all women committed to and engaged in mission who affirm the Purpose. We collaborate with organizations worldwide that address the condition of women, children, and youth around the world.	Colleen	McKirdy	2023	President
	Robyn	Nadvornik	2023	Vice President
	Glenda	Kluckman	2023	Secretary
	Linda	Smith	2024	Treasurer
	Linda	Dodds	2021	Social Action
	Alexis	Huff	2022	Membership Nurture and Outreach
	Shirley	Deethardt	2023	Education and Interpretation
	Brenda	Rekow	2020	Spiritual Growth
	Penny	Galinat	2020	Secretary of Program Resources
	Diane	Dyk	2023	Communications Coordinator
	Sherry	Heaton	2020	Nominations Chair (end 2025)
	Charlene	Koll	2020	Committee on Nominations (end 2024)
	Marsha	Timm	2023	Committee on Nominations (end 2024)
	Jan	Petersen	2020	Committee on Nominations (end 2024)
	Debra	Richardson		Committee on Nominations (end 2026)
UNITED METHODIST MEN				President - to be filled
	Robert	Schultz	2012	Treasurer

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES				
CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CCFA) Description: CCFA oversees the management and care of the finances of the Dakotas Annual Conference including recommending an annual budget for approval at Annual Conference as well as setting policies and procedures for the stewardship and the use of funds raised through apportionments and other assets.	Ray	Baker	2012	Chair, Clergy
	John	Lomheim	2022	Vice Chair, Lay
				Secretary, Executive Team - to be filled
	Mike	Briggs	2022	Lay
	Jim	Griebel	2024	Lay
	Teresa	Person	2023	Clergy
	Andrea	Johnson	2024	Clergy
	Thanael	Certa-Werner	2024	Clergy
	Connie	Eichinger	2025	Clergy - SW
	Anne	Osborne	2025	Lay - NW
	Diane	Kisch	2025	Lay - SE
				NW District - to be filled
				NE District - to be filled
Ex officio (without vote)	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Jim	Ducker	2023	Director of Finances, Treasurer
	Sheri	Meister	2014	President/CEO Dakotas and Minnesota Foundation
	Curtis	VanDyke	2024	Board of Pensions Representative
	Joel	Winckler	2024	Cabinet Representative (NW DS)
	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
BOARD OF PENSIONS & HEALTH BENEFITS (BOPHB) Description: The BOP administers the pension, health care and other bennefit programs available to clergy and lay employees of the United Methodist institutions (Local churches, annual conference, and other UM related entities). The purpose of the Board is to wisely provide pension and health care benefits for its clergy, lay employees, and their families so that they can more freely equip the local church to accomplish its mission.	Curtis	VanDyke	2023	Vice Chair - layman
	Theresa	Kuiper	2024	Vice Chair - laywoman
	Cynthia	Nelson	2019	Recording Secretary - laywoman
	Jack	Erickson	2014	Member - Clergy
	Ryan	Mutzenberger	2024	Member - Clergy
	Shawn	Culey	2015	Member - layman
	Leana	Stunes	2024	Member - laywoman
	Valerie	Hummel LaBounty	2017	Member - Clergy
	Michele	Slott	2019	Member - Clergy
	Diana	Fuhrman	2020	Member - Laywoman
	Dayne	Zachrison	2019	Member - Clergy
	Kevin	Klare	2021	Member - Layman
	Bruce	DeKrey	2024	Member - Layman
	Al	Roll	2014	Member - Layman
				Member - laywoman - To be filled
				Member - laywoman - To be filled
Ex officio (without vote)	JoAnn	Early		Conference Benefits and HR Officer
	Jim	Ducker		Director of Finances, Treasurer
	Howard	Grinager		BOM Representative
	Ray	Baker		CCFA Representative
	Joel	Winckler		Cabinet Representative (NW DS)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) Description: The BOT's ministry is to care for the property of the Conference, making it available for the agencies of the Conference, and investing funds so that the proceeds can be used to fund ministry.	Kathy	Chesney	2022	Clergy, Chair
	Larry	Madsen	2021	Lay man, Vice Chair
	Bill	Bates	2018	Clergy
	Boyd	Blumer	2013	Clergy
	Jeff	Adel	2022	Clergy
	Bob	Ruedebusch	2024	Clergy
	Ron	McLean	2024	Lay
				Lay woman - to be filled
				Lay man - to be filled
	Al	Goehring	2019	Lay man
	Judy	Roed	2022	Lay woman
	Rosemary	McDougall	2022	Lay woman
Ex officio (without vote)	Jim	Ducker	2023	Director of Finances, Treasurer
	Eric	Olson	2024	Conference Chancellor ND
	Nancy	Oviatt	2012	Conference Chancellor SD
	Joel	Winckler	2022	Cabinet Representative (NW DS)

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
HUMAN RESOURCES (HRC) Description: There shall be a Human Resources Committee, which shall develop and implement personnel policies and procedures pertaining to standards of employment, evaluation, compensation, housing, benefits, vacation, sick leave, and all other matters of effectiveness and morale. HRC shall care for Equitable Compensation	Kevin	Hipple	2025	Lay
	Teresa	Whetsel	2021	Clergy
	Mark	Ehrmantraut	2022	Clergy
	Connie	Colwill	2023	Lay
	Melissa	Gall	2022	Missional Leaders Representative
	Cory	Thrall	2022	Missional Congregations Representative
	Karl	Kroger	2024	Missional Impact Representative
	Ray	Baker	2020	CCFA Chair
	Jeanne	Sortland	2021	Common Table Representative
Ex officio (without vote)	JoAnn	Early	2025	Conference Benefits and HR Officer
	Kaylynn	Schutte	2025	Human Resources Assistant - Finance and Benefits
	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Jim	Ducker	2023	Director of Finances, Treasurer
	Brandon	Vetter	2024	Cabinet Representative (SE DS)
	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
SUPPORT SERVICES				
COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (CAH) Description: Your Commission on Archives and History conducts a ministry of memory in our conference. The Conference Archives are housed at Dakota Wesleyan University.				Chair - to be filled
				Lay - to be filled
	Michelle	Brennan	2022	Clergy
				Clergy - to be filled
	Elisabeth	Jassmann Massingill	2024	Clergy
	Lori	Wehlander	2025	Lay
				Lay
	Cheryl	Finney	2010	Conference Historian
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEE (Appointed by the Bishop) Description: The Sessions Committee plans the Dakotas Annual Conference.	Kay	Braun	2016	Chair, Lay
	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
	Kris	Mutzenberger	2024	Cabinet Representative to be filled
	Karl	Rockeman	2023	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Brandon	Vetter	2024	Host DS
	Taryn	Ragels	2024	Host Team Clergy - to be filled
	Keith	Nelson	2024	Host Volunteer Coordinator - to be filled
	Thanael	Certa-Werner	2023	Worship Coordinator
	Lou	Whitmer	2016	Worship Coordinator
	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
	Duane	Coates	2014	Agenda Coordinator
	Al	Roll	2021	AC Project Manager
	Dayne	Zachrison	2010	At large
Ex officio (without vote)	Bea	Stucke	2014	Coordinator of Ministry Operations
	Susan	Punt	2021	Admin. Assistant for Ministries
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE	Stephen	Perry	2013	Chair, Clergy
	Gary	Rae	2013	Clergy
	Jeff	Adel	2013	Alternate, Clergy
COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION (4 clergy/3 lay nom. by the Bishop) Description: To consider judicial complaints against clergy members of the Annual Conference, clergy members on honorable location or administrative location from the Annual Conference, local pastors, and diaconal ministers.	Doug	Diehl	2017	Clergy
	Jenene	Earl	2017	Clergy
	Joanne	Ottmar	2017	Lay
	Terry	Prendergast	2017	Lay
				Clergy - to be filled
				Clergy - to be filled
				Lay - to be filled
				Clergy Alternates (3) - recruit as needed
				Lay Alternates (6) - recruit as needed

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY 7-17 members (one fifth appointed by the Bishop) Description: This committee is the liaison between our Conference and the Bishop. It is similar to a local church PPRC. It works in partnership with the Minnesota and North Central Jurisdiction Committees on Episcopacy.	Beata	Ferris	2021	Lay - Chair and Member of NCJCOE - by virtue of position
	Sara	Nelson	2022	Clergy - Member NCJ COE - by virtue of position
	John	Srstka	2021	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Karl	Rockeman	2024	Conference Co-Lay Leader
	Quaya	Ackerman	2024	Clergy - SW District - appointed by bishop
	Mary Lee	Nielson	2024	Lay - appointed by bishop
	Teresa	Whetsel	2025	Clergy - NE District - appointed by bishop
	Keith	Nelson	2017	Clergy
RECORDS, RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE	Rebecca	Trefz	2014	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
	Duane	Coates	2012	Member
	Amber	Laffey	2020	Conference Secretary
CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE Discription: The Disaster Response Committee will work with Cabinet and Conf. leadership to develop a comprehensive disaster response plan, share UMCOR training resources and opportunities, develop relationships with surrounding conferences' DR teams to discover opportunities for collaboration.	Karl	Rockeman	2025	Coordinator
	Mark	Ellingson	2010	Planning
	Nancy	Manning	2023	Operations & Representative to the South
	Linda	Kropenske	2015	Training
	Sandee	Prouty-Cole	2025	At large
	Al	Roll	2021	Staff Representative
	Rebecca	Trefz	2024	Bishop Assistant for Connections & Communication
				At Large - to be filled
				At Large - to be filled
				At Large - to be filled
DAKOTAS METHODIST FOUNDATION	Cory	Thrall	2022	Chair, Clergy
	Teresa	Person	2021	Vice Chair, Clergy
	Richard	Wahlstrom	2018	Secretary/ Treasurer - Lay
	Dave	Page	2016	Past Chair, Lay
	Jeff	Nelson	2016	Past Chair, Lay
	Elaine	Roberts	2025	Lay
	Thanael	Certa-Werner	2025	Clergy
	John	Eilertson	2025	Lay
	Mike	Briggs	2025	Lay
	Sheri	Meister	2014	President/CEO Dakotas and Minnesota Foundation
Ex officio (without vote)	Jim	Ducker	2023	Director of Finances
	Lanette	Plambeck	2023	Bishop
DISTRICT NOMINATIONS				
NORTHEAST DISTRICT (NE)	Becky	Holton		Chair, Lay
NE District Committee on Ordained Ministry	Kori	Lehrkamp		Clergy
	Martin	Avery		Clergy
	Jordan	Louks		Clergy
	Carol	Windels		Lay
	Deena	Heitmann		Lay
	Kris	Mutzenberger		NE District Superintendent
NE Building and Location Committee	Mark	Ellingson		Clergy
	Kara	Heagel		Lay
	Elizabeth	Ewing-Lee		NE Lay Leader
	Kris	Mutzenberger		NE District Superintendent
NE Superintendency Committee	Robbie	Daugherty		Chair, Lay
	Elizabeth	Ewing-Lee		NE Lay Leader
	Alice	LaFontaine		Lay
	Robert	Moorlach		Clergy
	Melissa	Gall		Clergy
	Kris	Mutzenberger		NE District Superintendent
NE Committee on Nominations	Susanne	Hoskins		Lay
	Wayne	Millar		Lay

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
NORTHWEST DISTRICT (NW)	Kim	Hastings		Clergy
	Lisa	Rhodes		NW District Lay Leader
	Rick	Craig		Chair, Clergy
	Marty	Toepke-Floyd		Secretary, Clergy
	Lisa	Rhodes		NW District Lay Leader
	Karl	Rockeman		Conference Co-Lay Leader
				Clergy - to be filled
	Karl	Kroger		Clergy
NW Buildings and Location Committee	Joel	Winckler		NW District Superintendent
	Rick	Craig		Clergy
	Cory	Thrall		Clergy
	Dayne	Zachrison		Clergy
	Jim	Jeromcheck		Lay
NW Superintendency Committee	Joel	Winckler		NW District Superintendent
	Lisa	Rhodes		NW District Lay Leader
	Claudia	Holm		Lay
				Lay - to be filled
				Clergy - to be filled
	Mark	Ehrmantraut		Clergy
	Karl	Rockeman		Conference Co-Lay Leader
NW Committee on Nominations	Joel	Winckler		NW District Superintendent
	Sharman	Zachrison		Lay
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT (SE)	Karl	Rockeman		Lay
	Nancy	Hallenbeck		SE District Co-Lay Leader
				SE District Co-Lay Leader - to be filled
SE District Committee on Ordained Ministry				
	Valerie	Hummel LaBounty		Clergy, Co-Chair
	Connie	Smith		Co-Chair
	Ron	Johnson		Clergy
	Keith	Nelson		Clergy, SE Representative to BOM
	Kip	Roozen		Clergy
	Don	Vanderlip		Clergy (LLP)
	Susan	Jennys		Clergy (LLP)
	Nancy	Hallenbeck		SE District Co-Lay Leader
	Rob	Salmonson		Clergy
	Troy	Hansen		Lay
	Bob	Thue		Lay
	Connie	McCormick		Lay
	Brandon	Vetter		SE District Superintendent
SE Building and Location	Gary	Rae		Clergy
	Keith	Nelson		Clergy
	John	Claggett		Lay
	Brandon	Vetter		SE District Superintendent
SE Superintendency Committee	Nancy	Hallenbeck		SE District Co-Lay Leader
	Diane	Kisch		Lay
	Charles	Schnabel		Lay
	Alisha	Vincent		Lay
	Teresa	Person		Clergy
	Charlie	Moore		Clergy
	Seth	LaBounty		Clergy
	Brandon	Vetter		SE District Superintendent
SE Nominations	Nancy	Hallenbeck		SE District Co-Lay Leader
				Clergy - to be filled

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT (SW)	<i>Jo Anne</i>	<i>Hipple</i>		SW District Lay Leader
SW District Committee on Ordained Ministry	Jeff	Lathrop		Chair, Clergy
	<i>Julia</i>	<i>Jones</i>		Secretary, Lay
	<i>Richard</i>	<i>Wahlstrom</i>		Lay
	<i>Jo Anne</i>	<i>Hipple</i>		SW District Lay Leader
	Sharla	McCaskell		Clergy
	Thanael	Certa-Werner		Clergy
	Jeff	Adel		Clergy
	<i>Marce</i>	<i>Largent</i>		Lay
	Dan	Bader		SW District Superintendent
SW Building and Location Committee	Jeff	Adel		Clergy
	<i>Jay</i>	<i>Wickre</i>		Lay
	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Puffer</i>		Lay
	<i>David</i>	<i>Bonde</i>		Lay
	<i>Mike</i>	<i>Barrett</i>		Lay
	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Nyman</i>		Lay
	Dan	Bader		SW District Superintendent
SW Superintendency	<i>Jo Anne</i>	<i>Hipple</i>		Chair, SW District Co-Lay Leader
				Lay - to be filled
	<i>Janelle</i>	<i>Jones</i>		Lay
	<i>George</i>	<i>Keehner</i>		Lay
	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Purvis</i>		Lay
	Michele	Slott		Clergy
	Sharla	McCaskell		Clergy
	Dan	Bader		SW District Superintendent
SW Committee on Nominations	Connie	Eichinger		Clergy
	John	Britt		Clergy
RELATED AGENCIES				
TREE OF LIFE MINISTRY	<i>Randy</i>	<i>Burnison</i>		Chairman
	Cheryl	Nyman		Vice Chair
	<i>Dennis</i>	<i>Unkenholz</i>		Member
	<i>Jerry</i>	<i>Bottger</i>		Member
	<i>Dr. Tom</i>	<i>Gilmore</i>		Member
	Steve	Meister		Member
	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Garriott</i>		Executive Director
Ex officio	Linda	Baldock		Clergy, Recorder
	Dan	Bader		Cabinet Representative (SW DS)
	<i>Al</i>	<i>Roll</i>		Missional Impact Link Representative
OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY CENTER – BOARD OF DIRECTORS	<i>Rob</i>	<i>Gilkerson</i>		Chair
	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Wood</i>		Secretary
	<i>Derrick</i>	<i>Hobein</i>		Treasurer
	<i>Dyan</i>	<i>Wood</i>		Parent Representative
	<i>Jodie</i>	<i>Campbell</i>		Member, Lay
	<i>Sara</i>	<i>Rice</i>		Member, Lay
	<i>Jim</i>	<i>Karn</i>		Member, Lay
	<i>Londa</i>	<i>Holen</i>		Member, Lay
	<i>Dean</i>	<i>Reese</i>		Member, Lay
Ex Officio	<i>Jean</i>	<i>Rexine</i>		Director
	Karl	Kroger		Member, Clergy
	Joel	Winckler		NW District Superintendent

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP				
Committee / Agency	First Name	Last Name	Class	Role
SOLAR OVEN PARTNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (SOP)	Phil	Lint		President, Southeast District, Shop Manager
	Christopher	Sylvah		Director
	Jesse	Pikul		Office Assistant
	Gene	Bethke		Northeast District, Shop Manager
	Dave	Silbernagel		Northwest District
	Gloria	Borgman		Southwest District
	Karen	Workman		Northwest District, Expertise Gifts
	Connie	Smith		Communications Team
	Donna	Fisher		Communications Team
	Adam	Burnison		Shop Manager
	Jay	Niedert		Conference at large member
	Emily	Warns		Conference at large member
	Ariana	Arampatzis		Conference at large member
Ex officio	Al	Roll		Cabinet Staff Representative
SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD	Valerie	Luick		Board member
	Kenny	Baker, Jr.		Board member
	Al	Goehring		Board member
	Myra	Pierson		Board member
	Andrew / Jenny	Lindstrom		Board members
	Mike	Flowers		Clergy
	Libby	Flowers		Lay
Ex officio	Kim / Paulette	Paulson		Board members



Rev. Gail Arnold, left, and Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd, middle, presented the Streams of Justice Award to Rev. Cory Thrall, right, and Legacy UMC.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

III. BUSINESS

DAKOTAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES NOVEMBER 23, 2024

The Dakotas Conference met on November 23, 2024, for a Special Session called by Bishop Lanette Plambeck. The sole business item was a resolution to close Embrace/Embrace United Methodist Church. The conference took place through a Zoom webinar.

The session began with worship and a message from Bishop Plambeck.

Bishop Plambeck declared the 2024 Called Special Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference open. She explained that she was joining the meeting from the episcopal office in Minneapolis, Minnesota, along with Rev. Carol Zaagsma, Minnesota assistant to the bishop for connectional ministries, as well as Walker Brault who would be serving as parliamentarian. Joining from the Conference Office in Mitchell, S.D., was Rev. Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the bishop for connection and communications, and Conference Secretary, Rev. Amber Laffey. Joining remotely were Eric Olson, N.D. chancellor, Nancy Oviatt, S.D. chancellor, Rev. Kathy Chesney, chair of the board of trustees, Jim Ducker, conference treasurer, Rev. Dan Bader, southwest district superintendent, Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, northeast district superintendent, Rev. Brandon Vetter, southeast district superintendent, and Rev. Joel Winckler, northwest district superintendent.

Conference Secretary, Rev. Amber Laffey, presented the organizational resolutions as well as explained the voting process on the Zoom platform. She also explained how a voting member could have voice in the session.

The body was given a chance to practice the voting mechanism.

The organizational resolutions were then presented to the body for vote. The resolutions passed: 100% approved

Bishop Plambeck called on Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, dean of the Dakotas Conference Cabinet, to present the resolution to close Embrace Church/Embrace UMC. She also presented the details and negotiations that led to the closure. Rev. Brandon Vetter, Southeast district superintendent, presented further information about the process of working with Pastor Adam Weber and Embrace Church.

Rev. Kathy Chesney, chair of the Board of Trustees, shared information about the financial terms that had been agreed upon related to the disposition of property following closure. Through this discernment and formal mediation process, a mutual agreement was reached at a financial settlement of \$1.25 million.

The bishop announced that, before continuing with the business item, we would need to return to the vote on the Organizational Resolutions as there was a technical difficulty that required a re-vote. The vote was taken, and the resolutions were affirmed.

The body returned to the resolution.

Bishop Plambeck noted there was a transposition in the numbers in the workbook. The Book of Discipline paragraph should read “2549” instead of “2459” There was no objection to this editorial correction.

Rev. Gary Ball-Kilbourne, retired clergy, requested a Bishop’s ruling of law as follows:

In accordance with ¶¶51 and 2609 of *The Book of Discipline*, I request a ruling of law in light of ¶¶ 2501 and 2549, Judicial Council Decision 1512, and other relevant church law:

Is the “Cabinet Resolution to close Embrace Church/Embrace UMC,” submitted for vote at the Special Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference meeting on November 23, 2024, along with accompanying background and

rationale printed on pages 5 and 6 of the Special Session Conference Workbook, consistent with or in violation of ¶¶2501 and 2549 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as interpreted by Judicial Council Decision 1512?

Bishop Plambeck called on Walker Brault, Conference Parliamentarian, to explain what the next steps would be with the Rule of Law. Following the explanation, the body resumed business.

Bishop Plambeck opened the floor for discussion.

Rev. Teresa Whetsel, West Fargo Flame of Faith, had a question of how the attendees were made aware of the closure of Embrace as a United Methodist Church?

Rev. Brandon Vetter, Southeast District Superintendent, responded that Pastor Adam had meetings with those who had connections to the United Methodist Church and/or the Dakotas Conference.

Bishop Plambeck also responded that she knows the United Methodist members have been cared for throughout the process and negotiations and will continue to be.

Rev. Duane Coates, Valley City Epworth UMC, asked if Rule of Law was to be made, can we still do work of this called special session if the bishop rules, and/or judicial council rules it unlawful which would reverse whatever the Annual Conference decides now?

Bishop Plambeck responded that she had several consultations with colleagues that she feels confident we can move forward faithfully in this work of the special session.

Rev. Duane Coates also asked about the current debt load of Embrace Church and why the numbers were shared with us. He wondered how our vote would be impacted if we had to take on that debt load.

Jim Ducker, Conference Treasurer, responded that if our vote fails, and Embrace would abandon the buildings, we would be responsible for that debt. He also clarified that the dollar amount included in the workbook includes all three locations and properties.

Rev. Brandon Vetter, southeast district superintendent, asked to make a motion to amend the resolution to replace “at the end of the year” to “December 31, 2024.”

The motion was seconded.

Rev. Vetter further explained that this provides clarity to the resolution and gives an exact date to the contract.

The body voted on this amendment. The vote passed with 169 yes votes and 26 no votes.

Rev. Ray Baker, Fargo Faith, asked to make an amendment. The Amendment read:

“Be it further resolved that the Conference accept the agreement set forth in mediation and direct the trustees to complete the process and tend to the disposition of property.”

The motion had a second.

Rev. Baker spoke to the motion

Bishop Plambeck opened discussion on the amendment.

Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd, Jamestown First UMC, asked if Embrace Church has a parsonage and if that was part of this contract.

Bishop Plambeck responded that the parsonage was sold several years ago, so it is not included in this contract.

Rev. Rick Pittenger, retired, asked how much all the Embrace properties are worth and if we had an appraisal of the buildings to see what fair market value was.

Jim Ducker, Conference Treasurer, answered that the fair market value of all the properties done by an independent appraisal company hired by the Embrace leadership was approximately 16 million.

Rev. Pittenger then asked if it would be worth taking on Embrace's debt load and use the buildings for other United Methodist churches in the Sioux Falls area or for a new church start in Sioux Falls.

Bishop Plambeck asked Jim Ducker and Rev. Rebecca Trefz to speak again to the debt load and what that would mean for us to take it on. Rev. Trefz responded that churches that already exist in Sioux Falls would not be able to take on the debt load. And it would not be reasonable to start a new church with so much debt. Selling the buildings back to Embrace Church seemed the wisest way to steward our resources.

Bishop Plambeck called on Joel Winckler, northwest district superintendent, to pray before the vote for the amendment.

The amendment was affirmed by the body with 175 yes votes and 19 no votes.

Rev. Dayne Zachrison, Devils Lake First UMC, asked a question related to the elder who has been appointed to Embrace Church. Bishop Plambeck responded that she will take the question later as it did not pertain to the business item before the body.

Bishop Plambeck moved the Annual Conference to a vote and called on Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent, to pray.

Conference Secretary, Amber Laffey, read the resolution with the amendments and editorial correction.

Bishop Plambeck declared the vote open. During the voting process, which took place through the polling feature, there was a notification that some persons who had requested to speak to ask questions, were not brought to the bishop's attention. Because of this, before the balloting was complete, the bishop stated the vote was null and void as there was confusion among the body.

Cheryl Finney, a lay member from Sioux Falls First UMC, asked for clarification on if we were voting with the two amendments. The bishop affirmed that yes, that is what we are voting for.

Rev. Bill Gran, retired clergy, asked for clarification on the amendment that was passed and if the trustees get to decide what happens to the \$1.25 million that will be received from Embrace Church?

Bishop Plambeck responded that there is a rule in the Book of Discipline that the money gets spent on ministries in the same urban area of the closing church. Then she called on Rev. Rebecca Trefz, for any further clarification.

Rev. Trefz stated trustees only do what they are directed to do and mentioned the urban area requirement in the Book of Discipline.

Rev. Duane Coates, Valley City Epworth UMC asked for clarification on the recommendation of the cabinet. He asked what the deciding factors for this amount were if the buildings have such a higher value than what we are receiving.

Rev. Brandon Vetter, southeast district superintendent, clarified that even though buildings are appraised for a certain dollar amount, that's not necessarily how much we would receive if we tried to sell.

Jim Ducker, conference treasurer, agreed with Vetter and said that the dollar amount of \$1.25 million was the minimum we would accept from Embrace, after the mediation team took into consideration the unpaid apportionments and what the conference has invested in the church since its beginning.

Rev. Quaya Ackerman, Rapid Valley UMC, made a motion to add an amendment to the end of the resolution that is as follows:

“And with the help of pastoral leadership at Embrace and assistance of the southeast district superintendent and spiritual leaders to tend to and care for those that wish to remain United Methodist.”

There was a second.

The motion to amend was displayed and read to the body.

A vote was taken on the amendment and was passed with 168 yes votes and 26 no votes.

After the amendment was passed, Bishop Plambeck returned the body to the main motion and opened the discussion.

Rev. Gary Ball-Kilbourne, retired, asked what are the specific terms we are voting to approve?

Rev. Rebecca Trefz responded that in terms of logistics to this vote of closing a church, they are standard to all church closings. Clergy credentials will be surrendered, memberships can be transferred, and the historical records will be given to the Annual Conference.

Rev. Gary Ball-Kilbourne asked for further clarification as Paragraph 2549 states that at a closure of a church, the property would be transferred to the Conference. Would it then be sold back to Embrace? And does that include the debt load in the transaction? He also stated that in Paragraph 2549 the property includes all the personal property and non-physical property including investments. Is all the Embrace property included in this settlement amount?

Bishop Plambeck called on Conference Chancellor, Eric Olson, to clarify the terms of the agreement. The financial terms are as follows: Embrace will pay \$1 Million to the Annual Conference by December 31, 2024. At that time, the conference would sign over a quick claim deed, transferring the property to Embrace. Then there is an established payment plan where Embrace will pay \$10,000 a month from January to May, with the remaining \$200,000 balance in final payment in June prior to next year's Annual Conference secured by a lien on the property.

Rev. Ball-Kilbourne stated we still needed clarification on provisions for non-property assets. Olson responded that some of those provisions are needed for other liens on the property.

Rev. Cindy Coates, Sioux Falls Wesley UMC, asked why have we opted to settle at the lowest amount acceptable and why did the mediation team keep coming back to the \$1.25 million?

Rev. Brandon Vetter responded that the mediation team's intent was to not cause harm to Embrace Church. The team feels confident that \$1.25 million is a fair amount and what could be settled on between parties.

Rev. Jeff Lathrop, Pierre First UMC asked, would the unpaid apportionments be part of \$1.25 million?

Rev. Brandon Vetter responded that yes, apportionments were part of the discussion, and that conference leadership is still figuring out if part of the settlement will go towards apportionments.

Bishop Plambeck added that, through this process, there was a distinct line drawn as we did not want to infer that this was an exit under paragraph 2553 as that paragraph terminated at the end of 2023. Additionally, in conversation with Pastor Adam Weber and Embrace leadership in early 2023, it was clear that their reason for wanting to leave the UMC was not related to human sexuality. It would not have been faithful for them to move forward through paragraph 2553 when it was an option. It was a posture of integrity that we did not go down that journey. The mediation team working with them had a posture of integrity mediated paragraph 2549. Both parties settled on \$1.25 million because it was a common number that both teams could agree on. She stated this was a spiritual meditation and that helped them focus on being fair for all persons.

Lisa Rhodes made a motion to call the question.

Bishop Plambeck explained that with a motion to call the question, we would end discussion and immediately vote.

The motion to call the question and end debate passed with 157 yes votes and 24 no votes.

The motion with amendments was read and displayed. Bishop Plambeck explained that this vote requires a simple majority and then lead a prayer.

The vote was taken to close Embrace Church/Embrace UMC and passed by 88%. There were 162 yes votes and 22 no votes.

Bishop Plambeck returned to the question by Rev. Dayne Zachrison, Devils Lake UMC, who asked if there were chargeable offenses by Pastor Adam Weber. Bishop Plambeck called the question out of order and explained that this is not the avenue to present that. She also explained that Rev. Brandon Vetter is in communication with the pastors at Embrace and will ensure that the proper steps are followed with all clergy in surrendering their United Methodist credentials upon closure of the church.

Bishop Plambeck closed with devotion and declared the Called Special Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference closed.

Special Session Legislation - 2024

1.2 Special Session 2024 Organizational Resolutions

The official agenda, proceedings, vote, and minutes are taking place digitally for the Called Special Session of the Dakotas Conference. Therefore, Section 7: Rules of Order, as published in the 2024 Official Journal of the Dakotas Conference, will be replaced with the following procedures for this virtual session:

1. The online agenda is the official agenda. All requests for personal points of privilege should be emailed to the agenda coordinator, Duane Coates (dcoates@yahoo.com) and communications team (Rebecca.trefz@dakotasumc.org) at least 48 hours in advance.
2. The session will be a webinar format. Members' presence will be noted by logging in on their individual device with an assigned number
3. Voting will take place electronically through the polling feature, within the webinar platform.
4. Voice—questions, clarifications—of the members will take place through chat feature within the webinar platform. Speeches for or against will take place using audio or the microphone in Zoom webinar.
 - a. Chat moderators will bring questions and speaking requests to the attention of the presiding officer.
 - b. When posting a question or item that needs clarification, please state concisely and clearly your question or concern, and refer to the agenda item.
 - c. Members can request permission to speak to the body or may be requested to speak by the presiding officer. Speakers, when recognized must turn on their audio. Please state your name, church or agency, and if you are speaking for or against the legislation
 - d. Speeches will be limited to two minutes in length.

Cabinet Resolution to close Embrace Church/Embrace UMC

Resolution: WHEREAS, through mutual discernment and deliberation, it is recommended that Embrace United Methodist Church be dissolved as a United Methodist congregation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the congregation be recognized with thanks to God for their partnership in ministry, and that Embrace United Methodist Church in the Southeast District of the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church be officially discontinued under the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2459 by the Dakotas Conference.

Respectfully submitted by: Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent, Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Northeast District Superintendent, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Dakotas-Minnesota Area, Rev. Brandon Vetter, Southeast District Superintendent, Rev. Joel Winckler, Northwest Area Superintendent

Background

Beginning in early 2023, Dakotas Conference and Embrace United Methodist Church leadership began to have conversation regarding Embrace's future ministry in and with the United Methodist Church.

Since that time, in addition to the Bishop and Cabinet, conversations and discernment regarding Embrace included representatives from CCFA, the district board of church locations, both Conference chancellors, as well as the Board of Trustees and Common Table. Information and historical data were gathered. A formal mediation was also held to aid in the deliberation and discernment.

Throughout the conversation, it was clear to Conference leadership that Embrace Church, though constituted as a United Methodist Church, did not reflect the identity, polity, practices, or doctrinal standards and theological task of our connection.

Conference leadership saw this in the following:

- a. This discernment was affirmed by reflection on other points in which Embrace no longer aligns with the purpose for which it was organized including: the connectional nature of clergy appointments, understanding and practice of sacraments, education and accountability required for credentialed pastors, connectional giving through apportionments and shared mission, and membership process.
- b. United Methodist membership vows, as outlined in ¶217 of the Book of Discipline, state that members will "be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries." Embrace pastors and leadership have been unable to do this. While Embrace is still a viable congregation of Christian ministry, through our discernment process, it was determined that it no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized (as a United Methodist congregation) and is recommended for closure as such.

Through these conversations and discernment, it was also established that it is in the best interest of the Conference as it relates to a Kingdom-minded witness and stewardship of resources (being particularly mindful of the limited market for and \$9+million debt load on the property) to sell the property to the new Embrace entity after closure. As a reminder, closure needs to be ratified by the lay and clergy members currently elected.

In determining financial terms for Embrace ending their connection with other United Methodists, the following was considered:

- Amounts given for Embrace by other churches and individuals through apportionments and capital campaigns
 - Since its inception in 2007, the Dakotas Conference has invested the following amounts into the mission and ministry of Embrace:
 - 2007-2011: \$300,000 – At the time, this was a typical amount invested in a new church start, primarily covering the salary and benefits of the planter as well as initial ministry costs.
 - 2007: \$40,000 for parsonage down payment
 - 2012: \$200,000 for purchase of 57th Street building
 - 2014: \$300,000 for Tea campus and online campus
 - 2016: \$361,500 for West Sioux Falls campus and Embrace Network startup
 - 2019-2021: \$50,000 for staff support of Embrace Network UMCs
 - Total: \$1,222,000
- Property equity (i.e. fair market value minus debt load)

Prior to the ruling of the Judicial Council, a mutual agreement and settlement were reached with a financial settlement of \$1.25 million.

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On October 23, 2024, Bishop Lanette Plambeck called a special session for the Dakotas Conference for the singular purpose of consideration of the resolution ratifying the closure of Embrace Church/Embrace United Methodist Church per the provisions of ¶2549.

On November 12, 2024, Bishop Plambeck met with chancellors, Nancy Oviatt and Eric Olson, to review the recent decision issued by the United Methodist Church's Judicial Council (Decision No. 1512), which clarified usage of ¶2549 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. In compliance with this decision, we want to iterate this special session is not a reinstatement or replication of ¶2553 (the disaffiliation allowance that expired on 12/31/23), nor is the session calling for the adoption of legislation, policies, guidelines, rules, or regulations authorizing the departure of local churches.

The Dakotas Conference reviewed our process with Embrace in light of this recent decision to ensure full compliance. Following this review—conducted by the Bishop, Cabinet, Director of Finance and Administration, and conference trustees, along with legal counsel—the Dakotas Conference is confident in the decision to move forward with the called special session.

After months of negotiation and mediation—including review of church and civil law—and prior to the issuance of Decision No. 1512, the Conference's Board of Trustees and Embrace reached agreed upon terms. The agreement terms culminate with the required ratification vote of church closure at the special session of the Annual Conference under Section 2549 of the Book of Discipline. In order to honor that agreement, the Cabinet is bringing forward a resolution to close Embrace Church effective at the end of 2024. Because we reached the agreement to terms prior to the issuance of Decision 1512, the Conference leadership believes that the best way to resolve the relationship with Embrace Church is to proceed with the agreed upon terms. This also lowers the Conference's risk of a civil lawsuit.

DAKOTAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES – JUNE 5-9, 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

The 32nd Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference was held at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD. Bishop Lanette Plambeck declared the conference session open and called to order part one of the clergy session at 6:30 pm. The clergy session concluded at 8:15 p.m. and Bishop Plambeck declared a recess.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

The morning began with opening worship. Dakota Wesleyan President Dan Kittle shared a brief message based on the theme of Created to Love BOLDLY.

Plenary I

Bishop Lanette Plambeck called the Annual Conference out of recess. She expressed her thanks to President Kittle and DWU staff for their hospitality.

Organizational Resolutions

Rev. Amber Laffey, conference secretary, presented the 2025 Organizational Resolutions. The body affirmed the resolutions through voice vote.

Introductions

Bishop Lanette introduced Rev. Duane Coates, Valley City Epworth, agenda coordinator, and Eric Olson, conference chancellor, who will be serving as the conference parliamentarian.

Missional Report

Rev. Jeanne Sortland, Wimbledon-Kensal, chair of the common table, introduced the 2024-2025 Missional Report. CCYM members, Ava Laffey, Alexandria, and Jordan Platt, Downtown Mitchell First, emceed the report. Laura Laible, Howard Beach, Rev. Dayne Zachrison, Devils Lake, Rev. Annie Carlson, Bismarck Legacy - Washburn, Rev. Jeff Lathrop, Pierre First, Rev. Sharla McCaskell, Rapid City Knollwood Heights, and John Lomheim, Sioux Falls Sunnycrest, read portions of the report.

Laity Report

John Srtka, Sioux Falls Sunnycrest, conference co-lay leader presented the Laity Report.

Morning Break

Plenary II

Conference Council on Finance and Administration report

Rev. Ray Baker, Fargo Faith, chair of CCFA, presented the CCFA report.

Jim Ducker, Executive Director of Finance and Administration, shared Financial Highlights from 2024, the 2026 Budget Proposal, the CCFA recommendation that local church apportionment percentage remain at 13%, a history of apportionment payments since 2018, and changes/improvements in the finance and benefits office.

Bishop Lanette thanked the CCFA for their faithful work and witness to faithfully steward the financial.

Wisdom Council report

Bishop Lanette introduced the members of the Wisdom Council and reminded the body of their purpose. Abi VanRegenmorter, DeSmet, presented the report of the council.

Legislation – Ratification of Constitutional Amendments

Kara Heagel, Dakotas lay delegate to General Conference, introduced Ballot #1- Worldwide Regionalization. Discussion.

Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd, clergy, Jamestown First, asked a question about countries whose rules don't align with our social principals.

Clergy delegate, Rev. Rebecca Trefz, extension ministry, answered that this gives the US an even playing field and the ability to adapt portions of the Book of Discipline. There is always tension between civil laws and our United Methodist Social Principles.

Bishop Lanette also stated that each area can interpret Social Principles for their own context.

Vote taken by written ballot. Vote results will be shared by the Council of Bishops in November after all conferences have completed voting.

Video

A video was shared about the connectional response to care for the Slott family following a tragic accident.

Wesleyan Way Award

Rev. Dan Bader, southwest district superintendent, presented the Wesleyan Way award to the churches and individuals of the Greater Rapid City and Black Hills area. Rev. Sharla McCaskell and Rev. John Britt, Piedmont Grace, accepted the award.

Bishop Lanette presented a second Wesleyan Way award to Rev. Joel Winckler, northwest district superintendent, for his work in caring for the churches of his district and particularly Mandan UMC during the illness and death of Rev. Bruce Adams.

Healing Service

The Bishop transitioned the body into a healing service, acknowledging the pain and challenges of the previous years, releasing that pain to God, and working towards forgiveness and reconciliation.

Lunch Break

Over the lunch break, a special luncheon was held for clergy serving in extension ministries and for clergy spouses. Lunch-n-Learn workshops were also offered: Lament, Forgiveness, and Healing led by Julie Stoll; Gen Alpha is not the Church's Gen Omega led by Chris Wilterdink from Discipleship Ministries; Cultivating Stewardship and Generosity led by Jim Ducker, Diane Weller, Dakotas Methodist Foundation, and retired pastor, Rev. Bob Ruedebusch; Seeing and Meeting Needs for Connection and Support led by Brian Loken from *LifeQuest* and leaders from the conference committee on disability ministries; Guarded Hearts and Minds: Peace that Surpasses Understanding led by Rev. Ron Olsen, Parker-Hurley, and Diane Owen, area director of clergy well-being.

Plenary III

Episcopal Address

The Episcopal Address was offered by Bishop Lanette. Focusing on the theme of Created to Love BOLDLY, the words of 1 John 4, and the invitation to Raise Our Hallelujahs. The body was dismissed for a break sponsored by the Board of Pensions.

Plenary IV

Dakota Wesleyan University

President Dan Kittle delivered a speech about our connection and partnership as well as programs and milestones for the university.

Theologian in Residence

Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart, extension ministry - Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, shared part one of his message – “Fireseeds of Renewal” – on the distinctive marks of Methodism that can foster renewal in our time.

The body was dismissed for Clergy and Laity sessions. The evening activities included a Party on the Lawn.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

Opening Worship

Morning worship included a message from Rev. Jennifer McDonald, Jamestown St. Paul’s, The Miracle Offering for UMCOR was collected.

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Anne Osborne, Valley City Epworth, chair of the Board of Pensions, opened the corporate session of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. As part of the report Peter Hang, Westpath Client Relationship Manager, shared an update about the new Compass Retirement Plan for clergy.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Curtis VanDyke, Valley City Epworth

Vice Chair: Theresa Kuiper, Canton

Secretary: Cynthia Nelson, Sioux Falls Asbury

Treasurer: Jim Ducker, conference treasurer

North Dakota Registered Agent - JoAnne Early, conference benefits and human resource officer

South Dakota Registered Agent - Jim Ducker, conference treasurer

The body voted to approve the slate of officers.

Newly elected Chair Curtis VanDyke introduced himself and thanked Anne for her 12 years of service as the chair.

Osborne closed the corporate session.

Morning Break

Plenary V

Bishop Lanette Plambeck called the body back to order.

General Board of Global Ministries/UMCOR

Bintou Diao, program manager for UMCOR’s International Disaster Response program, spoke on the impact the organization has had on the world through their programs.

Genesis Award

Rev. Dan Bader, southwest district superintendent, presented the Genesis Award to the Tri-parish churches of White River, Murdo, and Draper. The award recognizes individuals or groups who have contributed in exemplary ways to disaster response efforts in the Conference and beyond.

Resident Theologian

Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart presented part two of his teaching.

Lunch Break

During the lunch break, the Retiree Luncheon was held. Additionally, Lunch-n-Learn sessions were offered: Everyday Disciples: Balancing Vocation and Accountability led by Chris Wilterdink from Discipleship Ministries; Dream Forward led by Rev. Kori Lehrkamp, Wahpeton Evergreen, and Rev. Cory Thrall, Bismarck Legacy; Amplify Media: Digital resources for discipleship and worship led by Beata Ferris, Pierre First; God in All Things: Recovering Spiritual Ties to the Land led by Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart; United Methodist Volunteers in Missions (UMVIM) led by Tammy Kuntz, NCJ UMVIM coordinator.

Plenary VI

Update on the Miracle Offering update with \$45,380.02

(*As of July 1, 2025, \$56,505.03 had been collected as well as almost 2000 pounds of in-kind gifts for Midwest Mission.)

Streams of Justice Award

Rev. Marty Toepke Floyd, clergy, Jamestown First, and Rev. Gail Arnold, retired, presented the Streams of Justice Award to Bismarck Legacy for their work with Ukrainian refugees.

Nominations Report

Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr, extension ministry, chair of the Committee on Nominations presented the report as published in Section Three, Item 3.1 in the Conference Workbook.

Jim Ducker, conference treasurer, thanked Nancy Bohlen, Brookings First, for her 12 years of service on the Human Resource Committee.

United Methodist Publishing House

Rev. Sara Nelson, Sioux Falls First, board member of the United Methodist Publishing House, presented a report on updates on the Publishing House.

Francis Asbury Award

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communications, presented the Dakotas Conference Francis Asbury Award to Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart.

Bishop Lanette invited Henry Eberhart, Tim's son, to share a word about his work in Tribal law.

Discipleship Ministries & One Matters Award

Chris Wilterdink from Discipleship Ministries shared an update from the agency. He also presented the One Matters Award – an award to churches who have gone from zero baptisms and/or professions of faith – to Lisbon United Methodist Church.

Board of Ordained Ministry

Rev. Katie Ricke, clergy, Yankton First, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the Board's Report.

Historical Questions

Rev. Rieke presented the following candidates for provisional membership and commissioning to answer Wesley's historical questions: Davis Anderson, Kara Heagel, Rev. Taylor Johnson, Morehead Grace (MN), Rev. Taryn Ragels, Mitchell Fusion, and Laura Sherman.

She presented the following candidates for full membership and ordination to answer Wesley's historical questions: Rev. Quaya Ackerman, Rapid Valley, Rev. Bryce Blank, Watertown First, Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner, Abundance Parish - Burke, Gregory, Herrick, Rev. Julie Gregg, Garretson United, and Rev. Teresa Person, Huron Riverview.

Seminary Students

The following students enrolled in seminary.

Tiana Bohn — Kairos University
Tara Bush — Kairos University
Brandon Dunham — Kairos University
Tia Felberg — Kairos University
Veronica Fleming — Kairos University
Randy Harwood — Kairos University
Rebecca Hafner — Kairos University
Jesse Irvine — Kairos University
Andrea Plueddeman — Kairos University
Paul Plueddeman — Kairos University
John Schomberg — Kairos University
Janson Steffan — Garrett
Cory Thrall — Kairos University
Josh Willprecht — Kairos University
Shawn Stoll — Kairos University
Rita Ennen — Garrett
Donna Kuper — Garrett

Course of Study

The following LLPs are enrolled in Course of study

Robert Blackburn
Tiff Dorfman
George Keehner
Cheryl Nyman
Judy Saylor
Diane Stangohr
Justin Trent
Brenda Wicks

The following students will serve as Elisha Interns: Katherine Mickelson, interning at Fargo First; Dionne Jansma and Lizzie Tyler, interning at Mitchell Fusion and Dakota Wesleyan campus ministry.

The following students will serve as Samuel Interns: Ava Laffey, interning at Downtown Mitchell First and Mitchell Fusion; Kyrie Matucha, interning at Burke.

Order of Deacons

Bishop Lanette introduced Rev. Laura Walters who stated that there was a meeting Friday June 6, to create an official Order of the Deacons. Rev. Laura Walters will be the chair and Rev. Melissa Gall will be the co-chair. Provisional deacons present at the meeting were Krista Ducker, Amber Laffey, Sandee Prouty-Cole and Kara Heagal. There were also folks present discerning the call to the ministry of the Deacon.

Jubilee Clergy

Rev. Duane Coates, Valley City Epworth, and Cheryl Finney, Sioux Falls First, present the recognition for the Jubilee Clergy: Ron Johnson, Kenrad Pederson, Wayne Tieszen.

Retirees

Rev. Ricke introduced the 2025 retiring class that included:

Rev. Ray Baker, Fargo Faith, Rev. Richard Bensinger, Rapid City First, Rev. Dan Freed, extension ministry, Rev. Jan Gross, Dell Rapids, Rev. David Jacobsen, extension ministry, Rev. Laurie Kidd, Hettinger, and Rev. Ron Olson, Parker-Hurley.

Memorials

The following clergy were memorialized:

Allan Brockway, Rodney “Rod” Gist, Roger Smith, Penelope “Penny” Ritter, Linova “Lin” Jennewein, Peter “Pete” Moe, Wayne McKirdy, and Rev. Bruce Adams.

Afternoon Break

Plenary Session VII

Conference Staff introductions

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communications, introduced the Conference Staff and thanked them for their remarkable service.

Legislations - Constitutional Amendment Ballot 2

Beata Ferris, lay alternate delegate to the 2020/2024 General Conference, introduced Constitutional Amendment Ballot two on Inclusion and Membership.

Troy Bobbet, laity, Lead Trinity, asked a question of clarity - if adding wording to paragraph would add it in line 3 but not line 4.

Bishop Lanette commented that we would move forward with our vote and return the question to the larger body to get feedback and clarity on if this is intentional.

Vote taken by written ballot.

Legislations - Constitutional Amendment Ballot 3

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, clergy delegate to General Conference, introduced Constitutional Amendment Ballot three: Racial Justice.

Ralph Lawrence, laity, Sioux Falls Asbury, asked a question. .

John Claggett, laity, Downtown Mitchell First, spoke against the amendment.

Troy Bobbet, laity, Lead Trinity, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Rita Ennen, clergy, Dickinson, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Jordan Minnich-Kjesbo, clergy, Vermillion First, spoke for the amendment.

Gary Butker, laity, Mission, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Jennifer McDonald, clergy, Jamestown St. Paul's, spoke for the amendment.

Twyla Mah, laity, Downton Mitchell First, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Elizabeth Massengil, clergy, retired, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Krista Ducker, clergy, Ben Claire/extension ministry, spoke for the amendment.

There was a motion to call the question - to test the room to see if we are ready to vote.

Motion passed

Vote for Ballot 3 taken by written ballot.

Legislation - Constitutional Amendment Ballot 4

Rev. Sara Nelson, clergy, Sioux Falls First, clergy reserve delegate, presented Ballot 4: Educational requirements for voting rights.

Rev. Steve Trefz, clergy, extension ministry, asked a question, and spoke against.

Rev. Tiana Bohn, clergy, Milnor, asked a question.

Rev. Bill Gran, clergy, retired, asked a question and spoke against.

Rev. Sara McManus, clergy, West Fargo Flame of Faith, registrar of BOM, gave some clarification to the process BOM uses to review transcripts.

Rev. Paul Lint, clergy, Spearfish, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Sara Nelson, clergy, Sioux Falls First restated the intentions

Rev. Laura Walters, clergy, extension ministry, asked a question about LLPs.

Carleen Soul, laity, Bismarck McCabe, asked a question.

Rev. Ryan Mutzenberger, clergy, Fargo First, moved to call the question. Motion passed.

Vote on Ballot four taken by written ballot.

The video "Called by the Spirit: Faulkton Prison Ministry" was presented.

Laity Evangelism Award

Rev. Dan Bader, southwest district superintendent, presented the Denman Award for Laity, now known as the Foundation for Evangelism Laity Evangelism award to Brent Koens and Jess Hansen from Faulkton United Methodist Church.

Clergy Denman Award for Evangelism

Rev. Brandon Vetter, southeast district superintendent, presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Award to Rev. Taryn Ragels, Mitchell Fusion.

Legislation - 2026 Budget Proposal

Continued with business by considering Legislative Item 1.6, The 2026 Budget Proposal. Rev. Ray Baker, Fargo Faith, chair of CCFA, spoke to the item.

Rev. Duane Coates, clergy, Valley City Epworth, asked a question about 2024 the budget and spending plan.

Jim Ducker, conference treasurer, and Ray Baker, chair of the CCFA spoke to the question.

Vote taken on Item 1.6 Budget. Motion Passes

Legislation - Reaffiliation Process

Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communication, presented Legislative Item 1.3 - Reaffiliation Process. Speaking on behalf of the Petitions and Resolution Committee, she recommended passage of the resolution. Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, northeast district superintendent, representing the Appointive Cabinet who submitted the legislation, spoke in favor.

Voice vote taken. Motion approved.

Legislation - Formation of Conference Green Team and Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communication, Legislative Item 1.2 - Formation of Conference Green Team and Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator. Speaking on behalf of the Petitions and Resolution Committee, she recommended passage of the resolution.

Rev. Marty Toepke Floyd, clergy, Jamestown First, author of the amendment, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Voice vote taken. Motion approved.

Youth Ministry Awards

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries presented the following awards: The Youth Worker of the Year Award to Stacy Oltmanns, Alexandria UMC. The Youth Worker Hall of Fame Award to Rev. John Britt, Piedmont Grace.

Supper Break

During the supper break, a dinner was held for commissionees and ordinands and their families.

Plenary VIII

Legislation - Conference Structure and Rules of Order Update.

Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communication, Legislative Item 1.4 Conference Structure and Rules of Order Update. Speaking on behalf of the Petitions and Resolution Committee, she recommended passage of the resolution.

Voice vote taken. Motion approved.

Nominations Report

Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr, extension ministry, chair of the nominations committee, presented an update to the nominations report with corrections.

No discussion

Voice vote take. The nominations report was approved.

Multiplication Matters Award

Rev. Joel Winckler, northwest district superintendent, presented the Multiplication Matters Award to The Journey at Spirit Lake Ministry Center. Kim and Paulette Paulson serve as the directors.

United Women in Faith

Colleen McKirdy, president of the Dakotas Conference United Women of Faith, laity, Spearfish UMC, gave a report from United Women in Faith.

Youth Laity Evangelism Award

Rev. Brandon Vetter, southeast district superintendent, presented the Youth Laity Evangelism Award to Kenzie Giziewski of Yankton First UMC.

Committee on Episcopacy

Rev. Sara Nelson, Sioux Falls First, and Beata Ferris, Pierre First, presented a report on the work of the committee on episcopacy and shared that Bishop Lanette will be our resident bishop through 2028.

Consent Calendar

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, extension ministry, moved to affirm the consent calendar. Motion approved.

Appointive Cabinet

The district superintendents shared highlights from the ministries in their district. They also recognized the closing of Hamilton UMC in Hamilton, North Dakota, and Amelia Bailey UMC in Moffit, North Dakota.

Bishop Lanette spoke about the new Conference Ministry Architect (CMA) roles:

CMA for Renewal

Focus: Evangelism, Faith Formation, Church Revitalization, Discipleship Systems, and Witness

CMA for Justice & Advocacy

Focus: Poverty, Civic Engagement, Legislative Witness, Peace Initiatives, Environmental & Economic Justice, Community Outreach

CMA for Call & Development

Focus: Generational Ministries (esp. Gen Z & Alpha), Leadership Development, Culture of Call

CMA for Strategy & System Design

Focus: Governance, Generosity, Innovation, and Organizational Leadership

Closing Worship

The Bishop transitioned to closing worship including fixing of appointments and holy communion. Rev. Laura Walters, deacon in extension ministry, assisted in presiding.

Session adjourned.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

The Celebration of Life in Ministry service was held at Downtown Mitchell First United Methodist Church.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM AC 2025

DATE	NAME	APPOINTMENT	REASON - NOTE
12/12/2024	ADDY KENKEL	BRANDON CELEBRATION	SISTER'S WEDDING, APPROVED BY DS BRANDON VETTER
12/12/2024	(Valerie/Seth LaBounty) for Special Session in Nov.	Montrose / Hartford	On previously booked Europe vacation, approved by DS Brandon V.
1/6/2025	TARA BUSH	ETHAN	NEPHEW'S WEDDING IN WASHINGTON STATE
3/27/25	NICOLE ANDERSON	CAMP DIRECTOR LPC	ROLE AS A CAMP DIRECTOR, BUSY TIME – EMAIL TO DS KRIS & BISHOP
5/5/2025	JEFF VORE	GAYVILLE / VOLING (1/4)	HEALTH PROBLEMS
5/19/25	TERI JOHNSON	WHITE/STERLING & EXT. SDSU	SDSU NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
5/15/2025	ROBERT MOORLACH	GROTON / CONDE	RECENT HEALTH CONCERNS (FOOT INJURY)
5/15/2025	MARK EHRLMANTRAUT	EXTENSION 'GOD'S CHILDREN PROJECT'	EXTENSION MINISTRY APPT. DOES NOT GIVE LEAVE FOR THIS
5/26/25	JOEL ALLEN	EXTENSION DWU	SAT PM FOR WEDDING
5/28/25	JUSTIN IVERSON	EXTENSION	EMAIL TO DS BRANDON
5/28/25	JOHN MCKNIGHT	RETIRED – PRINGLE (1/4)	HIS WIFE'S HEALTH – EMAIL TO DS DAN
5/29/25	DONNA KUPER	AURORA (1/4)	ANOTHER EVENT WHERE PRESENCE IS REQUIRED – EMAIL TO DS BV
6/3/2025	JOSH WILLPRECHT	BRANDON CELEBRATION (1/4)	HIS WORK SCHEDULE ONLY ALLOWS HIM TO ATTEND FRIDAY AFTERNOON – EMAIL TO DS BRANDON
6/3/2025	ROBERT BLACKBURN	LANGDON	SON'S SUDDEN ILLNESS AND DR APPT.
6/4/2025	JEANINE KERSEY-RUSSELL	EXTENSION ND YOUTH CORRECTIONAL CENTER	NOT ABLE BECAUSE OF SINGLE PARENT / 9 CHILDREN & EXPENSES
6/6/2025	DON DINGER	STEELE	NO COVERAGE FOR SUNDAY / TECHNOLOGY LACKING FOR LIVE STREAM, & FAMILY ISSUE

Harry Denman Awards for Evangelism



Rev. Taryn Ragels, right, who serves Mitchell Fusion and Dakota Wesleyan University Campus Ministry, was presented with the 2025 Harry Denman Evangelism Award for Clergy by Southeast District Superintendent, Rev. Brandon Vetter.

(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

The 2025 Laity Evangelism Award was presented to Brent Koens, right, and Jess Hansen (not pictured) from Faulkton United Methodist Church, by Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent.

(photo by J. Lynn Studios)



The 2025 Youth Evangelism Award was presented to Kenzie Giziewski from Yankton, SD.

LEGISLATION

1.1 Organizational Resolutions

1. The online agenda is the official agenda. Adjustments are made throughout the session as necessary. All requests for additional items to be placed on the agenda shall be emailed to the agenda coordinator, Duane Coates (dcoates70@yahoo.com).
 2. The boundaries of the Annual Conference shall be established through seating areas provided for clergy and lay members on the floor of the conference session. Voting members will be seated in the designated areas and will be identified by the color of their lanyard.
 - a. The sanctuary of the Sherman Center is the official space for seating for voting delegates. Seating will be assigned.
 - b. During plenary sessions all non-voting persons, including spouses of clergy and lay members, will be seated in areas designed for guest.
 - c. Lay representatives from non-chartered new church starts, Elisha and Samuel Project interns (who are not lay members), retired clergy persons who have served churches of the Dakotas Conference but who are members of other United Methodist annual conferences, and special guests of the bishop will be recognized as guests and may be seated with voting members.
 - d. Any non-members participating shall not have voice or vote, except for those non-members to whom the Sessions Committee has extended temporary speaking privileges. Those privileges shall be for the restricted purpose of making presentations on agenda items.
 3. The district superintendents shall receive and relay to the presiding officer all requests of members to be excused from the Annual Conference Session. Those names will be printed in the journal.
 4. Voting will take place by voice or written ballots. All voting members will receive colored ballots at registration for use if there is a need for written ballot.
 5. Voice — To be recognized to speak to the floor or body, members must seek recognition by going to a microphone and requesting to speak. When making a request, hold up the colored card that will indicate the purpose of the request, green to speak for a motion, red to speak against a motion, white to ask for a point of clarification or information, point of order, or other parliamentary motion.
 - a. When the presiding officer recognizes a speaker, it will be by location, and the presiding officer will give the speaker the floor.
 - b. When requesting recognition, please state the request concisely and clearly and refer to the agenda item, if applicable.
 - c. Floor speakers are requested to state name, church or organization, and relationship to the body — “Sally Jones, Sioux Falls First UMC, lay member.” Floor speeches are limited to three minutes.
 - d. Requests for personal points of privilege shall be submitted to the agenda coordinator.
 6. The following persons shall be given the privilege of voice and vote during plenary session:
 - a. Clergy and laity as defined in *Para. 602* of the *2016 Book of Discipline* and Rule 6.11 in the Dakotas Conference Rules and Policies found in the Conference Journal
 - b. Clergy from other denominations serving in Dakotas United Methodist Churches who have been granted voice and voting privileges by the clergy session per Question 25 in the Business of the Annual Conference.
 7. Announcements shall be submitted through the registration desk. They will be shared in one or more ways, on screens during the breaks, announced orally by the presiding officer or conference secretary during the session if time allows, and/ or following the session through conference communication channels.
 8. All reports from conference and other related agencies are published in the conference workbook. Permission must be secured from the agenda coordinator in advance before any other printed materials may be distributed.
 9. The consent calendar shall be those items listed on the consent calendar Section 2 of the conference workbook. Requests to lift items from the consent calendar must be submitted to the conference secretary by email (conference.secretary@dakotasumc.org) by noon, (12 p.m.) central time on Friday, June 6, 2025. In the request list the specific item number you are requesting to be lifted and the names and e-mail addresses of at least 15 voting members that agree with the request.
- Any proposals to change legislation, such as amendments, must be submitted digitally to the conference secretary, using the strikethrough feature for removing information from the legislation and underlining new proposed language

1.2 Formation of Conference Green Team and Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Title: Formation of Conference Green Team and Naming of Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Information submitted and affirmed by: Rev. Mart Toepke-Floyd, Jamestown First UMC, co-chair of Extending Missional Impact Link; members of the Extending Missional Impact Link

Action: In light of the legislation passed at the 2024 General Conference to name, hire, appoint, or nominate a conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator by the 2026 annual conference (or sooner and the resolution to form green teams and a conference Creation Care/Justice Team to serve alongside, support, and help carry out the work of the conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator and support and serve alongside these green teams that actions be taken to implement these directives and present a full report of progress in development of coordination and green team formation to the 2026 annual conference.

Rationale:

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church called on the Council of Bishops to:

“Support the efforts of annual conferences to form teams of United Methodists committed to creation care.” 2024 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page 81;

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church called on the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) to:

“Develop resources,” “form teams,” and “respond to our call to be caretakers of God's creation.” 2024 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page 81-82;

WHEREAS, the 2024 General Conference took action to affirm the formation of green teams (creation care teams, environmental justice teams) and a Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator in every annual conference in the denomination;

WHEREAS, Jesus appointed the twelve as disciples and apostles, and as well “commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is bigger than you can imagine.’” (Luke 10:1-2 CEB);

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement has provided many resources for United Methodists forming and acting through green teams across the denomination and has developed many resources supporting a network of conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinators, then,

WHEREAS legislation was passed at the 2024 General Conference to name, hire, appoint, or nominate a conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator:

“The conference board of church and society or equivalent structure shall name a conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator who will be responsible for helping the conference develop programs to become more ecologically sustainable and to address environmental injustices” ¶ 628.2 2024 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, page 459.

And to affirm the formation of green teams and a Conference Creation Care/Justice Team to serve alongside, support, and help carry out the work of the conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator,

Be It Resolved: That every local church, charge, cluster, or district is urged to create a “green team” or strengthen an existing one for action in four areas each year—Worship, Education, Practice, and Advocacy—providing children, youth, and adults of all ages with inspiration, knowledge, encouragement, and practical means for caring for creation and justice. [So] That creation care and justice will be lifted up in all areas of ministry and mission.” ¶ 5112. Green Team Formation. 2024 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page 710.

And further, that the annual conference will support and serve alongside these green teams:

“The annual conference will assist churches with resources and mentors, as needed, particularly—but not exclusively—through the conference's Creation Care/Justice Team.” Adopted 2024, The Book of Resolutions, page 711.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator be named and affirmed at the 2026 annual conference by the members of the Dakotas Annual Conference, or, if time allows, the conference Creation Care/Justice Team will meet with the conference board of church and society or appropriate entity to confer, so that a conference Coordinator is named by September 2025, and, recognizing the urgency facing the Earth and God's people, a full report of progress in development of coordination and green team formation is presented at the 2026 annual conference.

1.3 Reaffiliation Process

Title: Policy of Reaffiliation for Local Churches Seeking Readmission to The United Methodist Church

Information submitted and affirmed by: The Dakotas Conference Board of Trustees and Appointive Cabinet jointly present this policy

Action: Implementation of policy to be effective July 1, 2025

Rationale: Per the action of the 2020/2024 General Conference: “With a spirit of grace, we welcome those churches which have disaffiliated or withdrawn to rejoin The United Methodist Church. Where applicable, every annual conference shall have a policy of reaffiliation for the churches seeking to return to the connection. Each such policy shall require that reaffiliating churches affirm their commitment to the Trust Clause in ¶2503.” The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline ¶2553.

- 1) Eligibility for Reaffiliation
 - a) A local church that was previously affiliated with the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“Dakotas Conference”) is eligible for reaffiliation with the Dakotas Annual Conference after completing the following minimum requirements:
 - i) satisfy the Conference Board of Trustees that all church deeds include the trust clause as required by *the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (Book of Discipline.)*, and cover all real and personal, tangible and intangible properties of the church
 - ii) satisfy the Conference Board of Trustees, Common Table and the Appointive Cabinet that the local church will comply with the requirements and criteria of the Dakotas Annual Conference for the organization of a local United Methodist Church under ¶259.1 and ¶259.4, as determined by the Common Table and the Appointive Cabinet (Cabinet).
- 2) Local Church Discernment
 - a) The leaders of a local church that wish to reaffiliate will first contact the District Superintendent (DS) of the area in which the local church is located to share their interest. The DS, at least one Conference Trustee, and one member from the District Board of Church Location and Building, will meet with the leaders of the local congregation to understand the reasons for the local church’s current desire to reaffiliate with the Dakotas Conference, and to help the church discern if it desires to reaffiliate. A review of key sections of the *Book of Discipline* is required, including our Doctrinal Statements, The General Rules, The Ministry of All Christians, the section on the Local Church, and the Social Principles.
 - b) As part of their discernment, local church leaders will provide a written rationale to the District Superintendent for reaffiliation with The United Methodist Church (UMC). This written statement should clearly express both their understanding of what it means to be a United Methodist Congregation and their willingness to support the UMC and the Dakotas Annual Conference with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
- 3) Annual Conference Leadership Discernment
 - a) The DS will forward the written request and rationale to the Cabinet, or other Cabinet designated committee, which shall review this document. That body shall also evaluate the missional impact of the local church seeking reaffiliation on its community, on neighboring United Methodist congregations, and on planned or potential United Methodist ministries.
 - b) If the Cabinet makes the determination to proceed, they will forward the request and rationale document to the Common Table for their discernment and decision.
 - c) If the Common Table affirms moving forward, then the District Superintendent is authorized to work with the local church leaders to establish a timeline for the following required church actions.
- 4) Local Church Reaffiliation Approval
 - a) The legally authorized leadership body of the local church, at a duly called meeting of such body, must adopt by appropriate legal vote the following resolution requesting reaffiliation and acknowledging the applicability of the trust clause: “Resolved that ____ Church become a member congregation of *the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and thereby become subject to all provisions of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2020/2024 and all subsequent editions of the Book of Discipline, including but not limited to the provisions of Paragraphs 2501 through 2505, providing that all the local church’s real and personal property shall be held in trust for the United Methodist Church. Our leadership is authorized to take all*

actions necessary to implement this resolution in accordance with the Book of Discipline, by a deed including the relevant trust clause language as found in ¶2503 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline.

- i) Upon adoption of the resolution, the presiding officer of the meeting and its secretary will sign a document (e.g., the minutes of the meeting) setting forth the resolution adopted and the vote by which it was adopted and submit it to the District Superintendent in charge.
 - b) After the local church leadership body has met the foregoing requirements, the membership of the local church, at a duly called church conference (¶248) or congregational meeting of professing or full church members, must adopt, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, the same resolution adopted by the leadership body as required in paragraph (4a) above.
 - i) Upon adoption of the resolution the presiding officer of the church conference or congregational meeting, elected leaders of the local church, and its secretary must sign a document (e.g., the minutes of the meeting) which sets forth the resolution in its entirety, lists all members present and voting at the meeting, and reports the results of the vote.
 - ii) If approved, the DS will work with the church leadership to begin making any church organizational changes needed to align with Disciplinary requirements as laid out in ¶259.9. The process of organizing as a United Methodist Church must be in compliance with relevant portions of ¶259 and ¶2529.1c.
- 5) Annual Conference Approval
 - a) After the local church has met the foregoing requirements, the DS in charge shall return a report of this action to the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the Conference Board of Trustees for final majority approval of each body. At the next regular session of the Dakotas Annual Conference, the request for reaffiliation will be presented during the Conference Board of Trustees report to the Annual Conference which may, by simple majority, vote to receive the church into the Dakotas Annual Conference.
- 6) Completion of Reaffiliation Process
 - a) Upon acceptance into the Dakotas Annual Conference, the local church shall have 90 days following the close of the regular session of the Dakotas Annual Conference to present revised deeds, showing proof of being filed with the appropriate County Recorder's Office or Register of Deeds, to the Conference Board of Trustees in order for the reaffiliation process to be completed. The local church shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with revising and filing their deeds. The Conference Board of Trustees will forward a Reaffiliation Certificate to the local church upon receipt of all required documents. The requirements of this paragraph are necessary for readmission of the local church to The United Methodist Church. Approval of the Annual Conference for readmission of the local church to The United Methodist Church is subject to the local church's compliance with the requirements under this paragraph.
- 7) Care of Members of a Reaffiliated Congregation
 - a) Persons who withdrew their membership within The United Methodist Church as part of disaffiliation or at any other time may return to professing membership within the reaffiliated congregation and The United Methodist Church under the provisions of ¶242.3; that is, upon reaffirmation of their baptismal and membership vows.
 - b) Persons who united with the disaffiliated congregation but who previously were not United Methodist may become professing members of the reaffiliated congregation and The United Methodist Church under the provisions of ¶259.6.

1.4 Conference Structure and Rules of Order Update

Title: Additions and corrections to our Conference Structure and Rules of Order

Information submitted and affirmed by: Dakotas Conference Appointive Cabinet members (Rev. Dan Bader, Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Rev. Joel Winckler, Rev. Brandon Vetter)

Action: Add Sections 1.1.1 – 1.1.6 and 1.3.1; Replace “1.4 Viability of the Local Church” with “1.4 The Local Church”; Replace “Executive Director of Ministries” with “Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications” and replace “district superintendents” with “conference superintendents; Remove 4.4.; Add role descriptions and clarifications.

Rationale: In order to deepen our Wesleyan Methodist faith and identity and keep them before us in all that we do, these sections on our Doctrinal Heritage and History, our Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task, and the Ministry of All Christians—summaries from the corresponding paragraphs in The Book of Discipline—as well as the Foundational Scriptures that guide our conference have been added to Section 1: Mission of the Annual Conference. A description of how we live out our purpose as an annual conference – by reaching, equipping, aligning, connecting, and heralding – has been added as a sub- section of 1.3 to give clarity and language related to Viability of the Local Church has been replaced with a portion of the Book of Discipline relate to the purpose of the Local Church to reflect our current reality. Finally, updates have been made to job titles, descriptions, and processes in section 2, 4, and 5 to reflect current practices and position.

1.1.1 Our Doctrinal Heritage. “United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God’s coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.”

“Our heritage in doctrine and our present theological task focus upon a renewed grasp of the sovereignty of God and of God’s love in Christ amid the continuing crises of human existence.”

“Our forebearers in the faith reaffirmed the ancient Christian message as found in the apostolic witness even as they applied it anew in their own circumstances. Their preaching and teaching were grounded in Scripture, informed by Christian tradition, enlivened in experience, and tested by reason.”

“”Their labors inspire and inform our attempts to convey the saving gospel to our world with its needs and aspirations.” (¶102) For more, see ¶102.

1.1.2 Our Doctrinal History. “The pioneers in the traditions that flowed together into The United Methodist Church understood themselves as standing in the central stream of Christian spirituality and doctrine, loyal heirs of the authentic Christian tradition. In John Wesley’s words, theirs was ‘the old religion, the religion of the Bible, the religion . . . of the whole church in the purest ages.’ Their gospel was grounded in the biblical message of God’s self-giving love revealed in Jesus Christ.”

“Wesley’s portrayal of the spiritual pilgrimage in terms of “the scripture way of salvation” provided their model for experiential Christianity. They assumed and insisted upon the integrity of basic Christian truth and emphasized its practical application in the lives of believers.”

“This perspective is apparent in the Wesleyan understanding of ‘catholic spirit.’ While it is true that United Methodists are fixed upon certain religious affirmations, grounded in the gospel and confirmed in their experience, they also recognize the right of Christians to disagree on matters such as forms of worship, structures of church government, modes of baptism, or theological explorations. They believe such differences do not break the bond of fellowship that ties Christians together in Jesus Christ. Wesley’s familiar dictum was, ‘As to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.’” (¶103) For more, see ¶103.

Our Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task. See ¶104 for our doctrinal standards. “Theology is our effort to reflect upon God’s gracious action in our lives. In response to the love of Christ, we desire to be drawn into a deeper relationship with ‘faith’s pioneer and perfecter.’ Our theological explorations seek to give expression to the mysterious reality of God’s presence, peace, and power in the world. By so doing, we attempt to articulate more clearly our understanding of the divine-human encounter and are thereby more fully prepared to participate in God’s work in the world.”

“The theological task, though related to the Church’s doctrinal expressions, serves a different function. Our doctrinal affirmations assist us in the discernment of Christian truth in ever-changing contexts. Our theological task includes the

testing, renewal, elaboration, and application of our doctrinal perspective in carrying out our calling ‘to spread scriptural holiness over these lands.’”

“While the Church considers its doctrinal affirmations a central feature of its identity and restricts official changes to a constitutional process, the Church encourages serious reflection across the theological spectrum.”

“As United Methodists, we are called to identify the needs both of individuals and of society and to address those needs out of the resources of Christian faith in a way that is clear, convincing, and effective. Theology serves the Church by interpreting the world’s needs and challenges to the Church and by interpreting the gospel to the world.”

“The nature of our theological task” is both “critical and constructive,” “individual and communal,” “contextual and incarnational,” and “essentially practical.” Our sources and criteria are “scripture,” “tradition,” “reason,” and “experience.” “Doctrine arises out of the life of the Church—its faith, its worship, its discipline, its conflicts, its challenges from the world it would serve.”

“Evangelism, nurture, and mission require a constant effort to integrate authentic experience, rational thought, and purposeful action with theological integrity. A convincing witness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can contribute to the renewal of our faith, bring persons to that faith, and strengthen the Church as an agent of healing and reconciliation.”

(¶105) For more on our theological task, see ¶105

1.1.3 The Ministry of All Christians. “The heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. The forms of this ministry are diverse in locale, in interest, and in denominational accent, yet always catholic in spirit and outreach.” (¶126) For more, see ¶120-143.

1.1.4 Our Social Principles. We commit to learning and to teaching our Social Principles. “The Social Principles are not church law. Instead, they represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions.” (Preface) They speak to the community of all creation, the economic community, the social community, the political community and our social creed. For more, see ¶160-164.

1.1.5 Foundational Scriptures. Every Dakotas United Methodist will live out The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40), The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), The Great Requirement (Micah 6:8) and The Great Proclamation (Luke 4:18-19).

1.3.1. R.E.A.C.H. Function. We live out our purpose, as defined by ¶601, by working to resource, equip, align, connect and herald what it means to be Christ-followers in the Wesleyan tradition.

1.4 The Local Church. “The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ’s own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.” (¶201) For more, see ¶202.

2.2. Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications. The Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications is appointed by the Bishop and carries out the duties defined in Section 4.3.2 and duties assigned by the Bishop.

Section 4: Staffing

4.1. Conference Superintendents. The Annual Conference shall have four districts with the district lines and a number of superintendents serving the conference as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the appointive cabinet. (¶415-417)

4.2. Hiring of Staff. The Bishop and the Human Resources Committee shall work together to set up the process for the

selection of all staff positions, excluding Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications and the Executive Director of Finance and Administration. Any additional staffing for program and missional priorities may occur in consultation with Human Resources, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Common Table, and Extended Cabinet.

4.3. Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications

4.3.1 This position shall be selected and supervised by the Bishop in consultation with the Human Resources Committee.

4.3.2 Responsibilities:

- a) under the direction of the Bishop, to provide oversight of the annual conference, including supervision and evaluation of the conference program staff, but excluding the Executive Director of Finance and Administration and conference superintendents.
- b) to resource conference teams as needed
- c) to review and authorize communication of information disseminated on behalf of the Annual Conference.
- d) to serve as a non-voting member of the appointive cabinet.
- e) to undertake other duties as assigned by the bishop.
- f) to serve as the connectional team between the annual conference, general boards and agencies, and the local church.
- g) to recruit and work with a Sessions Committee to ensure the organization and logistics of planning the annual conference session
- h) to recruit and work with a Committee on Records, Rules, and Procedures
- i) to recruit and work with a Committee on Resolutions and General Conference Petitions.
- j) to recruit and work with a Journal Editorial Committee
- k) To attend to the responsibilities in paragraphs ¶608 & ¶609 and the functions of ¶646

(Remove 4.4 Director of Leadership Development)

Section 5: District Agencies

5.1. District Committee on Ordained Ministry. There shall in each district be a District Committee on Ordained Ministry with functions as specified in ¶666. The Committee shall be constituted as specified in that paragraph and shall consist of a total of seven clergy in full connection (including the chairperson and conference district superintendents) and three professing members of local churches.

5.3. District Board of Church Location and Building. There shall in each district be at least one District Board of Church Location and Building with functions as specified in ¶¶2519-2521. More than one board may be elected in a district for geographic reasons at the discretion of the conference district superintendents. Each board shall be constituted as specified in ¶2519 and consist of six to nine members



The Genesis Award was presented to the Tri-parish churches of White River, Murdo, and Draper. Pastor Cheryl Nymann accepted the award.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

1.5 Constitutional Amendments

BALLOT 1 - Regionalization - ¶¶9 (which shall be renumbered ¶10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶9), 15, 16, 23-36, 38-40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61, and add new 13

Calendar Item 22, Approved 586-164, April 25, 2024

Committee Item ST29, Approved 29-0, April 22, 2024

Petition 21039

[Editorial Note: Due to the length of this proposed amendment, the full text is not being replicated in the preconference materials. The full text can be found [here](#).]

Regionalization allows United Methodists throughout our connection to best serve their unique communities as they share the love of God, make disciples, and transform the world.

What Is Regionalization?

Regionalization allows each region of the church to make decisions that will best support outreach and ministry efforts in their specific setting.

This ability is already in place in the central conferences; regionalization will bring that ability to the U.S. as well.

Regionalization was developed collaboratively by United Methodists across the globe. It was adopted by an overwhelming majority of General Conference delegates.

Nine regional conferences will comprise The UMC: one in the U.S. and eight across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

What Can't Regional Conferences Do?

- Create their own constitution or adopt any policy in violation of the constitution contained in the General Book of Discipline
- Alter The Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians, or The Social Principles

What Can Regional Conferences Do?

- Draft and publish their own regional Book of Discipline, hymnals, books of worship and other liturgical resources
- Set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry with respect to their needs and resources
- Set standards for lay membership
- Develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals, and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws in each country
- Reorganize their annual conferences, districts, or charge conferences to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts
- Work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country

For more information, visit:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/partners/connectional-table/home/resources/legislation/regionalization-legislation>

BALLOT 2 - Inclusiveness of the Church - ¶4

Calendar Item 240, Approved 607-67, May 3, 2024

Committee Item GA11, Approved 48-2, April 26, 2024

Petition 20240

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

For Additional Information, visit:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/partners/gcsrw/home/generalconference/paragraph-4- article-4-ratification>

BALLOT 3 – Racial Justice- ¶5

Calendar Item 550, Approved 621-59, May 3, 2024

Committee Item IC50, Approved 25-1, April 27, 2024

Petition20332

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims ~~the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.~~⁷

7. Amended 2000

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

7. Amended 2000

For Additional Information (including resources in Korean, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili), visit:

<https://www.gcorr.org/article-v>

BALLOT 4 Clergy Delegates - ¶35

Calendar Item 555, Approved 547-99, May 2, 2024

Committee Item OM153, Approved 39-4, April 27, 2024

Petition 20070

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate- approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to Regionalization be ratified.]

For Additional Information, visit: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/educational-requirements-for-clergy-members>



The Multiplication Matters Award was given to The Journey at Spirit Lake Ministry Center. Kim and Paulette Paulson serve as the directors.

(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

Consent Calendar

2.1 Cabinet Resolutions

1. WHEREAS the following congregations have voted to recommend dissolution as a United Methodist congregation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that these congregations be recognized with thanks to God for their faithful service, and that they be officially discontinued under the provisions of The Book of Discipline, paragraph 2549 by the Dakotas Annual Conference:

Northeast: Hamilton UMC in Hamilton, ND

Northwest: Amelia Bailey Memorial UMC in Moffit,

ND Southeast:

Southwest:

2. THAT July 1, 2025, be designated as the beginning of all new appointments for 2025-2026, unless prior arrangements have been made. The moving pastor's current charge shall pay the compensation, health, pension and other benefits through June 30, 2025.

3. THAT the moving schedule be flexible enough to consider the needs of the pastors and the families and that the parish would have sufficient time to prepare the parsonage for the arrival of the incoming pastor. Moves shall be scheduled to occur between June 15 and July 15. If a move is scheduled to happen prior to the last Sunday in June, compensation shall still be paid by the current charge through the end of the month.

4. THAT both congregations and pastors be sensitive and respectful as to the transition of pastoral leadership in a charge. Negotiations between the Staff-Parish Relations chair, and the incoming and outgoing pastors, as to first Sunday and care for priestly functions shall be done on a case-by-case basis. July 1 shall be the start date for all incoming pastors unless other arrangements have been made.

5. THAT consideration be given by the congregation to the incoming pastor to have his/her first Sunday serve as a welcoming Sunday and that formal preaching and worship leadership responsibilities begin the following Sunday.

2.2 Equitable Compensation

The purpose of Equitable Compensation is to work with the District Superintendents in the effort to support congregations as they strive to become viable (Rule 1.4). This is done by A) providing salary support grants to Churches/Charges served by a full-time United Methodist pastor and B) making an annual recommendation of the minimum compensation needed by a pastor to allow them to focus their efforts on the ministry instead of seeking secondary employment.

ANNUAL RECOMMENDATION OF MINIMUM COMPENSATION

1) The Base Cash Salary for each year: *65% of the Conference Average Compensation for Full Connection Clergy; 62% of the Conference Average Compensation for Less than Full Connection Clergy.*

2) The Base Cash Salary for both clergy groups listed in paragraph #1 shall include any personal tax deferred annuities, personal IRA's paid by the local church, or personal pension plan in addition to the recommended contribution to the pension program (Compass) in No. 3.

3) The pastor shall receive the following in addition to minimum compensation:

a. Retirement Program Contributions (Compass) shall equal a flat dollar contribution of \$150 per month, which will increase by 2% each year (in \$5 increments) for full connection and prorated for less than full connection clergy, 3% of clergy compensation (base pay plus either the housing allowance or the deemed value of a parsonage equal to 35% of base pay), and

\$1/\$1 match up to 4% of clergy compensation or qualified student loan payments made by clergy. b. Continuing education allowance (minimum of \$150).

c. Travel allowance by voucher at the current IRS rate.

d. Utilities paid in full (minimum of heat, electricity, local phone service, water, garbage service, and internet).

e. Accountable reimbursement plan (minimum of \$500).

SALARY SUPPORT GRANTS

1) The following requests will be considered by the Commission:

Strategic Appointment Grant – Available when a new appointment results in significantly increased costs to the Church/Charge. These increased costs will be so burdensome that it is unlikely that the Church/Charge will have adequate resources available to take the necessary steps to becoming viable without outside assistance. The purpose of this grant is to assist the Church/Charge in its transition to being able to fully support the newly appointed pastor. The Church/Charge shall provide monthly written status reports to the District Superintendent and Conference Treasurer. Status reports shall at a minimum report progress towards benchmarks.

a. Discernment Grant – Available when a Church/Charge has declined in its ability to support a full-time United Methodist pastor to the point where it is unlikely to be able to provide the recommended minimum compensation. The purpose of this grant is to provide time for the Church/Charge and District Superintendent to evaluate the viability of the congregation and decide upon a ministry plan that is appropriate for the Church/Charge. The District Superintendent shall provide a report on the viability and the ministry plan at the next Equitable Compensation meeting. Depending on the ministry plan adopted by the District Superintendent and the Church/Charge, it may be appropriate for the Church/Charge to provide monthly written status reports to the District Superintendent and Conference Treasurer.

b. Emergency Grant – Available when a Church/Charge provides evidence that they will not be able to provide their full-time United Methodist pastor with the recommended minimum compensation. The purpose of this grant is to ensure that the pastor is properly cared for.

2) Churches/Charges shall pay their apportionments in full during the years they receive salary support grant payments. Churches/Charges that do not comply with this shall not be considered for a Salary Support Grant the following year with the exception of Emergency Grants.

3) The maximum amount to be paid for Strategic Appointment Grants and Discernment Grants shall be \$5,400 annually. Grant payments to Churches/Charges shall be made monthly. A Church/Charge shall not receive Salary Support Grant payments for more than 36 consecutive months.

4) Salary Support Grant requests shall be submitted in writing to the District Superintendent and the Conference Treasurer. In order for Salary Support Grant payments to continue into a new calendar year, the written request must be updated and resubmitted.

5) The Churches/Charges receiving support will be listed in the Conference Journal.

Equitable Compensation Calculation: The Commission calculates the Equitable Compensation amount based on the Conference Average Compensation. See calculations below:

Year	Full Connection Clergy	Less than Full Connection Clergy
2026	$\$78,677 \times 65\% = \$51,140$	$\$78,677 \times 62\% = \$48,780$
2025*	$\$77,234 \times 65\% = \$50,203$	$\$77,234 \times 62\% = \$47,885$
2024*	$\$75,241 \times 65\% = \$48,906$	$\$75,241 \times 62\% = \$46,649$
2023	$\$73,163 \times 65\% = \$47,556$	$\$73,163 \times 62\% = \$45,361$
2022	$\$70,476 \times 65\% = \$45,809$	$\$70,476 \times 62\% = \$43,695$
2021	$\$68,424 \times 65\% = \$44,476$	$\$68,424 \times 62\% = \$42,423$

**The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) is the average compensation paid to full-time clergy in a particular conference, effective three years after the calculation year; i.e., the 2025 CAC is calculated using the 2022 compensation figures. Due to the pension rebates paid to clergy in 2021 and 2022, the CAC reported to the Dakotas Conference from Wespeth for 2024 and 2025 were abnormally high (\$84,767 and \$81,594, respectively). Therefore, the CAC's for 2024 and 2025 were adjusted by increasing the CAC by the five-year average increase in CAC of 2.84% and 2.65%, respectively, preventing a decrease in the equitable compensation calculation from 2024 to 2025. For 2026, the actual CAC was used to determine equitable compensation.*

The charges which received Equitable Compensation support in 2024 included the following: Garretson, Montrose, Flandreau, Plankinton, and Clark.

2.3 Housing/Parsonage Allowance for Clergy, Staff and District Superintendents

WHEREAS, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income the rental value of a parsonage furnished to the minister;

WHEREAS, a minister is also allowed to exclude from gross income the amount paid to him/her as a properly designated parsonage allowance to the extent used for actual expenses incurred in maintaining a parsonage;

WHEREAS, a minister is also allowed to exclude from gross income the amount paid to him/her in lieu of a parsonage when properly designated as a housing allowance to the extent used for actual housing expenses not to exceed the fair rental value of the home (including furnishing and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities);

WHEREAS the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is the qualified organization for the designation of housing and parsonage allowances for all ordained or licensed persons who serve as District Superintendents, as paid officers of the conference or as members of the conference staff;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that of the cash salary paid to the following persons the following housing exclusions are hereby designated for the calendar year 2026 and for all future years unless otherwise provided:

Joel Winckler - \$30,000

Dan Bader - \$30,000

Rebecca Trefz - \$32,665

Kris Mutzenberger - \$1,500

Brandon Vetter - \$30,000

Nicole Anderson - \$5,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to cash salary, the following person(s) will be paid the following amount instead of being furnished a parsonage in which to live, and this additional amount is hereby designated as a housing allowance for the calendar year 2026 and all future years unless otherwise provided:

Joel Winckler - \$25,548

Dan Bader - \$25,548

Rebecca Trefz - \$25,548

Kris Mutzenberger - \$25,548

Brandon Vetter - \$25,548

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during the interim between meetings, the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church authorizes the Conference Human Resources Committee to designate housing and parsonage allowances in accordance with section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. Such designations are to be recorded in the official minutes of that Committee.

2.4 Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired, and Disabled Clergy Persons of the Dakotas Conference

The Dakotas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the church and of this conference was and is to provide active clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for clergypersons who are or were members of this conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits & Investments (“WBI”), during the calendar year 2026 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including

such payments from Wespath (WBI) and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath (WBI) plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson of this conference rendered to any local church, Annual Conference of the church, general agency of the church, other institution of the church, former denomination that is now a part of the church, or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the church (such as this conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion

2.5 Board of Ordained Ministry Policies

WHEREAS, The current divorce policy of the Dakotas Conference is outdated, approved in 1995.

WHEREAS, The responsibilities of the District Superintendent, as outlined in paragraph 419.6 (2020/2024 BOD), include care of the pastor in care, the divorce policy is redundant.

WHEREAS, There is no specific action of care for other areas of pastoral crisis.

WHEREAS, the current policy is invasive into the life of the pastor and the pastoral family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Dakotas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, move to remove the Separation/Divorce Guidelines for Ordained Clergy policy, Adopted in 1995, from the Dakotas Conference Journal.

RATIONALE: Upon the request of Bishop Lanette Plambeck, the Dakotas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has been working to review and update conference policies found in our Dakotas Conference Journal. Upon consulting policies of neighboring United Methodist Conferences and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women of The United Methodist Church (GCSRW), it was brought to our attention that the Book of Discipline already has policies and recommendations in place that we should adhere to. Their recommendation was to use the Book of Discipline as a guide, rather than have our own separate set of Guidelines. After much prayer and discussion, it was determined this is our best way forward for this particular policy.



Rev. Kris Muztenberger, right, Northeast District Superintendent, presented Monte Krchnavy, left, president of the Administrative Board at Lisbon UMC, with the One Matters Award.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

Youth Ministry Awards

(photos by J. Lynn Studios)



Youth Worker of the Year Award

Members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry presented the Darrel Leach Youth Worker of the Year Award to Stacy Oltmanns, Alexandria UMC.



Youth Worker Hall of Fame Award

The Youth Worker Hall of Fame Award was presented to Rev. John Britt, Piedmont Grace.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Minutes of the **Dakotas** Annual Conference
Held in Mitchell, South Dakota
From June 6, 2025, through June 8, 2025
Bishop Lanette Plambeck Presiding
Organized January 1, 1994 – Session Thirty-Two (32)

PART I ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Who are elected for the quadrennium (§§603.7, 619)

Secretary Amber Laffey

Mailing Address: 1331 University Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
Telephone: 605-996-6552
Email: conference.secretary@dakotasumc.org

Statistician Joel Winckler

Mailing Address: 1331 University Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
Telephone: 605-996-6552
Email: joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org

Treasurer Jim Ducker

Mailing Address: 1331 University Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
Telephone: 605-996-6552
Email: jim.ducker@dakotasumc.org

2. Is the Annual Conference incorporated (§603.1) Yes

3. Bonding and auditing:

Which officers handling funds of the conference have been bonded, and indicate amount bonded (§§618, 2511):
Employee dishonest coverage in the amount of \$100,000 plus \$1,000,000 for any natural person whether compensated or not who is an annual conference treasurer or trustee or a member of their staff who reports and is accountable to a conference treasurer or trustee and who receives or disperses, or handles funds which are the responsibility of the conference treasurer or trustee and any natural person, whether compensated or not, who is an annual conference president or chairperson of a conference council on finance and administration.
Have the books of said officers or persons been audited (§§617, 2511) Yes (see report of Journal)

4. Who has been assigned or elected for the agencies listed below?

a) Please list the information for elected chairpersons for the mandated structures listed below:

Structure	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
Conference Council on Finance and Administration (§611)	Ray Baker	See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (§634)	Katie Ricke	See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Pensions (§638)	Curtis VanDyke	See website	See website	See website
Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference (§641, §2512)	Kathy Chesney	See website	See website	See website
Conference Committee on Episcopacy (§636)	Beata Ferris	See website	See website	See website
Conference Administrative Review Committee (§635)(v)	Stephen Perry	See website	See website	See website
United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) (§647)	Colleen McKirdy	See website	See website	See website

General Commission on United Methodist Men (§648)	To be filled			
Conference Commission on Archives and History (§641)	To be filled			

- b) Indicate the name of the agency (or agencies) and the chairperson(s) in your annual conference who is (are) responsible for the functions related to each of the following general church agencies (§610.1):

General Agency	Conference Agency	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
Conference Board of Church and Society (§628)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Discipleship (§629)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Global Ministry (§632)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§633)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Christian Unity and Inter-religious (§642)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website
Commission on Religion and Race (§643)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (§644)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Commissions on Communications (§646)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website

- c) Indicate the conference agencies/organizations and chairperson(s) or equivalent responsible for the following functions:

General Agency / Organization	Name of Agency	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (§657)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Committee on Disability Concerns (§653)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website
Commission on Equitable Compensation (§624)	Generating Missional Resources		See website	See website	See website
Conference Board of Laity (§630)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Committee on Native American Ministry (§654)	Extending Missional Impact	Marty Toepke-Floyd Karl Kroger	See website	See website	See website
Conference Commission on Small Membership Church (§645)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Conference Council on Youth Ministry (§649)	CCYM	Peggy Hanson	See website	See website	See website
Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry (§650)	Developing Missional Leaders	Melissa Gall	See website	See website	See website
Director of Connectional Ministries (§608)	--	Rebecca Trefz	See website	See website	See website
Conference Chancellor	--	Eric Olson Nancy Oviatt	See website	See website	See website
Conference Journal Editor	--	Rebecca Trefz	See website	See website	See website

Conference Communicator	--	Rebecca Trefz	See website	See website	See website
The Committee on Investigation (§2703)	--	Doug Diehl Jenene Earl JoAnne Ottmar Terry Prendergast	See website	See website	See website

d) List any chairperson and accompanying information for persons elected to the following district boards and committees:

Boards/Committees	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
District Boards of Church Location & Building (§2519)	No chairs	See website	See website	See website
Committees on District Superintendency (§669)	Robbie Daugherty, NE Lisa Rhodes, NW Nancy Hallenbeck, SE JoAnne Hipple, SW	See website	See website	See website
District Committees on Ordained Ministry (§666)	Becky Holten, NE Rick Craig, NW Valerie Hummel-LaBounty, SE Connie Smith, SE Jeff Lathrop, SW	See website	See website	See website

e) List any other councils, boards, commissions, or committees with persons appointed or elected in the annual conference:

Structure	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
Common Table	Jeanne Sortland	See website	See website	See website
Human Resources	Nancy Bohlen	See website	See website	See website
Nominations	TBD	See website	See website	See website
Extended Cabinet	Bishop Plambeck	See website	See website	See website
Camping and Retreat Ministry	Tyrel Schlecht	See website	See website	See website
Records, Rules and Procedures	Rebecca Trefz	See website	See website	See website
Disaster Response	Karl Rockeman	See website	See website	See website
Sessions	Kay Braun	See website	See website	See website
Resolutions and General Conference Petitions	Rebecca Trefz	See website	See website	See website

5. Please affirm the secretaries, treasurers, and statisticians kept and reported their respective data in accordance with the prescribed formats (§606.8)? In consultation with GCFA, we have provided complete annual statistics forms to be completed by each local church.

6. What is the schedule of minimum base compensation for clergy for the ensuing year (§342, 624.3):
See Equitable Compensation journal report attached for your reference.

	Full Members	Associate Members	Provisional Members	Local Pastors
Full Time	\$51,140			
¾ Time	\$48,780			
½ Time				
¼ Time				

7. What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the conference to be raised for the support of the district superintendents for the ensuing year (§614.1a):

\$517,075 (Approved by CFA and pending review by Common Table – to be ratified by AC in June 2025).

Please note: This amount includes \$85,000 budgeted for clergy move expenses which is budgeted under the DS section of the budget.

8. a) What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the conference to be raised for the support of the pension and benefit programs of the conference for the ensuing year (§614.1d, 638.25, 1507)? \$0
b) What are the apportionments to this conference for the ensuing year:
(See GCFA apportionment report attached – Dakotas is top line figures)

(1) For the World Service Fund	\$235,150
(2) For the Ministerial Education Fund	\$81,338
(3) For the Black College Fund	\$32,445
(4) For the Africa University Fund	\$7,261
(5) For the Episcopal Fund	\$115,909
(6) For the General Administration Fund	\$39,742
(7) For the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$3,366

9. List all conference and district lay leaders (§§603.9, 660):

a) Conference lay leader:

Name	Position Title	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
John Srtka	Conference Co-Lay Leader	See website	See website	See website
Karl Rockeman	Conference Co-Lay Leader	See website	See website	See website

b) Associate conference lay leaders:

Name	Position Title	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
n/a				

c) District and associate district lay leaders. Please be sure to add the district name to each:

Name	District	Position Title	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
Elizabeth Ewing-Lee	Northeast	NE District lay leader	See website	See website	See website
Lisa Rhodes	Northwest	NW District lay leader	See website	See website	See website
Nancy Hallenbeck	Southeast	SE District lay leader	See website	See website	See website
Jo Anne Hipple	Southwest	SW District lay leader	See website	See website	See website

PART II ORGANIZED AND CLOSED CHURCHES

Please provide a summary of the following:

Number of districts	4
Number of charges/circuits	128
Number of organized churches	161
Number of preaching places	TBD

10. List local churches which have been:

- a) Organized or continued as **New Church Starts** (§259.1). Continue to list congregations here until listed in questions 10. c, d, e, or f. Only add church type if blended congregations, new expressions, new faith community or other established type.

GCNO	Church Name	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone Number	Date Founded	Church Type
n/a							

- b) Organized or continued as **Mission Congregations** (§259.1a). Continue to list congregations here until listed in questions 10.c, d, e, or f:

GCNO	Church Name	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone Number	Date Founded	Church Type
n/a							

- c) Organized or continued **Satellite Congregations** (§247.23). Continue to list here until listed in questions 10.a, d, e, or f:

GCNO	Church Name	Parent Church	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone Number	Date Launched
n/a							

- d) Organized as **Chartered** (§259.5-10):

GCNO	Church Name	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone Number	Date Chartered
n/a						

- e) Merged (§2546, 2547). Remember to indicate if this is a *consolidated* or *consumed* merger type:

- (1) United Methodist with United Methodist:

GCNO	Name of First Church	GCNO	Name of Second Church	New GCNO	Name of Merged Church	District	Date Merged	Merger Type
n/a								

- (2) United Methodist with Interdenominational. The newly merged church will receive a new GCNO:

GCNO	Name of First Church	GCNO	Name of Second Church	New GCNO	Name of Merged Church	District	Date Merged	Merger Type
n/a								

- f) Discontinued, abandoned, withdrawn, unreported disaffiliated 2023 action's (§641), separated, exigent circumstances or financial. Include the reason for closure for each church listed.

(1) New Church Start (§259.1)

GCNO	Church Name	District	Charge	Date Closed	Reason for Closure
	Sioux Falls 'The Collective'	Southeast	Sioux Falls, SD	July 1, 2024	

(2) Mission Congregation (§259.1a)

GCNO	Church Name	District	Charge	Date Closed	Reason for Closure
n/a					

(3) Satellite Congregation (§249.22)

GCNO	Church Name	District	Charge	Date Closed	Reason for Closure
540972	Embrace Tea	Southeast	Tea, SD	Dec.31, 2024	Discontinued
540972	Embrace Sertoma	Southeast	Sioux Falls, SD	Dec.31, 2024	Discontinued
n/a	Bismarck Legacy South	Northwest	Bismarck, ND	July 14, 2024	Discontinued

(4) Chartered Local Church (§259.5)

GCNO	Church Name	District	Charge	Date Closed	Reason for Closure
543202	Moffit	Northwest	Moffit, ND	Sept.12, 2024	closed
540972	Sioux Falls Embrace	Southeast	Sioux Falls, SD	Dec.31, 2024	discontinued
540620	Hamilton	Northeast	Hamilton, ND	March 1, 2025	closed

- g) Readmission of Disaffiliated Church to the UMC (§2553). Churches will receive a new GCNO for the newly admitted church:

Church Name	District	Old GCNO	Charge	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Date Readmitted
n/a						

- h) Moved physical location and indicate new address:

GCNO	Church Name	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Date Relocated
n/a					

- i) Changed name of church – For example, "First" to "Trinity":

GCNO	Former Name	New Name	Mailing Address	Physical Address	District	Effective Date
n/a						

- j) Transferred this year into this conference from other United Methodist conference(s) and include membership (§42, 260)

GCNO	Church Name	Membership	Sending Conference
n/a			

- k) What cooperative parishes in structured forms have been established (§206)

GCFA Parish Number	Local Parish Number	Parish Name	GCNO	Church Name	District
n/a					

- l) Organized or continued as Wesley Foundations:

GCNO	Church Name	District	Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone Number	District
n/a						

11. List all Ecumenical Shared Ministries in the conference (§207, 208)

- a) Federated church

GCNO Number	Name	District	Shared Denomination(s)
999476	Carrington	Northwest	UCC
542867	Ellendale	Northwest	PC-USA
999498	Grafton	Northeast	PC-USA
540700	Hillsboro	Northeast	UCC
548784	Hot Springs	Southwest	PC-USA, AB
999487	Park River	Northeast	PC-USA
549004	Philip	Southwest	PC-USA
549243	Timber Lake	Southwest	ELCA, AB
548124	Woonsocket	Southeast	ELCA

b) Union Church

GCNO Number	Name	District	Shared Denomination(s)
548000	Alpena United	Southeast	UCC
541420	Bottineau United	Northwest	PC-USA
546967	Canistota United	Southeast	PC-USA
548603	Edgemont United	Southwest	UCC
545688	Elkton United	Southeast	UCC
547324	Garretson United	Southeast	UCC
542220	Rugby Emmanuel United	Northwest	PC-USA

c) Merged Church

GCNO Number	Name	District	Shared Denomination(s)
n/a			

d) Yoked Parish

GCNO Number	Name	District	Shared Denomination(s)
545267	Lake Preston UMC/UCC, Lake Preston UCC	Southeast	UCC
548682	Faith UMC, Marcus PC-USA	Southwest	PC-USA
999498	Grafton Federated, Minto Knox PC-USA	Northeast	PC-USA
542696	Holmes UMC, Sharon Trinity ELCA, Beaver Creek ELCA	Northeast	ELCA
541908	Lansford UMC, Lansford ELCA, Glenburn ELCA	Northwest	ELCA
540824	Larimore UMC, Arvilla PC-USA	Northeast	PC-USA
999487	Park River Federated, Fordville PC-USA	Northeast	PC-USA
549004	Philip Federated, Interior PC-USA	Southwest	PC-USA
549243	Timber Lake Federated, Isabell UCC	Southwest	ELCA, UCC, AB

12. What changes have been made in districts and charge lines. Please list the GCNO beside each church name.

GCNO/ Church (1)	GCNO/ Church (2)	GCNO/ Church (3)	Old Charge	New Charge	Old District	New District
n/a						

a) District Move Changes

GCNO Number	Church Name	Old District	New District
n/a			

b) Alignment/Charge Line Changes

GCNO Number	Name	District	Old Charge	New Charge
540403	Drayton	Northeast	Drayton/ Pembina/ Humboldt MN	Drayton
541008 / 642923	Pembina/ Humboldt MN	Northeast	Drayton/ Pembina/ Humboldt MN	Pembina/ Humboldt MN
545405	Britton	Northeast	Britton	Britton/ Groton/ Conde

PART III PERTAINING TO ORDAINED AND LICENSED CLERGY

Note: A (v) notation following a question in this section signifies that the action or election requires a majority vote of the clergy session of the annual conference. If an action requires more than a simple majority, the notation (2/3v 3v) or (3/4v 4v) signifies that a two-thirds or three-fourths majority vote is required. Please be sure to indicate credentials. Indicate credentials of persons in Part III: FD, FE, PD, PE, and AM, when requested.

13. Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration (§604.4, 605.7)?
None of us is blameless before God, all stand in need of the continual grace of God. We give thanks for the faithful ministries of the clergy members of the annual conference. The character and conference relations of all clergy members have been reviewed by the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry, and those clergy found to be in good standing are approved for annual appointment. All grievances and charges are resolved or are under supervisory care.
14. Please list information regarding elected members for the Administrative Review Committee, The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Committee on Investigation:

Committee	Chairperson	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email
The Administrative Review Committee (§635)	Stephen Perry	See website	See website	See website
The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry (§634.1d)	Sharla McCaskell	See website	See website	See website
The Committee on Investigation (§2703)	Douglas Diehl / Clergy Jenene Earl / Clergy Joanne Ottmar / Lay Terry Prendergast / Lay	See website	See website	See website

15. List all certified candidates (§§ 310, 313, 314). List alphabetically.

NOTE: Everyone who wants to become an LP, PE, or PD must first become a certified candidate.

a) List individuals currently certified as candidates for ordained or licensed ministry:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	Date Certified	Last Recertification
Fjerestad	Eric	--	Southeast	2024	2024
Gilkerson	Carrie	--	Northwest	2024	2025
Loaeza	Manuel	--	Southeast	2000	2025
Luft	Lisa	--	Northwest	2025	2025
Plueddeman	Andrea	--	Northwest	2022	2024
McDowell	Timothy	--	Northwest	2024	2025
Rowenhorst	Melissa	--	Southeast	2022	2023
Stefan	Janson	--	Northeast	2019	2024

b) List certified candidates have transferred into your Annual Conference from another Annual Conference

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Transferring Conference	Date Certified	Date Accepted in your AC	Last Recertification Date
Clough	Bennett	--	North Georgia	2019	June 2025	

c) List individuals whose candidacy for ordained or licensed ministry has been accepted by a District Committee on Ordained Ministry in another annual conference:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Receiving Conference	Date Originally Certified/Year	Date Accepted by District in Other Conference
Buck	Natalie	--	North Carolina	2017	2025

d) List individuals discontinued as certified candidates for licensed or ordained ministry (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	Date Certified	Date Discontinued
Buchholz	Jordan	--	Southeast	2020	2025

e) List certified candidates who have been reinstated into your Annual Conference (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Discontinued	District	Date Reinstated
n/a					

16. List individuals who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor, are approved, but are not currently appointed (§315). Indicate for each person the year the license was approved:(3/4v). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	Year Licensed Approved	Course of Study/Courses Completed	Last Renewal Date
Loaeza	Manuel	--	Southeast	2017		
Rowenhorst	Melissa	--	Southeast	2022		

17. Who are approved and appointed as:

NOTE: For each person, please indicate the first year the license was awarded and the progress each has made within the course of study or the name of the seminary in which they are enrolled. In addition, indicate with an asterisk those who have completed the five-year course of study or the M.Div. (§319.4)

NOTE: Persons on this list must receive an episcopal appointment. (3/4 v) List alphabetically.

a) Full-time local pastors (§318.1)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	First Year License Awarded	Course of Study/Courses Completed	Last Renewal Date
Blackburn	Robert	--	Northwest	2021		2025
*Britt	John	--	Southwest	2012	*Completed 2018	2025
*Christensen	Jason	--	Southwest	2018	*MDiv 2021	2025
Clough	Bennett	--	Southeast	2018 (Transfer 2025)		
*Craig	Rick	--	Northwest	2004	*Completed 2009	2025

Dunham	Brandon	--	Southeast	2018	SFS – Kairos	2024
Fleming	Veronica	--	Northeast	2017	SFS – Kairos	2024
Hafner	Becca	--	Northwest	2023	SFS – Kairos	2025
*Hastings	Kim	--	Southeast	2020	*MDiv 2023	2025
*Huber	Wayne	--	Southeast	2005 (2011 PL to FL)	*Completed 2016	2025
*McCaskell	Sharla	--	Southwest	2004	*Completed 2010	2025
*Moore	Charlie	--	Southeast	2015 (2017 PL to FL)	*MDiv 2023	2025
Nyman	Cheryl	--	Southwest	2016	12 modules	2025
Plueddeman	Paul	--	Northwest	2024	Kairos	2024
*Samuelson	Rydel	--	Southeast	2023	*MDiv 2023	2025
Schomberg	John	--	Southeast	2021	SFS – Kairos	2025
Thrall	Cory	--	Northwest	2014 (2022 FL to PL) (2024 PL to FL)	SFS – Kairos	2025
Trent	Justin	--	Southwest	2024	1 module	2025
*Voeltz	Travis	--	Northwest	2019 (2022 PL to FL)	*SFS-Kairos	2025

- b) Part-time local pastors (§318.2) Show the fraction of full-time in one-quarter increments:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	First Year License Awarded	Fraction of time to be served	Course of Study/ Courses Completed	Last Renewal Date
*Anderson	John	E	Southeast	2020	3/4	*MTS 2006	2025
Bohn	Tiana	--	Northeast	2021	1/4	SFS – Kairos	2025
Bush	Tara	--	Southeast	2023	1/2	SFS – Kairos	2025
Dorfman	Tiff	--	Southeast	2021	1/2	4 modules	2025
*Eichinger	Connie	--	Southwest	2012	1/2	*Completed 2025	2025
Ennen	Rita	--	Northwest	2023	1/2	Garrett-Evangelical	2025
Felberg	Tia	--	Southeast	2020	3/4	SFS - Kairos	2025
*Gregg	Brian	--	Southeast	2019	1/4	*MDiv 2000	2025
Harwood	Randy	--	Northeast	2014	1/2	SFS – Kairos	2024
Irvine	Jesse	--	Northeast	2022	3/4	SFS – Kairos	2024
*Jennys	Susan	--	Southeast	2008	3/4	*Completed 2023	2025
Keehner	George	--	Southwest	2024	1/2	1 module	2025
Kuper	Donna	--	Southeast	2018	1/4	GETS	2025
Luft	Lisa	--	Northwest	2025	1/2		
Minnich-Kjesbo	Jordan	--	Southeast	2022	1/2	SFS – Kairos	2025
Sayler	Judy	--	Southeast	2014	3/4	18 modules	2025
Stangohr	Diane	--	Southeast	2022	3/4	4 modules	2024
*Vanderlip	Don	--	Southeast	2016	3/4	*MDiv 2009	2024
Wicks	Brenda	--	Southeast	2019	1/4	7 modules	2024
Willprecht	Josh	--	Southeast	2021	1/4	SFS - Kairos	2024

- c) Students from other annual conferences or denominations serving as local pastors and enrolled in a school of theology listed by the University Senate (§318.5)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	First Year License Awarded	Seminary	Home Conference
n/a					

- d) Students who have been certified as candidates in your annual conference and are serving as local pastors in another annual conference while enrolled in a school of theology listed by the University Senate (§318.3)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Serving Conference	Enrolled Seminary	Last Renewal Date
n/a					

- e) Persons serving as local pastors while seeking readmission to conference membership (§366.4, 367, 368, 369.3) (If not in this conference indicate name of conference where serving.)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Serving Conference	Course of Study/Seminary
n/a				

- f) Who are approved for an annual extension beyond the prescribed limit of time of completed Course of Study as recommended by DCOM and BOM (§318.3) (v)?

1) Full Time

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Year Licensed	Course of Study/ Courses Completed
n/a				

2) Part Time

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Year Licensed	Course of Study/ Courses Completed
n/a				

g) Retired Local Pastors Under Appointment

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	First Year License Awarded	Course of Study/ Courses Completed	Last Renewal Date	Fraction of Time to be Served
Larson	Kris	--	Southeast	1997	COS completed 2018		1/2
Sapp	Marlin	--	Northwest	2007	COS completed 2014	2025	3/4
Sorensen	Raenelle	--	Northeast	2008	16 modules	2022	1/2
Turner	Mark	--	Northwest	2006	MDiv 2013	2025	1/2
Vore	Jeffrey	--	Southeast	2011	7 modules		1/4

18. List individuals who are discontinued as local pastors (§320.1). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Discontinued
Early	Andy	--	Sept.3, 2024

19. List individuals reinstated as local pastors (§320.4) (v) List alphabetically

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Discontinued	Reinstated Effective Date	Course of Study/ Seminary
n/a					

20. List clergy members (ordained, provisional and local pastors) from other annual conferences or Methodist denominations who are approved for appointment in the Annual Conference while retaining their conference or denominational membership (§§318.4, 331.4, 346.1). List alphabetically

a) Annual Conferences

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Home Conference	Clergy Status	Year When Service in Your AC began	Year Approved
Klein	Shandon	--	Texas	OE	2024	2024

b) Other Methodist Denominations

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Denomination	Clergy Status	Year When Service in your AC began	Year Approved
n/a						

21. List clergy in full connection appointed to a missionary conference who is considered an affiliated member of the missionary conference while retaining membership in their home conference. (§586.4b) List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Missionary Conference	Clergy Status	Year When Service in Your AC began	Year Approved
n/a						

22. List what clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations who have been approved to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation (§§331.4, 346.1) (v) Designate with an asterisk those who have been accorded voting rights within the annual conference. Indicate credential. List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Denomination	Year When Service in your AC began
Belzer	Chuck	--	OL	UCC (United Church of Christ)	2021
Cook	David	--	OL	PC USA (Presbyterian Church)	2019
Dill	Robin	--	OF	PC USA (Presbyterian Church)	2016
Isakson Cook	Laura	--	OF	EC (Evangelical Covenant)	2024
Jennys	David	--	OF	UCC (United Church of Christ)	2025
*Junker	Daren	--	OF	AB (American Baptist)	2003
Loewen	Rick	--	OF	CCCC (Conservative Congregational Christian Conf.)	2017
*Snethen	Ron	--	OF	NAZ (Nazarene)	1992

23. List individuals who are affiliate members: List alphabetically. Be sure to indicate the annual conference or denomination where membership is held.

a) With vote (§586.4b) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Member Conference/ Denomination	First Year of Affiliation
n/a				

b) Without vote (§348) (2/3v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Member Conference/ Denomination	First Year of Affiliation
n/a				

24. List persons elected as associate members §321 (3/4v) In addition, if persons have been admitted by another annual conference as a courtesy to your conference, please indicate the name of the accepting conference and date of admission if applicable. List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a				

25. List individuals Who are **newly elected** as provisional members and what seminary they are attending, if in school (under §§322.4, 324, 325). List alphabetically.

a) Provisional Deacons under the provisions of § 324.4b (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary
Heagel	Kara	--	Wesley Theological Seminary – MDiv 2021

b) Provisional Elders under the provisions of § 324.4b (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary
Anderson	Davis	--	Southern Methodist University
Johnson	Taylor	--	Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary & Kairos University
Ragels	Taryn	--	Indiana Wesleyan University & Kairos University
Sherman	Laura	--	Duke University

26. List individuals who are **continued** as provisional members, and what seminary are they attending, if in school (§§326, 327v). List alphabetically

In preparation for ordination as a deacon or elder (§326)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Commission Year	Seminary
*Carlson	Annie	--	PE	2024	MDiv Kairos University
*Coates	Cindy	H.	PE	2024	MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary
*Dinger	Don	--	PE	2023	MDiv Kairos University
*Ducker	Krista	--	PD	2023	MDiv Kairos University
*Eliason	Stephanie	--	PE	2024	MDiv Kairos University
*Galbreath	Allison	--	PE	2024	MDiv Wesley Theological Seminary
*Johnson	Andrea	--	PE	2023	MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary
*Knock	Rodney	--	PE	2021	MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary
*Laffey	Amber	--	PD	2023	MDiv Kairos University
*Prouty-Cole	Sandee	--	PD	2022	MDiv Iliff School of Theology
*Whetsel	Teresa	--	PE	2022	MDiv Kairos University

a) Provisional deacons who became provisional elders (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Coates	Cindy	H.

c) Provisional elders who became provisional deacons (v) Be sure to indicate year.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Year
Ducker	Krista	--	2025

d) Provisional members who transferred from other conferences or denominations (§347.1) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Commission Year	Seminary	Previous Conference/ Denomination
n/a						

27. List ordained clergy that have been received from other Christian denominations (§347.3). List alphabetically. In addition, if persons have been admitted by another annual conference as a courtesy to your conference, please indicate the name of the accepting conference and date of admission if applicable.

a) As provisional members (§347.6a) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Received	Previous Denomination	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a							

- b) As local pastors (§347.3) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Received	Previous Denomination	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a							

28. List ordained clergy, coming from other Christian denominations, have had their orders recognized (§347). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Received	Previous Denomination
n/a					

29. List persons elected as members in full connection. List alphabetically. In addition, list members in full connection that have been admitted by another annual conference as a courtesy to your conference, indicating the name of the accepting conference and date of admission, if applicable

- a) Deacons (§330) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a				

- b) Elders (§335) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
Ackerman	Quaya	--	n/a	n/a
Blank	Bryce	--	n/a	n/a
Certa-Werner	Thanael	--	n/a	n/a
Gregg	Julie	--	n/a	n/a
Person	Teresa	--	n/a	n/a

30. List persons ordained as deacons and which seminary awarded their degree. If their master's degree is not from a seminary, at which seminary did they complete the basic graduate theological studies: List alphabetically. In addition, list those ordained as deacons that have been admitted by another annual conference as a courtesy to your conference, indicating the name of the accepting conference and date of admission if applicable

- a) After provisional membership (§330) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a					

- b) Transfer from elder (§309) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a					

31. List individuals who are ordained as elders and what seminary awarded their degree. List alphabetically.

- a) After provisional membership (§335) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary
Ackerman	Quaya	--	Sioux Falls Seminary
Blank	Bryce	--	Perkins School of Theology
Certa-Werner	Thanael	--	Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Gregg	Julie	--	Fuller Theological Seminary
Person	Teresa	--	Kairos University

- b) Transfer from deacon (§309) (3/4v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Seminary
n/a			

32. What provisional members, previously discontinued, are readmitted (§365) (v) List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Prior Clergy Status	Effective Date of Discontinue	¶ or Reason (Note)
n/a					

33. List individuals who are readmitted (§365-369 [v], §369 [2/3v]). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Prior Clergy Status	New Clergy Status	Date Left Conference	Effective Date of Readmission	¶ or Reason (Note)
n/a							

34. List individuals who have returned to the effective relationship after voluntary retirement (§358.7): (v) List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Prior Clergy Status	New Clergy Status	Date Left Conference	Effective Date of Readmission	¶ or Reason (Note)
n/a							

35. List individuals who have been received by transfer from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§§347.1, 416.5, 635.2n). List alphabetically. (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Previous Conference	Date of Transfer
Clough	Bennett	--	FL	North Georgia	2025

36. List individuals who are transferred in from other Methodist denominations (§§347.2, 346.2). List alphabetically. Indicate credential.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Receiving Clergy Status	Previous Methodist Denomination	Date of Transfer
n/a					

37. List individuals who have been ordained as a courtesy to other conferences, after election by the other conference. List alphabetically. If your conference has admitted or ordained persons as a courtesy to another conference, please list these persons below. Such courtesy elections or ordinations do not require transfer of conference membership.

a) Deacons

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Member Conference	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a					

b) Elders

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Member Conference	Accepting Conference	Date of Admission
n/a					

38. List individuals who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§416.5).

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	New Conference	Date of Transfer
n/a					

39. List individuals who are discontinued as provisional members (§327) (v). List alphabetically.

a) By expiration of eight-year time limit (§ 327)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Provisional Clergy Status (PE or PD)	Year Became Provisional
n/a				

b) By voluntary discontinuance (§ 327.6) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Provisional Clergy Status (PE or PD)	Year Became Provisional
n/a				

c) By involuntary discontinuance (§ 327.6) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Provisional Clergy Status (PE or PD)	Year Became Provisional
n/a				

d) By reaching Mandatory Retirement Age (§ 327.7)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Provisional Clergy Status (PE or PD)	Year Became Provisional
n/a				

40. List individuals who have had their conference membership terminated. List alphabetically

a) By withdrawal to unite with another denomination (§361.1, .4)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status	New Reported Denomination
Early	Andy	--	Sept.3, 2024	PL	
Schnabel	Perry	--	Dec.12, 2024	RE	
Finke	Travis	--	Dec.31, 2024	PL	
Rock	Brian	--	Dec.31, 2024	PL	
Smith	Chuck	--	Dec.31, 2024	PL	
Waltner	Travis	--	Dec.31, 2024	PL	
Weber	Adam	--	Dec.31, 2024	FE	

b) By withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office (§361.2, 4)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status
n/a				

c) By withdrawal under complaints or charges (§361.3, 4; 2720.2)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status
n/a				

d) By trial (§2713)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status
n/a				

41. List individuals suspended under the provisions of §§363.7, 2704.2c or 2711.3). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	End Date (if applicable)	Clergy Status
n/a					

42. List of members from your annual conference who have passed away during the year, including those from Administration Location. List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Clergy Status
Brockway	Alan	--	03-23-1932	06-15-2024	RE
Gist	Rod	--	10-04-1926	06-22-2024	RE
Jennewein	Lin	--	06-25-1936	09-17-2024	RE
McKirdy	Wayne	--	06-09-1929	01-26-2025	RE
Moe	Pete	--	09-19-1932	01-03-2025	RE
Ritter	Penny	--	03-17-1947	08-19-2024	RE
Smith	Roger	--	01-01-1926	07-31-2024	RE

43. List clergy members who have received appointments in other Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church while retaining their membership in this Annual Conference. List alphabetically.

a) Provisional or ordained members (elders and deacons) (§331.4, 346.1)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Conference Where Appointed	Appointment / Time	Effective Date of Appointment
Anderson	Jennifer	--	FE	Minnesota	7/1/2017	
Bartel	Andy	--	FE	Alaska	7/1/2015	
Bockwoldt	Stan	--	FE	Wisconsin	7/1/2015	
Johnson	Taylor	--	PE	Minnesota	7/1/2025	
Krueger	Autumn	--	FE	Alaska	7/1/2017	
Nelson	Clifford	--	RE	Minnesota	6/1/2020	
Van Meter	Eric	--	FE	Kentucky	1/1/2024	

b) Local Pastors are Serving on Loan (§318.4)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Conference Where Appointed	Appointment / Time	Effective Date of Appointment
Stoll	Shawn	--	FL	Minnesota	Full-Time	July 1, 2025

c) Associated Members (§346.1)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Conference Where Appointed	Appointment /Time	Effective Date of Appointment
n/a						

d) Affiliated Members appointed to missionary conference with vote (§586)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Conference Where Appointed	Appointment /Time	Effective Date of Appointment
n/a						

44. List provisional, ordained members or associate members on leave of absence and for what number of years consecutively has each held this relation (§354). Indicate credential and record Charge Conference where membership is held. List alphabetically.

a) Voluntary Leave of Absence

(1) 5 years or less (§3542a-b, 3) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	Type of Leave	Charge Conference
n/a						

(2) more than 5 years (§3543.2a-b, 3) (2/3v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	Type of Leave	Charge Conference
n/a						

b) Transitional Leave(¶354.2c)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	End Date	Charge Conference
Thompson	Janice	--	FE	7/1/2025		
Prouty-Cole	Sandee	--	PD	5/12/2025		

c) Involuntary

(1) Involuntary Leave (¶ 355) (2/3v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	End Date	Charge Conference
n/a						

(2) Ad Interim Involuntary Leave (JCD 1355) (v) List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	End Date	Charge Conference
n/a						

45. List individuals who are granted sabbatical leave (¶352) (v). List alphabetically.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	End Date	Charge Conference
n/a						

46. List individuals granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (¶357) (v). List alphabetically

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	End Date	Charge Conference
Baird	Howard	--	FE	5/4/2017		
Broschat	Lori	--	FE	6/1/2021		
Kloster	Kevin	--	FE	10/1/2020		
Zeck	Rich	--	FE	7/1/2023		

47. List members in full connection who have been retired (¶358): **List** alphabetically - If retiring in the interim between conference sessions (¶358.2d), indicate the effective date of retirement. (Under ¶358.1, *no vote* required; under ¶358.2, *v*; under ¶358.3, *v 2/3*)

Deacons

a) This year

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
n/a			

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Brennan	Michelle	--	12/31/2021

Elders

a) This year

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Baker	Ray	--	7/1/2025
Freed	Dan	--	12/31/2024
Gross	Jan	--	7/1/2025
Jacobsen	David	--	1/1/2025
Olson	Ron	--	7/1/2025

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Adel	Jeff	--	2024
*Aleson	Darrel	J.	2011
*Aleson	Dennis	E.	2009
Anderson	Peder	O.	2014
*Andrews	David	A.	2008
*Andrews	Donald	E.	2007
Archer	Royal	--	2020
Arnold	Gail	L.	2011
Baldock	Linda	--	2017
Ball-Kilbourne	Debra	G.	2016
Ball-Kilbourne	Gary	Lee	2013
Banwart	Judy	--	2016
Bass	Gerald	R.	2013
*Bates, Jr.	William	L	2012
Behrens	Hazel	--	2018
Berkenpas	Darlis	A.	2011
Bernard	Mary Ann	--	2023

Blair	Neil	--	2023
*Blumer	Boyd	Ardell	1997
Borman	Laura	--	2016
Boyd	Dick	Willard	2012
Budd	Paul	--	2024
Burns	Jeri	--	2016
*Coates	J. Edwin	--	2005
Crippen	Donald	E.	2014
Culver	Kermit	--	2020
Diehl	Douglas	E.	2014
*Eberhart	Emil	H.	2005
Eberhart	Penelope	V.	2005
Ellingson	Mark	S.	2023
*Elmer	Donald	--	2008
*Erickson	John "Jack"	T.	2006
*Fike	Gerald	A.	2000
*Fisher	Richard	--	2001
*Forbes	Bruce	--	2018
Fossum	Richard	N.	2014
Gellhaus	Dennis	R.	2015
*Gran	William	--	2016
*Gray	Bruce	C.	1998
Grinager	Eric	--	2018
Grinager	Howard	L.	2012
Gronseth	Mark	--	2023
Haggar	Edward	Tom	2014
*Haggin	Leonard	K.	1996
Hall	Mina	--	2018
Hazard	Brian	--	2018
Hazen	Rick	--	2017
*Heetland	David	--	2020
*Hisel	John	W.	2012
Holland	Mark	--	2017
*Hook	F. Eve	--	2007
*Jacoway	John	A.	1996
Jassmann Massingill	Elizabeth	--	2017
*Johnson	Cameron	W.	1994
*Johnson	Ronald	--	2020
Kana-Mackey	J. Sue	--	2009
Katter	John	C.	2006
Kelsey	Elizabeth	--	2014
*Kieras	Peggy	J.	2012
Kistler	Genie	H.	2010
Kjonaas	Donna	S.	2009
Kor	Henry	K.	2009
Kroger	Greg	--	2022
Laudermith	Iva	--	2017
Lavery	Thomas	Edward	2013
Lint	Mary-Lee	--	2015
*Lint	Phillip	E.	2006
*Lutz	Richard	A.	2003
*Mack	David	E.	2000
Mack	Deborah	A.	2011
Maddox	Randy	--	2018
Manning	Nancy	--	2017
*Mayer	Richard	M.	2002
McKeehan	Frank	--	2018
McKnight, Jr.	John	--	2017
McLaird	Donna	J.	2004

*Meier	Dwight	L.	2002
*Meier	Mark	W.	2010
*Meier	Max	E.	1999
Mersch	Patricia	I.	2014
Motta	David	--	2021
*Muthiah	Lionel	P.A.	1992
Nelson	Clifford	--	2017
Nelson	Morris	E.	2011
Nygaard	Julie	--	2016
O'Connell	Susan	K.	2013
*Patrick	James	D.	2008
*Pease	Edward	E.	2006
*Pederson	Kenrad	V.	2015
*Peirce	Russell	M.	1994
Perry	E. Stephen	--	2014
*Petersen	Calvin	L.	1998
Phillips	Mark	--	2022
Phillips	Randy	--	2023
Pittenger	Rick	--	2021
*Rae	Gary	W.	2011
*Reich	Eldon	H.	2014
Rhodes	Warren	--	2016
Richards	Sheila	B.	2006
Rinearson	Dick	--	2019
Ruedebusch	Bob	--	2022
Samuel	Sunandkumar	D.	2013
Sayler	Glen	--	2022
*Scanson	Arthur	H.	2010
*Schott	Walter	J.	1995
*Schwenn	DeVern	E.	2000
Semrad	Jeanne	Gaard	2010
Sheldon	Mary Ann	--	2012
Shlanta-Peasley	Gail	L.	1997
*Simmons	Robert	L.	2004
Spahr	Randall	--	2020
*Spurrell	Marilyn	--	2017
*Stein	K. James	--	1995
Stolp	Gerald	Alvin	2013
*Sykes	Richard	--	2000
*Tieszen	Wayne	L.	2003
Tkach	Rodney	--	2021
*Towler	James	G.	1994
Trapp	Dean	--	2023
*VanEssen	Albartus	Lee	2013
Vorlage	Tim	--	2022
Waisanen	Cori	--	2014
Watt	Donald	A.	2011
*Wenzel	Warren	L.	2001
*Wigen	A. Julian	--	2003
*Wilson	Peary	A.	2006
*Wu	David	C.	2005
Zerface	Peggy	Ann	2013
Ziebarth	Steven	--	2020

48. List associate members who have retired (§358). List alphabetically. If retiring in the interim between conference sessions (§358.2d), indicate the effective date of retirement.) (Under §358.1, *no vote required*; under §358.2, *v*; under §358.3, *v 2/3*)

a) This year

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
n/a			

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Birkeland	David	--	2018
Oates	Muriel	A.	2003
Whitmer	Lou	--	2023

49. Who have been recognized as retired local pastors (§320.5) List alphabetically.

a) This year

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Bensinger	Richard	--	2025
Kidd	Laurie	--	2025

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Effective Date
Ballard	Ken	--	2021
Bailey	Fern	M.	2013
Brandt	Martha	--	2019
Flowers	Mike	--	2023
Guenther	Larry	N.	2007
Johnson	Gary	H.	2016
Konsor	James	--	2019
Kuper	Marlyn	--	2001
Larson	Kris	--	2020
Petersen	Tom	C.	2015
Price	Jan	C.	2012
Rhodes	Grace	C.	2012
Sapp	Marlin	--	2023
Severtson	David	--	2019
Sorensen	Raenelle	--	2018
Speiser	Rae	L.	2011
Turner	Mark	--	2022
Udehn	Kippy	--	2023
Vore	Jeff	--	11/1/2019
Whipkey	Barry	--	2023

50. What is the number of clergy members of the Annual Conference:

a) By appointment category and conference relationship

NOTES:

- (1) Where applicable, the question numbers on this report form corresponding to each category have been placed in parenthesis following the category title. Where these question numbers appear, the number reported in that category should agree with the number of names listed in the corresponding questions.
- (2) For the three categories of Appointments to Extension Ministries, report as follows:
 - ¶344.1a, c): the number of clergy members appointed within United Methodist connectional structures, including district superintendents, or to an ecumenical agency.
 - ¶344.1b): the number of clergy members appointed to extension ministries, under endorsement by the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
 - ¶344.1d): the number of clergy members appointed to other valid ministries, confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference.

Note: Report those in extension ministry in one category only.

See the Discipline paragraphs indicated for more detailed description of these appointment categories.

Note: Those approved to serve as a local pastor, but not currently under appointment, are not counted as clergy members of the conference.

Categories	Deacons in Full Connection	Elders in Full Connection	Provisional Deacons	Provisional Elders	Associate Members & Affiliate Members With Vote	Full-time Local Pastors	Part-time Local Pastors
Pastors and deacons whose primary appointment is to a Local Church (§331.1a, 339) (q72)(q73)		34	1	10	0	22	15
Appointments to Extension Ministries (§317,331.1b; 344.1a,c) (q75a)		10	1	1	0		3
Appointments to Extension Ministries (§317,331.1b; 344.1b) (q75b)		1					
Appointments to Extension Ministries (§317.1; 331.1b; 344.1d) (q75c)		14		1			
Appointments to Attend School (§331.1d) (q76)			1				
Appointed to Other Annual Conferences (q43)		5		1		1	0
On Leave of Absence (q44a1, 2)(q44c1,2) Personal							
On Leave of Absence (q44a1, 2)(q44c1,2) Family							
On Sabbatical Leave (q45)							
On Medical Leave (q46)		4					
On Transitional Leave (q44b)		1	1				
Retired (q47,48,49,53,56,70)	1	142			3	22	
TOTAL NUMBER, Clergy Members	1	211	4	13	3	45	18
GRAND TOTAL, All Conference Clergy Members	297						

b) By gender and racial/ethnic identification?

CLERGY DEMOGRAPHICS

CATEGORIES	DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION			ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION			PROVISIONAL DEACONS		
	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
ASIAN				3	1				
BLACK									
HISPANIC									
NATIVE AMERICAN									
PACIFIC ISLANDER				1					
WHITE		3		144	62			4	
MULTI-RACIAL				2	1				
GRAND TOTAL, ALL CONFERENCE CLERGY MEMBERS*		3		150	64			4	

CATEGORIES	PROVISIONAL ELDERS			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS			AFFILIATE MEMBERS (WITH VOTE)		
	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
ASIAN									
BLACK									
HISPANIC									
NATIVE AMERICAN									
PACIFIC ISLANDER									
WHITE	4	8		1	2				
MULTI-RACIAL									
GRAND TOTAL, ALL CONFERENCE CLERGY MEMBERS*	4	8		1	2				

CATEGORIES	FULL TIME LOCAL PASTORS			PART-TIME LOCAL PASTORS		
	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
ASIAN						
BLACK						
HISPANIC						
NATIVE AMERICAN						
PACIFIC ISLANDER						
WHITE	28	15		7	10	1
MULTI-RACIAL						
GRAND TOTAL, ALL CONFERENCE CLERGY MEMBERS*	28	15		7	10	1

Total Clergy: 297

PART IV HONORABLE LOCATION

51. List individuals granted honorable location (§358.1) List alphabetically.

a) This year (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Charge Conference Membership	Date Effective
n/a					

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Year Originally Granted	Status	Charge Conference Membership	Year of Most Recent Report
Atkins	Amy	--	2022	FE		
Krogman	Travis	--	2022	FE		
Whaley	Russell	--	2014	FE		

52. List individuals on honorable location who are appointed ad interim as local pastors (§358.2) Indicate date and appointment.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Appointment	Year Originally Granted Location
n/a				

53. List individuals who have been granted the status of honorable location--retired (§358.3):

a) This year (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Year Honorable Location Originally Granted	Charge Conference Membership
n/a					

Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Year Honorable Location Originally Granted	Charge Conference Membership
Brinkman	Elmer	--	RE	1977	Watertown First
Geschwinder	Anne	--	RE	1986	
Haidle	Stanley	--	RE	2002	Mitchell Downtown First
Jarman	John	--	RE	1978	Fargo Faith
Kimble	Perry	--	RE	1996	Linton
Renaud	Linda	--	RE	1991	
Rice	Daniel	--	RE	1978	
Rickenbach	Joel	--	RE	1974	Prairie View

54. Who have had their status as honorable located orders terminated (§358.2) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status
n/a				

PART V ADMINISTRATIVE LOCATION

55. List individuals placed on administrative location (§359). List alphabetically

a) This year (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Charge Conference Membership
n/a				

b) Ad Interim Administrative Location (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Charge Conference Membership
n/a				

c) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Year Originally Placed	Charge Conference Membership	Year of Most Recent Report
n/a					

56. Please list individuals granted the status of administrative location-retired (§358.3):

a) This year (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Year Administrative Location Originally Granted	Charge Conference Membership
n/a					

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Year Administrative Location Originally Granted	Charge Conference Membership
n/a					

57. List individuals who have had their status as administrative located orders terminated (§358.2) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective	Prior Clergy Status
n/a				

PART VI CERTIFICATION IN SPECIALIZED MINISTRY

Note: Indicate the credentials of persons in Part III: FD, FE, PD, PE, AM, FL, PL, and LM. List alphabetically

58. List the candidates in process for certification in specialized ministry:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy/Lay Status	Specialized Ministry
Spurrell	Marilyn	--	RE	Spiritual Formation

59. List individuals certified in specialized ministry. List the areas of specialized ministry.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy/Lay Status	Specialized Ministry
Ackerman	Quaya	--	FE	Spiritual Formation Certificate
Brennan	Michelle	--	RD	Associate in Christian Education
Ball-Kilbourne	Debra	--	RE	Minister in Christian Education
Knight	Carolyn	--	Lay	Associate in Christian Education
Laffey	Amber	--	PD	Spiritual Formation Certificate
Prouty-Cole	Sandee	--	PD	Spiritual Formation Certificate

60. List individuals are transferred in as a certified person in specialized ministry.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy/Lay Status	Specialized Ministry	Sending Conference
n/a					

61. List individuals who transferred out as a certified person in specialized ministry.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy/Lay Status	Specialized Ministry	Receiving Conference
n/a					

62. List individuals who have been removed as a certified person in specialized ministry.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy/Lay Status	Specialized Ministry
n/a				

PART VII ASSIGNED LAY MEMBERS

63. List individuals who are lay members serving within your Annual Conference.

a) Certified Lay Ministers (§ 268, and 666.10) (List alphabetically, by district)

District	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date of Certification	End Date of Certification	Last Recertification
Northeast	Johnson-Singery	Joanne	--	2016		2023
Northwest	DuVal	Sharon	--	2012		2025
Northwest	Osborne	Anne	--	2012		2025
Northwest	Rockeman	Karl	--	2023		2024
Southeast	Kenkel	Addy	--	2024		
Southeast	Laible	Laura	--	2025		
Southwest	Bottger	Jerry	--	2016		2024
Southwest	Ferris	Beata	--	2020		2024
Southwest	Madsen	Janet	--	2014		2024
Southwest	Wahlstrom	Richard	--	2015		2024

b) DS Assigned Lay supply (SY - SUPPLIED/HIRED/ASSIGNED) List alphabetically

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	District	Date Assigned	Fraction of Time to be Served	End Date
Losing	Darrell	--	Northwest	2016	1/4	
McDowell	Timothy	--	Northwest	2023		
Peck	Donald	--	Northeast	1995		
Siefken	Loren	--	Northeast	2011		
Siefken	Pat	--	Northeast	2011		

PART VIII DIACONAL MINISTERS

Paragraph numbers in questions 66-72 refer to the 1992 *The Book of Discipline*. List alphabetically

64. List individuals transferred in as diaconal ministers (§312)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Previous Annual Conference	Date
n/a				

65. List individuals who transferred out as diaconal ministers (§312)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Receiving Annual Conference	Date
n/a				

66. List individuals whose conference relationship as diaconal ministers was terminated by Annual Conference action (§313.3) (Under §313.3a, no vote; under §313.3b, v 2/3)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective
n/a			

67. List diaconal ministers granted leaves of absence under §313.1a, c, d) (disability, maternity/paternity, study/sabbatical, or personal leave) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Type of Leave	Date Originally Granted
n/a				

68. List diaconal ministers granted extended leave (§313.1e)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Originally Granted
n/a			

69. List individuals who have returned to active status from extended leave (§313.1e) (v)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Originally Granted
n/a			

70. List individuals who have taken the retired relationship to the Annual Conference as diaconal ministers (§313.2): (Under §313.2b, v 2/3)

a) This year

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective
n/a			

b) Previously

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date Effective
n/a			

PART IX APPOINTMENTS AND CONCLUDING BUSINESS

71. List individuals approved for less than full-time service.

- a) What associate members and elders (full and provisional) are approved for appointment to less than full-time service, what is the total number of years for which such approval has been granted to each, and for what fraction of full-time of service (in one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter increments) is approval granted (§338.2, 342.2, 1506) (v 2/3, after 8 years v 3/4)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Appointment	Total number of years	Start date of First year Appointed	Fraction of Full-Time Service	Requested Leave by pastor, bishop, DS
Budd	Paul	--	RE	John Knox Village	1	2025	LTFT	
Ducker	Krista	--	PD	Chaplain Avera Hospital	3	2023	LTFT	
Hallenbeck Orr	Jennifer	--	FE	HIA Hospice	4	10/4/2023	3/4	
Sortland	Jeanne	--	FE	Wimbledon/Kensal	8	2018	1/2	
Zachrisson	Dayne	--	FE	Devils Lake	3	2023	3/4	

- b) What deacons in full connection and provisional deacons are approved for appointment to less than full-time service (§331.3)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Appointment	Start date of First year Appointed	Fraction of Full-Time Service
Laffey	Amber	--	PD	TBD	2023	1/2
Ducker	Krista	--	PD	Extension	2025	LTFT

72. Who has been appointed as interim pastors under the provisions of §338.3 since the last session of the annual conference, and for what period?

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Appointment	Start Date	End Date
n/a					

73. What elders, deacons (full connection and provisional), associate members, local and supply pastors are appointed to ministry to the local church and where are they appointed for the ensuing year Attach a list. This is your appointment booklet. See Ministry Appointments in the Journal.

74. What changes have been made in appointments since the last annual conference session. Attach list. Include and identify Appointments to Extension Ministries. Give effective dates of all changes. These are your interim appointments.

Date	Name	Status	From (Appointment)	To (Appointment)
6/1/22	Leisa Richards	FE	Retroactive: Legal Services, NM	East River Legal Services, SD
7/1/22	Stanton Bockwoldt	FE	Retroactive: Centenary, Wisconsin Conference	Burlington, Wisconsin Conf.
11/1/22	David Birkeland	RA	Retroactive: Minnesota Conference	Retirement
7/1/24	Shandon Klein	OE	None	Fairmont/ Breckenridge MN (supplied by MN Conference, member of Texas Conference)
7/1/24	Warren Rhodes	RE	McClusky/ Goodrich/Chaseley (1/2)	Goodrich / Chaseley (1/2) (McClusky closed in BAC 2024)

7/1/24	Rebecca Trefz	FE	Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications	Assistant to the Bishop & Supervising Alpena/ Virgil
7/1/24	Jordan Buchholz	CC	New Church Start 'The Collective'	None (remains Cert. Candidate)
7/15/24	Andy Early	PL	Bismarck Legacy (1/2)/ Bismarck Calvary (1/2)	Bismarck Calvary (1/2)
9/1/24	Ray Baker	FE	Fargo Faith	Fargo Faith (3/4) & Hillsboro (1/4)
9/1/24	Tim Bauer	OF	Hillsboro (supplied by UCC)	None
9/3/24	Andy Early	none	Bismarck Calvary (1/2)	Discontinued (no LLP license)
9/16/24	Mark Ehrmantraut	FE	Minot Vincent	Extension The God's Child Project
9/30/24	Justin Iverson	FE	OPROV Illinois Great Rivers Conf.	OPROV Illinois Great Rivers Conf. (1/2) & Ext. St. Louis University Hospital Chaplain (1/2)
9/30/24	Alyssa Quade	SY	Velva (1/4)	None
11/22/24	Carli Steffes	SY	EXT Chaplain (1/4)	None
12/12/24	Perry Schnabel	RE	Retirement	None – withdrawn UMC membership
12/31/24	Adam Weber	FE	Embrace	None – discontinued
12/31/24	Travis Finke	FL	Embrace	None – discontinued
12/31/24	Brian Rock	PL	Embrace	None – discontinued
12/31/24	Travis Waltner	PL	Embrace	None – discontinued
12/31/24	Chuck Smith	PL	Embrace	None – discontinued
12/31/24	Dan Freed	RE	Extension	Retirement, remain Extension as RE
1/1/25	Beata Ferris	CLM	Pierre First (3/4) & Ext. Camp Ministries (1/4)	Pierre First (3/4)
1/1/25	Brenda Wicks	PL	Carpenter & Ext. Care Coordinator (1/4)	Ext. Care Coordinator (1/4)
1/1/25	David Jacobsen	RE	Extension	Retirement
1/1/25	Jen Osterloh	FE	EXT Conf. Office (BAC 2024)	Brookings First
1/1/25	Justin Iverson	FE	OPROV Illinois Great Rivers Conf. (1/2) & EXT St. Louis University Hospital Chaplain (1/2)	Ext. Hospital Chaplain St. Louis University
1/1/25	Jeanine Kersey-Russell	FE	Transitional Leave	Ext. ND Youth Correctional Center
1/1/25	Taryn Ragels	FL	Mitchell Fusion (3/4) & Ext. Campus Ministry (1/4)	Mitchell Fusion (1/2) & Ext. Campus Ministry (1/2)
1/1/25	Tia Felberg	PL	DeSmet / Iroquois (3/4)	DeSmet / Iroquois & Carpenter (supervising) (3/4)
2/3/25	Jordan Buchholz	Cert. Cand.	Certified Candidate	discontinued
3/1/25	John Werth	OF	Hamilton	None
3/9/25	DeAnn Eidem	FE	Ext. Stillwater Hospice (1/2)	Ext. Stillwater Hospice (fulltime) AND REMOVED IN Q71
4/1/25	Lisa Luft	PL	None (New Local Pastor)	Extension Minot Area Care Coordinator (1/2)
5/12/25	Sandee Prouty-Cole	PD	Attend School	Transitional Leave
7/1/25	Laurie Kidd	FL	Hettinger	Retirement as RL
7/1/25	Ray Baker	FE	Fargo Faith (3/4) & Hillsboro United (1/4)	Retirement
7/1/25	Jan Gross	FE	Dell Rapids (3/4)	Retirement
7/1/25	Ron Olson	FE	Parker / Hurley (3/4)	Retirement
7/1/25	Bennett Clough	FL	Transfer as LLP from N. Georgia Conference	Faultkon
7/1/25	Shawn Stoll	OL	Faultkon	Pastor on Loan to the MN Conf.
7/1/25	Krista Ducker	PD	Ben Clare (1/4) & Ext. Avera Chaplain (1/2)	Ext. Avera Hospital Chaplain (Less Than Full Time - LTFT)
7/1/25	Jordan Louks	FE	Sioux Falls First	Fargo Faith
7/1/25	Chang Yi	FE	Grand Forks Zion	Minot Vincent
7/1/25	Clay Lundberg	FE	Canton	Grand Forks Zion
7/1/25	Laura Laible	CLM	None	Howard Beach (1/4)
7/1/25	Janice Thompson	FE	Flandreau	Transitional Leave
7/1/25	David Jennys	OF	None	Flandreau

7/1/25	Laura Sherman	PE	None (seminary student)	Dell Rapids
7/1/25	Richard Bensinger	FL	Rapid City First	Retirement – Status RL
7/1/25	Duane Coates	FE	Valley City Epworth	Rapid City First
7/1/25	Cindy H. Coates	PE	Sioux Falls Wesley (1/2) & EXT. Ground Works Connect (1/2)	Rapid City First (1/2) & Extension Ground Works Connect (1/2)
7/1/25	Bryce Blank	FE	Watertown First Associate	Valley City Epworth
7/1/25	Paul Plueddeman	FL	Certified Candidate	Hettinger
7/1/25	Rob Salmonson	FE	Clark	Canton
7/1/25	Ron Olson	RE	Retirement	Parker / Hurley (1/2)
7/1/25	Davis Anderson	PE	None (seminary student)	Salem Unite
7/1/25	Taylor Johnson	PE	Commissioning Candidate	Extension 346.1
7/1/25	Sandee Prouty-Cole	PD	Extension	To be announced
7/1/25	Amber Laffey	PD	Alexandria (1/2)	To be announced
7/1/25	Kara Heagel	PD	None (seminary student)	To be announced
7/1/25	Lisa Luft	PL	Minot Area Regional Care Coordinator (1/2)	Minot Area Regional Care Coordinator (1/4) & Velva (1/4)
7/1/25	Kim Hastings	FL	Salem Unite	Clark (1/2) & Watertown First (1/2)
7/1/25	Mark Ehrmantraut	FE	Extension 344.1d)	Bismarck Calvary/ Center (1/2) & Ext. 344.1a) New Ministries (1/2)
9/1/25	Ray Baker	RE	Retirement	Hillsboro (1/4) as RE

75. What clergy members are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year.

a) Within the connectional structures of United Methodism (§344.1a, c)(attach a listing)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	Extension Ministry Assignment	Charge Conference
Allen	Joel	--	FE	2013	Dakotas Wesleyan University	Mitchell Fusion
Anderson	Nicole	--	FE	2023	Lake Poinsett Camp	Watertown First
Bader	Dan	--	FE	2022	SW District Superintendent	Rapid City Canyon Lake
Eberhart	Rebecca	--	FE	2010	GETS, Evanston IL	Mitchell Downtown First
Eberhart	Timothy	--	FE	2023	GETS, Evanston IL	Mitchell Downtown First
Luft	Lisa	--	PL	4/1/2025	Regional Care Coordinator (1/4)	Minot Vincent
Mutzenberger	Kris	--	FE	2020	NE District Superintendent	Fargo First
Ragels	Taryn	--	PE	10/15/23	DWU Campus Ministry (1/2)	Mitchell Fusion
Trefz	Rebecca	--	FE	2024	Assistant to the Bishop for Connection & Communications	Mitchell Fusion
Trefz	Steve	--	FE	2016	Kairos University	Mitchell Fusion
Vetter	Brandon	--	FE	2024	SE District Superintendent	Sioux Falls First
Wicks	Brenda	--	PL	1/1/2024	Regional Care Coordinator (1/4)	Carpenter
Winckler	Joel	--	FE	2020	NW District Superintendent	Mandan

b) To ministries endorsed by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry (344.1b) (attach a listing)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	Extension Ministry Assignment	Charge Conference
Budd	Paul	--	RE	1985	John Knox Village	Watertown First
Kattelman	Brad	--	FE	2019	Fort Cavazos, Army Chaplain	Brookings First

c) To other valid ministries under the provisions of §344.1d (v 2/3)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	Date Effective	Extension Ministry Assignment	Charge Conference
Avery	Martin	--	FE	2/3/2019	Mayville & Gran ELCA, ND	Fargo Faith
Coates	Cindy H.	--	PE	8/1/2024	Ground Works Connect, SD (1/2)	Rapid City First
Dorfman	Tiffany	--	PL	6/1/2021	Chaplain Sanford Medical Center, SD (1/2)	Sioux Falls First
Ducker	Krista	--	PD	2023	Avera Hospital, SD (LTFT)	Ben Clare
Ehrmantraut	Mark	--	FE	9/16/2024	The God's Child Project, ND	Bismarck McCabe
Eidem	DeAnn	--	FE	2023	Stillwater Hospice, SD	Rapid City Canyon Lake

Freed	Dan	--	RE	2/15/2019	Avera Heart Hospital, SD	Sioux Falls First
Gall	Melissa	--	FD	8/1/2018	Milbank Central School District, SD	Watertown First
Gregg	Julie	--	FE	9/15/2021	Spiritual Direction, SD	Garretson
Hallenbeck Orr	Jennifer	--	FE	10/4/2022	HIA Hospice, ND	Bismarck Legacy
Iverson	Justin	--	FE	9/30/2024	St. Louis University, Hospital Chaplain	
Johnsen	Mark	--	FE	2021	United Church of Christ, SD	Sioux Falls First
Johnson	Teri	--	FE	2020	SD State University	Rapid City Knollwood Heights
Kersey-Russell	Jeanine	--	FE	1/1/2025	Youth Correctional Center, ND	Bismarck McCabe
Matthews	Shelly	--	FE	8/1/2011	Brite Divinity School, TX	Fargo Faith
Miller	Theta	--	FE	2022	Kansas Region of the Christian Church	Fargo First
Richards	Leisa	--	FE	6/1/2022	East River Legal Services, SD	Aberdeen North Highland
Richards	Matthew	--	FE	2/15/2020	Avera @ Home Chaplain & Mitchell UCC	Mitchell Downtown First
Vondergeest	Craig	--	FE	2005	Presbyterian College, SC	Jamestown St. Paul's
Walters	Gary	--	FE	2019	Kirk Funeral Home, SD	Rapid City Knollwood Heights
Walters	Laura	--	FD	2019	New Underwood School District, SD	Rapid City Knollwood Heights

76. Who are appointed to attend school (§416.6) (List alphabetically all those whose prime appointment is to attend school.)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Clergy Status	School
n/a				

77. Where are the diaconal ministers appointed for the ensuing year (§310) [1992 Discipline]. Attach list – N/A

78. What other personal notations should be made (Include such matters as changes in pension credit (§638.9), corrections or additions to matters reported in the "Business of the Annual Conference" form in previous years, and legal name changes of clergy members and diaconal ministers.)

- Q71.c) Retro-active correction of Extension Appointment for Leisa Richards to East River Legal Services, Aberdeen SD since June 2022.
- Q45 Retro-active correction of Extension Appointment for David Birkeland which ended 11/1/2022. He was removed from the listing and should be removed from the Journal 2023 and 2024.
- Q11.b) Kimball Protestant Parish disaffiliated Aug.31, 2023 and should be removed from the 2024 Journal.
- Jen Tyler is now Jen Osterloh

79. Where and when shall the next Conference Session be held (§603.3.4) Bismarck ND, June 4-7, 2026

IV. MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

*Ministry Appointments as of July 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted

The following code system has been adopted to designate the status of the ministers appointed:			
AF	Affiliate Member (¶¶, 337.1344.3b, 586.4d)	OL	Local Pastors on Loan (¶ 318.4)
AL	Administrative Location (¶ 360)	OM	Other Methodist (¶346.1)
AM	Associate Member (¶¶ 322, 370.1, 634.2h)	OMR	Retired Other Methodist Denominations
BH	Bishop	OP	Provisional member of other Annual Conf. (¶ 346.1)
DC	Deaconess (¶ 1913.2)	OR	Retired member of other Annual Conference
DM	Diaconal Minister (2004 Discipline ¶ 369.1)	ORE	Retired Elder of other Annual Conference - NEW
DR	Retired Diaconal Minister (consecrated under provisions of 1992 or earlier Discipline) (¶ 357)	ORD	Retired Deacon of other Annual Conference - NEW
FD	Deacon in full connection (¶ 330)	PD	Provisional Deacon (¶¶ 324, 325,326)
FE	Elder in full connection (¶ 335)	PE	Provisional Elder (¶¶ 324, 325,326)
FL	Full time Local Pastor (¶ 318.1)	PL	Part time Local Pastor (¶ 318.2)
FLR	Full time Local Pastor Retired (¶ 318.1) - NEW	PLR	Part time Local Pastor Retired (¶ 318.2) - NEW
HL	Honorable Location\Honorable Location Retired (¶¶ 359.1, 359.3)	RA	Retired Associate Member (¶ 358)
HR	Honorable Location Retired (¶359.3) status restored by GBHEM	RD	Retired Deacon in Full connection (¶ 358)
HM	Home Missioner (¶ 1913.2) - NEW	RDC	Retired Deaconess (¶ 1913.2) - NEW
LM	Certified Lay Minister (¶ 268)	RE	Retired Full Elder (¶ 358)
OA	Associate Member of other Annual Conf. (¶ 346.1)	RHM	Retired Home Missioner (¶ 1913.2) - NEW
OD	Deacon member of other Annual Conf. (¶ 331)	RL	Retired Local Pastor (¶¶ 320.5, 327.7)
OFD	Full Connection Deacon of other Annual Conference (¶¶331,346.1) - NEW	RP	Retired Provisional Member (¶ 357) (prior to 1/1/2013)
OPD	Provisional Deacon of other Annual Conference (¶¶331,346.1) - NEW	SL	Student Local Pastor (¶318.3) – NEW
OPE	Provisional Elder of other Annual Conference- NEW	SY	Other Supplies – Used by GCFA for assigned pastors
OFE	Full Connection Elder of other Annual Conference - NEW		
OE	Elder member of other Annual Conference	TBS	To be supplied
OF	Full Member of other denomination (¶ 346.2)	LTFT	Less than full time

NORTHEAST (NE) DISTRICT – Superintendent Kris Mutzenberger 6

DISTRICT TOTAL UM CHURCHES: 32

TOTAL CHARGES: 26

ABERDEEN Area Total UM Churches: 8		Total Charges: 5		Status	Years
ABERDEEN FAITH		Pulpit Supply (supervised by Eldon Reich)		RE	
ABERDEEN NORTH HIGHLAND		Andrea Johnson		PE	3
BATH		Loren and Pat Siefken		SY	15
GROTON / CONDE / BRITTON		Robert Moorlach		FE	3
LEOLA / FREDERICK		Don Peck		SY	31

WATERTOWN Area Total UM Churches: 3		Total Charges: 3		Status	Years
CLARK		Kim Hastings	1/2	FL	1
HENRY		Pulpit Supply		FE	
WATERTOWN FIRST		Sara McManus		FE	2
		Kim Hastings	1/2	FL	1

WAHPETON Area Total UM Churches: 6		Total Charges: 4		Status	Years
FAIRMOUNT / BRECKENRIDGE MN		Shandon Klein (supplied by MN Conf)		OE	2
LISBON/ ENDERLIN		Chuck Belzer	1/2	OL (UCC)	5
MILNOR		Tiana Bohn	1/4	PL	5
WAHPETON EVERGREEN		Kori Lehrkamp		FE	3

FARGO Area Total UM Churches: 6		Total Charges: 6		Status	Years
ARTHUR		Veronica Fleming		FL	5
CASSELTON		Randy Harwood	1/2	PL	11
FARGO FAITH		Jordan Louks		FE	1
FARGO FIRST		Ryan Mutzenberger		FE	9

HILLSBORO UNITED-UMC/UCC	Ray Baker (effective 9/1/25)	1/4	RE	1
WEST FARGO FLAME OF FAITH	Teresa Whetsel		PE	2

UPPER VALLEY Area Total UM Churches: 9	Total Charges: 8		Status	Years
CRYSTAL	Pulpit Supply			
DRAYTON	Pulpit Supply			
PEMBINA / HUMBOLDT MN (Upper Red River Valley Parish)	Pulpit Supply			
GRAFTON FEDERATED UMC/PCUSA / MINTO KNOX PCUSA (Northern Valley Parish)	Robin Dill	3/4	OF (PCUSA)	11
GRAND FORKS ZION	Clay Lundberg		FE	1
HOLMES/ BEAVER CREEK ELCA	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Mark Ellingson)		RE	
LARIMORE / ARVILLA PCUSA	Raenelle Sorensen	1/2	PLR	18
PARK RIVER FEDERATED UMC/PCUSA/ ST. THOMAS/ FORDVILLE PCUSA	Jesse Irvine	3/4	PL	5

NORTHWEST (NW) DISTRICT – Superintendent Joel Winckler **6**

DISTRICT TOTAL UM CHURCHES: 40

TOTAL CHARGES: 29

JAMESTOWN Area Total UM Churches: 9	Total Charges: 6		Status	Years
CLEVELAND	Darrell Losing	1/4	SY	10
ELLENDALE UNITED/ EDGELEY WESLEY / JUD	Rebecca Hafner		FL	3
JAMESTOWN FIRST	Marty Toepke-Floyd Travis Voeltz		FE FL	6 4
JAMESTOWN ST PAUL'S	Jennifer McDonald		FE	6
VALLEY CITY EPWORTH	Bryce Blank		FE	1
WIMBLEDON / KENSAL	Jeanne Sortland	1/2	FE	8

DICKINSON Area Total UM Churches: 2	Total Charges: 2		Status	Years
DICKINSON	Rita Ennen		PL	4
HETTINGER	Paul Plueddeman		FL	1

SPIRIT LAKE Area Total UM Churches: 6	Total Charges: 4		Status	Years
CANDO / ROCK LAKE / ROLLA	Timothy McDowell		SY	4
CARRINGTON FEDERATED-UMC/UCC	Rick Loewen (supplied by UCC)		OF (CCCC)	9
DEVILS LAKE FIRST	Dayne Zachrisson	3/4	FE	3
LANGDON	Robert Blackburn		FL	5

MINOT Area Total UM Churches: 12	Total Charges: 8		Status	Years
BOTTINEAU UNITED-UMC / PCUSA	Beth Kelsey (supplied by PCUSA)			
BOWBELLS / KENMARE RENEW/ SHERWOOD (North Prairie Parish)	Mark Turner	1/2	PLR	4
MARTIN / DRAKE	Pulpit Supply			
LANSFORD / LANSFORD ELCA / GLENBURN ELCA	TBS			
MINOT FAITH / DES LACS	Rick Craig		FL	4
MINOT VINCENT	Chang Yi		FE	1
RUGBY EMMANUEL UNITED UMC/PCUSA	TBS by PCUSA			
VELVA	Lisa Luft	1/4	PL	1

BISMARCK Area Total UM Churches: 11	Total Charges: 9		Status	Years
BISMARCK CALVARY & CENTER	Mark Ehrmantraut	1/2	FE	1
BISMARCK LEGACY	Cory Thrall (Senior Pastor) Annie Carlson	1/2	FL PE	4 2
BISMARCK MCCABE	Karl Kroger (Lead Pastor) Lou Whitmer	3/4	FE RA	6 3
LINTON / STERLING	Marlin Sapp	3/4	PLR	12

MANDAN	Joel Winckler	1/2	FE	1
GOODRICH / CHASELEY	Warren Rhodes	1/2	RE	16
STEELE	Don Dinger		PE	4
WASHBURN	Annie Carlson	1/2	PE	5

SOUTHEAST (SE) DISTRICT – Superintendent Brandon Vetter **2**

DISTRICT TOTAL UM CHURCHES: 54

TOTAL CHARGES: 46

BROOKINGS Area Total UM Churches: 13	Total Charges: 11		Status	Years
AURORA IMPACT	Donna Kuper	1/4	PL	8
BROOKINGS FIRST	Jen Osterloh (effective 1/1/25)		FE	2
CANISTOTA UNITED UMC/PCUSA	Jerry Bertelson (Supplied by PCUSA)			7
COLTON / CHESTER	Susan Jennys	3/4	PL	12
DELL RAPIDS	Laura Sherman		PE	1
ELKTON UNITED UMC/UCC	Daren Junker		OF (AB)	23
HARTFORD	Seth LaBounty		FE	7
HOWARD BEACH	Diane Stangohr	3/4	PL	4
	Laura Laible	1/4	LM	1
LAKE PRESTON UMC/UCC, Lake Preston UCC	Kris Larson	1/2	PLR	6
MADISON	Peggy Hanson		FE	4
WHITE / STERLING	Teri Johnson	1/4	FE	2

HURON Area Total UM Churches: 10	Total Charges: 8		Status	Years
BROADLAND	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Kippy Udehn)		PLR	
CARPENTER	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Tia Felberg, effective 1/1/25)		PL	
DESMET / IROQUOIS (West Kingsbury Parish)	Tia Felberg	3/4	PL	6
ESMOND	Pulpit Supply			
HURON RIVERVIEW	Teresa Person		FE	6
FRANKFORT	Pulpit Supply		FE	
ALPENA UNITED UMC/UCC / VIRGIL	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Rebecca Trefz)		FE	
WOONSOCKET SPIRIT OF FAITH UMC/ELCA	John E. Anderson	3/4	PL	7

SIOUX FALLS Area Total UM Churches: 11	Total Charges: 11		Status	Years
BEN CLARE	Patrick Mulloy	1/4	OE	1
BRANDON CELEBRATION	Addy Kenkel	3/4	LM	6
	Josh Willprecht	1/4	PL	6
FLANDREAU	David Jennys		OF (UCC)	1
GARRETSON UNITED UMC/UCC	Brian Gregg	1/4	PL	8
	Julie Gregg	1/2	FE	8
HARRISBURG	Brandon Dunham		FL	3
SIOUX FALLS ASBURY	Kip Roozen (Lead Pastor)		FE	19
	Matt Morrison (Associate Pastor)		FE	10
SIOUX FALLS FIRST	Sara Nelson		FE	6
SIOUX FALLS HILLTOP	Rodney Knock		PE	4
SIOUX FALLS SOUTHERN HILLS	Don Vanderlip	3/4	PL	9
SIOUX FALLS SUNNYCREST	Charles Moore		FL	9
SIOUX FALLS WESLEY	Laurie Kidd	1/2	RL	1

MITCHELL Area Total UM Churches: 10	Total Charges: 8		Status	Years
ALEXANDRIA	Tara Bush	1/2	FL	1
ETHAN	Tara Bush	1/2	FL	4
MITCHELL DOWNTOWN FIRST	Keith Nelson		FE	10

MITCHELL FUSION	Taryn Ragels	1/2	PE	6
PLANKINTON / WHITE LAKE	Wayne Huber		FL	4
MONTROSE	Valerie Hummel LaBounty		FE	7
SALEM UNITE	Davis Anderson		PE	1
WAGNER / TYNDALL	Rydel Samuelson		FL	3

YANKTON Area Total UM Churches: 10	Total Charges: 8		Status	Years
BERESFORD ZION	John Schomberg		FL	4
CANTON	Rob Salmonson		FE	1
GAYVILLE-VOLIN	Jeff Vore	1/4	PLR	5
PARKER / HURLEY	Ron Olson	1/2	RE	1
NORTH SIOUX CITY ARK	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Pat Mersch)			
VERMILLION	Jordan Minnich Kjesbo	1/2	PL	5
WAKONDA / IRENE	Judy Saylor	3/4	PL	12
YANKTON FIRST	Katie Rieke		FE	6

SOUTHWEST (SW) DISTRICT – Superintendent Dan Bader

4

DISTRICT TOTAL UM CHURCHES: 35

Total Charges: 27

NORTHERN HILLS Area Total UM Churches: 6	Total Charges: 6		Status	Years
CAMP CROOK / BUFFALO UCC	Pulpit Supply			
FAITH/ MARCUS PCUSA	Connie Eichinger	1/2	PL	14
LEAD TRINITY	Jason Christensen		FL	4
PIEDMONT GRACE	John Britt		FL	6
SPEARFISH	Paul Lint		FE	2
STURGIS	Jenene Earl		FE	15

GREATER PIERRE Area Total UM Churches: 17	Total Charges: 10		Status	Years
BLUNT	Pulpit Supply (supervised by Kippy Udehn)		PLR	
BURKE /HERRICK/GREGORY (Abundance Parish)	Thanael Certa-Werner		FE	3
COLOME	Ron Snethen	1/4	OF (NAZ)	34
FAULKTON	Bennett Clough		FL	1
GETTYSBURG / ONIDA (Wheatland Parish)	Laura Isakson Cook Janet Madsen		OF (EC) LM	2 12
MILLER/ HIGHMORE / HARROLD	Allison Galbreath		PE	2
MISSION	Jerry Bottger (pulpit supply)	1/4	LM	3
MURDO / DRAPER/ WHITE RIVER	Cheryl Nymann		FL	4
PIERRE FIRST	Jeff Lathrop Beata Ferris	3/4	FE LM	4 4
TIMBER LAKE FEDERATED-UMC/ELCA/AB / ISABEL UCC	Teri Gayer (supplied by ELCA)			

RUSHMORE Area Total UM Churches: 12	Total Charges: 11		Status	Years
EDGEMONT UNITED UMC-UCC	Supplied by ELCA			
HOT SPRINGS FEDERATED-UMC/AB/PCUSA	David Cook (supplied by PC-USA)		OL(PCUSA)	6
PHILIP UNITED UMC/PCUSA / INTERIOR PCUSA	Kathy Chesney		FE	18
PRAIRIE VIEW	George Keehner	1/2	PL	3
PRINGLE	John McKnight	1/4	RE	6
RAPID CITY CANYON LAKE	Scott McKirdy Stephanie Eliason		FE PE	4 4

RAPID CITY FIRST	Duane Coates Cindy H. Coates	1/2	FE PE	1 1
RAPID CITY KNOLLWOOD HEIGHTS	Sharla McCaskell		FL	15
RAPID CITY OPEN HEART	Michele Slott		FE	6
RAPID VALLEY	Quaya Ackerman		FE	5
WALL / WASTA	Justin Trent		FL	3

APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES (¶344)

(1a) Appointments within the Connectional Structures of United Methodism			Status	Years
Allen, Joel - CC Mitchell Fusion	DWU, Mitchell, SD		FE	13
Anderson, Nicole – CC Watertown First	Lake Poinsett Camp		FE	3
Bader, Dan – CC Rapid City Canyon Lake	Southwest District Superintendent		FE	4
Eberhart, Rebecca - CC Mitchell Downtown First	GETS Seminary, Evanston, IL		FE	16
Eberhart, Timothy - CC Mitchell Downtown First	GETS Seminary, Evanston, IL		FE	14
Ehrmantraut, Mark – CC Bismarck McCabe	New Ministries NW District	1/2	FE	1
Laffey, Amber – CC Alexandria	Faculty Mentor, Kairos University	1/4	PD	1
Luft, Lisa – CC Minot Vincent	Minot Area Regional Care Coordinator (eff. 4/1/25)	1/4	PL	2
Mutzenberger, Kris - CC Fargo First	Northeast District Superintendent		FE	6
Ragels, Taryn – CC Mitchell Fusion	DWU Campus Ministry	1/2	FL	3
Trefz, Rebecca - CC Mitchell Fusion	Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications		FE	12
Trefz, Steven - CC Mitchell Fusion	Kairos University		FE	10
Vetter, Brandon – CC Sioux Falls First	Southeast District Superintendent		FE	2
Wicks, Brenda – CC Carpenter	Congregational Care Coordinator	1/4	PL	3
Winckler, Joel - CC Mandan	Northwest District Superintendent	1/2	FE	6

(1b) Under Endorsement by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry			Status	Years
Budd, Paul - CC Watertown First	John Knox Village, Lee's Summit, MO	LTFT	RE	41
Kattelmann, Brad - CC Brookings First	Army Chaplain, Fort Cavazos, TX		FE	7

(1c) Elders in Service Under the General Board of Global Ministries			Status	Years
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(1d) Other Extension Ministries			Status	Years
Avery, Martin - CC Fargo Faith	Mayville & Gran ELCA, Mayville ND		FE	5
Coates, Cindy H. – CC Rapid City First	Ground Works Connect, Sioux Falls, SD	1/2	PE	2
Dorfman, Tiff – CC Sioux Falls First	Chaplain Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls, SD (Sanford only effective 9/27/23)	1/2	PL	6
Ducker, Krista – CC Ben Clare	Chaplain Avera Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD	LFT	PD	3
Eidem, Deann – CC Rapid City Canyon Lake	Stillwater Hospice, Rapid City, SD (fulltime eff. 3/9/25)		FE	3
Freed, Dan – CC Sioux Falls First	Avera Heart Hospital Chaplaincy, Sioux Falls		RE	7
Gall, Melissa – CC Watertown First	Milbank Public School District, Watertown First (secondary appointment)		FD	8
Gregg, Julie – CC Garretson	Spiritual Direction, Sioux Falls		FE	5
Hallenbeck Orr, Jennifer – CC Bismarck Legacy	Chaplain Hospice Red River Valley, ND – new name as of 6/9/2025 HIA Hospice	3/4	FE	4
Heagel, Kara – CC Watertown First	Chaplain, Big Bean Coffee House, Severna Park, MD		PD	1
Iverson, Justin – CC Sioux Falls First	St. Louis University Hospital Chaplain (eff. halftime 9/30/24, fulltime 1/1/25)		FE	2
Johnsen, Mark – CC Sioux Falls First	United Church of Christ, Brookings		FE	4
Johnson, Teri – CC RC Knollwood Heights	SDSU, Brookings SD	3/4	FE	6
Kersey-Russell, Jeanine – CC Bismarck McCabe	ND Youth Correctional Center, Mandan, ND (effective 1/1/2025)		FE	2
Matthews, Shelly - CC Fargo Faith	Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, TX		FE	14
Miller, Theta – CC Fargo First	Kansas Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)		FE	3

Prouty-Cole, Sandee – CC Watertown First	Avera @ Home, Milbank	1/2	PD	1
Richards, Leisa - CC Aberdeen North Highland	East River Legal Services, Aberdeen SD		FE	4
Richards, Matthew - CC Mitchell Downtown First	Avera@Home Hospice Chaplain and Mitchell Congregational UCC		FE	6
Vondergeest, Craig - CC Jamestown St. Paul's	Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC and Pastor at Lupo Memorial, Clinton, SC		FE	21 / 9
Walters, Gary – CC Rapid City Knollwood Heights	Kirk Funeral Home, Rapid City, SD		FE	7
Walters, Laura – CC Rapid City Knollwood Heights	New Underwood School District		FD	7

APPOINTMENTS UNDER PROVISIONS

Appointments Under the Provisions of ¶345 (Ecumenical Shared Ministries) - NONE		Status	Years
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Appointments Under the Provisions of ¶346.1 (other AC or Methodist Denominations)		Status	Years
Anderson, Jennifer – CC Jamestown First	Minnesota Conference	FE	9
Bartel, Andrew	Alaska Conference	FE	11
Bockwoldt, Stan	Wisconsin Conference	FE	11
Johnson, Taylor	Minnesota Conference	PE	1
Krueger, Autumn	Alaska Conference	FE	9
Nelson, Cliff	Minnesota Conference	RE	6
Van Meter, Eric - CC Sioux Falls Asbury	Kentucky Conference	FE	3

Sabbatical Leave ¶351 – NONE		Status	Years
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Voluntary Leave of Absence ¶353 (2.a) - NONE		Status	Years
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Family Leave of Absence ¶353 (2.b) -- NONE		Status	Years
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Transitional Leave of Absence ¶353 (2.c)		Status	Years
Thompson, Janice		FE	1

Medical Leave ¶356		Status	Years
Baird, Howard	10 th year (effective 5/4/17)	FE	10
Broschat, Lori	6 th year (effective 6/1/21)	FE	6
Kloster, Kevin	6 th year (effective 10/1/20)	FE	6
Zeck, Rich	3 rd year (effective 7/1/23)	FE	3

Deaconesses ¶415.7 – NONE		Status	Years
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Appointments to Attend School ¶416.6 - NONE		Status	Years
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Local Pastor On Loan ¶318.4		Status	Years
Stoll, Shawn	MN Conference - 4 th Avenue UMC (3/4) & Hope UMC Faribault (1/4)	OL (FL)	1

Certified Candidates for Ministry – Not Appointed			
Northeast District	Janson Stefan		
Northwest District	Carrie Gilkerson, Andrea Plueddeman		
Southeast District	Manuel Loaeza, Melissa Rowenhorst, Eric Fjerestad, Kevin Wehle, Curtis Dorfman		
Southwest District	None		

CLERGY COMPENSATION

Church/Parish	344.1(a)(1) Indicator	Base Salary	Other Comp	Parsonage	Cash Allowance	ARP
ABERDEEN FAITH				Not Reporting		
ABERDEEN NORTH HIGHLAND	NO	53736		YES		1500
ALEXANDRIA	NO	23943		YES		2800
ALPENA/VIRGIL				Not Reporting		
ARTHUR	NO	51300		YES		3500
AURORA IMPACT	NO	12000		NO		
BATH	NO			Not Reporting		
BEN CLARE	NO			Not Reporting		
BERESFORD ZION	NO	49500		YES		
BISMARCK CALVARY/CENTER	NO	27000		NO	10000	2500
BISMARCK LEGACY SENIOR PASTOR	NO	60000		NO	20000	4000
BISMARCK LEGACY ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	24000		NO	10000	4500
BISMARCK MCCABE SENIOR PASTOR	NO	73034		NO	25958	4500
BISMARCK MCCABE ASSOCIATE PASTOR		47736		NO	8112	3000
BLUNT				Not Reporting		
BOTTINEAU UNITED				Not Reporting		
RENEW/SHERWOOD (NORTH PRAIRIE PARISH)		28500	4000	YES	3000	
BRANDON CELEBRATION SENIOR PASTOR	NO	16845		NO		200
BRANDON CELEBRATION ASSOCIATE PASTOR		43317		NO		200
BRITTON	NO			Not Reporting		
BROADLAND				Not Reporting		
BROOKINGS FIRST	NO	77460		NO	25500	
BURKE/GREGORY/HERRICK (ABUNDANCE PARISH)	NO	56925		YES		8000
BURLINGTON	NO	60852	0	15213	0	
CAMP CROOK				Not Reporting		
CANDO/ROLLA/ROCK LAKE		47885		YES		11700
CANISTOTA UNITED				Not Reporting		
CANTON	NO	60000		YES	0	4700
CARPENTER		3300		NO		3200
CARRINGTON FEDERATED				Not Reporting		
CASSELTON	NO	24600		NO		5000
CAVALIER TRINITY				Not Reporting		
CLARK	NO	23943		YES		3750

CLEVELAND		19200		NO		
COLOME				Not Reporting		
COLTON/CHESTER	NO	48721		YES		8500
CRYSTAL						
DELL RAPIDS	NO	47885		YES		1500
DE SMET/IROQUOIS (WEST KINGSBURY PARISH)	NO	51185		NO	16560	11450
DEVILS LAKE FIRST	NO	38782		NO	12000	4000
DICKINSON	NO	29600	5600	NO	12000	3000
DRAYTON/PEMBINA/HUMBOLT (UPPER VALLEY PARISH)		6000		NO		3000
ELGIN				Not Reporting		
ELKTON				Not Reporting		
ELLENDAL/EDGELEY						
WESLEY/JUD	NO	46649		YES		1500
ESMOND				Not Reporting		
ETHAN	NO	23943		YES		4500
FAIRMOUNT ND/ BRECKENRIDGE MN		49661	2800	YES		2500
FAITH UMC/MARCUS PCUSA	NO	30555		NO		500
FARGO FAITH	NO	57000		YES		4000
FARGO FIRST	NO	66950		YES		2000
FAULKTON	NO	48000		YES		
FLANDREAU		50203	2000	YES		2500
GARRETSON UNITED	NO	1		NO		
GARRETSON UNITED	NO	26000		NO		1700
GRAYVILLE/VOLIN				Not Reporting		
GETTYSBURG/ONIDA (WHEATLAND PARISH)	NO	56550		NO	3600	5500
GOODRICH/CHASELEY		33760		YES		4750
GRAND FORKS ZION		66000		YES		5000
GROTON/CONDE	NO	51981		YES		7200
HAMILTON				Not Reporting		
HARRISBURG	NO	60638		NO	22440	
HARTFORD	NO	55779		YES		4000
HENRY				Not Reporting		
HETTINGER	NO	47885		YES		2500
HILLSBORO UNITED		15600		NO		
HOT SPRINGS FEDERATED				Not Reporting		
HOWARD BEACH		41000		YES		4000
HURON RIVERVIEW	NO	68625		YES		6000
JAMESTOWN FIRST SENIOR PASTOR	NO	50203		YES		3500

JAMESTOWN FIRST ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	48500		NO	18500	3500
JAMESTOWN ST PAUL'S	NO	64955		YES		2000
LAKE PRESTON UNITED		21000		NO		3000
LANGDON	NO	47885		YES		7000
LARIMORE/ARVILLA PCUSA		25200		NO	15400	6300
LEAD TRINITY	NO	55000		YES		3700
LEOLA				Not Reporting		
LINTON/STERLING		61000		YES		8000
LISBON/ENDERLIN		28428		NO		5000
MADISON	NO	64290		YES		2000
MANDAN		37000		NO	12774	2500
MILLER/HIGHMORE/HARROLD (MHH PARISH)	NO	52571		YES		12000
MILNOR	NO	20000		NO		8000
MINOT FAITH/DES LACS	NO	56822		YES		4500
MINOT VINCENT	NO	64000		YES		
MITCHELL DOWNTOWN FIRST	NO	80000		NO	21500	4500
MITCHELL FUSION	NO	30478	2000	YES		1000
MONTROSE	NO	52500		YES		1000
MURDO/DRAPER/WHITE RIVER	NO	53550		YES		14200
NAPOLEON				Not Reporting		
NORTH SIOUX CITY THE ARK				Not Reporting		
PARK RIVER FEDERATED/ST THOMAS	NO	39500		NO		4600
PARKER/HURLEY		36000		NO	13600	5400
PHILIP UNITED/INTERIOR PCUSA	NO	52220		YES		900
PIEDMONT GRACE	NO	51694		YES		5000
PIERRE FIRST	NO	74412		YES		5000
PLANKINTON/WHITE LAKE	NO	45000		YES		3000
PRAIRIE VIEW		30900		YES		2600
PRINGLE		20400		NO		
RAPID CITY CANYON LAKE SENIOR PASTOR	NO	91005		NO	21600	5000
RAPID CITY CANYON LAKE ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	49004		NO	24000	5000
RAPID CITY FIRST SENIOR PASTOR	NO	65000		YES		4900
RAPID CITY FIRST ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	24264		YES		5000
RAPID CITY KNOLLWOOD HTS	NO	50282		NO	16500	3000
RAPID CITY OPEN HEART	NO	51500		NO	19500	3240
RAPID VALLEY	NO	52020		NO	26000	2000

SALEM UNITE	NO	47885		YES		1200
SIOUX FALLS ASBURY SENIOR PASTOR	NO	70572		NO	19436	6000
SIOUX FALLS ASBURY ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	51730		NO	19436	1500
SIOUX FALLS FIRST	NO	104033		NO	24477	4500
SIOUX FALLS HILLTOP	NO	62521		NO	20465	3965
SIOUX FALLS SOUTHERN HILLS	NO	60500	5400	NO	10000	1000
SIOUX FALLS SUNNYCREST	NO	69848		YES		2000
SIOUX FALLS WESLEY		24264		NO		
SPEARFISH	NO	65835		YES		8000
STEELE	NO	44000		YES		3500
STURGIS	NO	57834		YES		4220
TIMBER LAKE				Not Reporting		
VALLEY CITY EPWORTH	NO	55000		YES		3500
VELVA		12000		NO	2000	1500
VERMILLION	NO	45000		NO		
WAGNER FIRST/TYNDALL	NO	47500		YES		5000
WAHPETON EVERGREEN	NO	58687		YES		7500
WAKONDA/IRENE	NO	39805	3755	NO	10000	4050
WALL/WASTA	NO	45500		YES		8000
WASHBURN	NO	26000		NO		4500
WATERTOWN FIRST SENIOR PASTOR	NO	72100		NO	20700	5000
WATERTOWN FIRST ASSOCIATE PASTOR	NO	23943		YES		3750
WEST FARGO FLAME OF FAITH	NO	52453		YES		6000
WHITE/STERLING	NO	1755		NO		
WIMBLEDON/KENSAL	NO	26314	1316	NO		8325
WOONSOCKET SPIRIT OF FAITH UMC	NO	50000		NO	10000	3000
YANKTON FIRST	NO	75355		YES		2600
EXTENSION MINISTRY						
PARA.344.1 (a) - NORTHEAST DS		85159		NO	25548	1000
PARA.344.1 (a) - NORTHWEST DS		42578		NO	12774	500
PARA.344.1 (a) - SOUTHEAST DS		85159		NO	25548	1000
PARA.344.1 (a) - SOUTHWEST DS		85159		NO	25548	1000

PARA.344.1 (a) - ASST. TO BISHOP FOR CONNECTION AND COMMUNICATIONS		85159		NO	25548	1000
PARA.344.1 (a) - LAKE POINSETT CAMP DIRECTOR		53560		YES		1000
PARA.344.1 (a) - BISMARCK AREA FRESH EXPRESSIONS	NO	27000		NO	10000	2500
PARA.344.1 (a) - MINOT AREA REGIONAL CARE COORDINATOR		12500		NO		



Rev. Dan Bader, southwest district superintendent, presented the Wesleyan Way award to the churches and individuals of the Greater Rapid City and Black Hills area. Rev. Sharla McCaskell, Rapid City Knollwood Heights, and Rev. John Britt, Piedmont Grace, accepted the award.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)



Rev. Joel Winckler was presented a second Wesleyan Way award for his work in caring for the churches of his district and particularly Mandan UMC during the illness and death of Rev. Bruce Adams.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

V. REPORTS

Common Table

The Common Table continues to partner with the Extended Cabinet in stewarding the mission and vision of the Dakotas Annual Conference. We met in September, November, and March. We received regular updates on the Conference finances, offering input related to apportionments, long-range financial strategy, and reserve usage. Our fall meetings included several conversations about the closure of Embrace as well as updates about matters at Bismarck Calvary related to the departure of their pastor. We also vote to Eric Olson as the interim ND chancellor from June 24-Dec. 31, 2024. (He as approved by the 2024 annual conference to assume that role starting January 1, 2025. As we've moved into 2025, updates from the Wisdom Council and from Bishop Lanette related to the Mission and Ministry campaign allowed us to fulfill our responsibilities on behalf of the annual conference.

Submitted, Rev. Jeanne Sortland, chair of the Common Table

Conference Commission on Archives and History (CAH)

Your Commission on Archives and History conducts a ministry of memory in our conference. Like our preachers, we are in the storytelling business. But not only do we tell the stories, we preserve the facts on which the stories are built, and we preserve the stories that have been told in the past. We study the past to envision a brighter future.

The way we conduct this ministry is by enacting the functions enumerated in ¶641 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2020/24 edition.

In 2024, the archives received records from closed churches, including the closing of Embrace, which was the subject of a special session of the Annual Conference. These records will be available to the public, including members of the former United Methodist Churches, even if those churches disaffiliated to become part of another denomination.

Our archives are located in space we rent for \$10,000 annually from Dakota Wesleyan University within its George and Eleanor McGovern Library in Mitchell, South Dakota. We are grateful that it has been offered to us at this price for the past 19 years, and we are grateful for the partnership we have with the DWU archives, especially their collections relating to the late U.S Senators Francis Case and George McGovern, who were both Methodists. We believe co-locating our separate archives with a common archivist adds cost-effective value to both institutions.

Additionally, your apportionments fund half the cost of employing the archivist we have shared with DWU since March of 2007, Dr. Laurie Langland. While the conference is responsible for maintaining and managing our archives, Langland is a full-time DWU staff member with faculty status. Langland roughly splits her time between institutions archiving materials and assisting researchers. She also writes conference memoirs and attends conference and university meetings. She also serves on the board of the South Dakota Historical Society. In the past year, Langland has joined a group of United Methodist archivists and allies who meet once a month to discuss issues and opportunities common to such archives.

This past year, the commission met three times – once during annual conference session and the other two times on Zoom.

Jubilee Clergy: We will recognize this year the following persons as jubilee clergy: Ron Johnson, Kenrad Pederson, and Wayne Tieszen.

2026 Budget Proposal: Your commission worked hard to keep our apportionment request to less than a 3% increase. We ended up with a 2.47% increase. (For the first time, we placed in the budget both the total costs of our ministry and the amounts and sources of revenue for this ministry including apportionments and funding beyond apportionments. Yet even after we collect money from other sources for our mission-critical ministry, we are left with needing an estimated \$41,400 of apportionments. The increase was largely due to an inflationary increase in our fixed labor cost. Our fixed costs for labor and rent now account for 97.4% of our apportionments budget (all but \$1,075). The largest increase in our overall budget is for grave markers. Those grave markers are presented to the families of deceased clergy at the funeral or memorial service according to our commission's policy. With shipping and taxes, these cost about \$170 each. The need for grave markers has increased since 2020, and if all of our oldest clergy survive until this annual conference (2025), we will have 15 clergy in their 90s. However, we do not anticipate needing apportionments to pay for grave markers. You will notice that we expect to raise more than the cost of the grave markers from outside sources. Another increase is for per diem costs to help your commissioners attend the one in-person meeting we have each year. Defraying the costs of attendance permits service on this commission from a wider spectrum of our Dakotas United Methodist membership.

Transitions: We were saddened by the death of our commissioner Carol Knodle, who died on Dec. 13, 2024, at the age of 77. She was an active lay member of Flame of Faith United Methodist Church in West Fargo. Our chair, Rev. Duane

Coates (serving Valley City Epworth), completes his 19-year service to the commission with the adjournment of the 2025 Annual Conference. He was able to stay on the commission past the normal 12-year limit by virtue of his membership on the General Commission on Archives and History from 2016 to 2024.

Conference History Update: One of our commissioners and the chair of the Dakotas Conference Historical Society, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Perry, continues updating the conference's written history. His previously written chapters may be read at <https://dakotahistorianblog.wordpress.com/>

Submitted, R. Duane Coates, Chair, Dakotas Conference Commission on Archives and History

Communications

The Dakotas Conference communication team continues to tell the story of the ministries of the Dakotas Conference. Our website (www.dakotausmc.org), weekly e-newsletters (Mondays @ Dakotas and This Week @ Dakotas) serve as the foundation of regular communication. We have grown in our use of social media as a story-telling tool including the use of more Facebook stories, wallpaper graphics, live videos, and sharing of local church posts.

The conference website is a partnership with camping (www.dakcamps.org) and youth (dak youth.org.) The Dakotas Foundation previously shared a platform with the Conference but in the past year developed a new platform and redesigned their website to reflect their service across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area.

Video contributes to telling the ministry story. This past year, we have utilized the Riverside platform more. This has allowed us to produce video messages – particularly from Bishop Lanette – without having to be in the same location for recording. Video has also been an important discipleship tool. We hosted an Area-wide Advent study— “The Christmas Letters” by Magrey DeVega—with Bishop Lanette. We also produced A Very Dakotas Christmas featuring recordings from United Methodist Churches and individuals across the Dakotas. This continues to be an appreciated resource to utilize following a busy Advent and Christmas season. The new year began with a social media campaign focusing on the fruit of the Spirit. During Lent, cabinet members recorded devotionals to accompany the book “The Third Day” by Bishop Tom Berlin.

A major change occurred this past year with the retirement of Doreen Gosmire, director of communications. Doreen's talent, leadership, and love for the church will be deeply missed across the conference. Rev. Rebecca Trefz stepped into the role of Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications. David Stucke continues to share his video storytelling and relational gifts with the Conference. Additionally, intern Anna Mutzenberger, a student at DWU, was moved into the role of Communications Assistant for the conference.

This year also brought several additional events for which the communications staff provided additional support. In July 2024, the Dakotas Conference hosted the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Sioux Falls, S.D. The communications team partnered with communicators from across the jurisdiction to provide timely communication resources before, during and after the conference. In November 2024, the Conference held a virtual special session of annual conference to affirm the closure of Sioux Falls Embrace Church.

The communication team is thankful to tell the story of United Methodists across the Dakotas who are enthusiastic about making disciples.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Rebecca Trefz, assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications

Sessions Committee Reports

The Sessions Committee has planned the June 6 - 8, 2025 Dakotas Annual Conference in Mitchell, South Dakota. The plenary gatherings will be on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University. The theme is “Created for Love.” This draws on 1 John 4:7-21.

The Celebration of Life in Ministry service on Sunday morning will be held at Downtown Mitchell First United Methodist Church. This service will be live streamed, Sunday, June 8 at 10 a.m. CT, so churches may choose to join in as their service.

Three Pre-Conference Gatherings are planned via Zoom webinars. These will help members prepare for the up-coming annual conference with information and a time for questions. A pre-conference workbook will be published by May 15.

Five different Lunch-n-Learn Sessions are planned on Friday and on Saturday. These are times to take your lunch and then participate in a learning session. This is also a great time to meet new people at your table.

Legislation, reports, and nomination will all be presented at annual conference. All worship services and plenary sessions will be available via livestream on the conference website.

You are able to participate in Annual Conference thanks to the Committee members. Without them and all their hard work, Annual Conference would not be the same! Members are Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Rebecca Trefz, Karl Rockerman, Al Roll, Lou Witmer, Thanael Certa-Werner, Doreen Gosmire, Duane Coates, Dayne Zachrison, Kris Mutzenberger, Susan Punt, Bea Stucke and Kay Braun. When you see them, please thank them.

Thanks for the Host Team members: Brandon Vetter, Host District Superintendent; Taryn Ragels, Mitchell Fusion and DWU Campus Ministry, Host Clergy; and Keith Nelson, Mitchell Downtown First, Host Clergy. They worked with the Sessions Committee for the entire year. And thanks for all of those who assist them as volunteers for the 2025 Annual Conference. Please give these hard-working people your thanks too!

Respectfully Submitted by Kay Braun, chair, Sessions Committee

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS LINK

The work of the Developing Missional Leaders Link is functionally lived out within the following committees that are committed to the work of leadership development and culture of call emphasis within the Dakotas Conference.

Board of Ordained Ministries (BOM)

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) trains, develops and cares for clergy in their Jesus-centered Wesleyan theology, servant leadership, passionate preaching, and personal wholeness.

We are blessed with the task of building a culture of call throughout the Dakotas. We nurture people through the candidacy and ordination processes. We train new clergy and lay leaders in the Dakotas Conference. We maintain standards for clergy effectiveness throughout a clergy member's life of service and honor the service of our clergy members at pivotal transition points. We take this responsibility very seriously. We pray and seek God's guidance as we work with each person.

We continue to work to support our clergy in their needs as they minister in a world of constant and chaotic change. This past year we implemented the required boundaries training, Becoming Whole and Holy Leaders for all active clergy. We also encourage our clergy to access their short-term and long-term renewal leave options and support those endeavors with various funding.

The Elisha and Samuel Projects have been a great opportunity for the Dakotas Annual Conference to encourage high school and college students to explore ministry as a vocation. A sub-group of the BOM selects interns for host churches from the pool of applicants. Elisha Interns for 2025-26 are Dionne Jansma (DWU Campus Ministry), Lizzie Tyler (DWU Campus Ministry), and Katherine Mickelson (Fargo First). Samuel Interns for the 2025-26 are Ava Laffey (Downtown Mitchell First/Mitchell Fusion) and Kyrie Matucha (Burke UMC).

We offer these training opportunities in the Dakotas Conference: Licensing School, Certified Lay Ministry training, pre-conference gatherings, Clergy Leadership Academy and more. We have also been working diligently this year increasing our connection to candidates in ministry and reviewing and updating policies related to our clergy.

It is all our responsibility to keep our eyes open to those in our midst who have a call on their lives. We need to be bold and encourage them to take the next steps toward ministry. God has called each of us into some kind of ministry, whether lay or ordained. If you have a call to pastoral ministry, please seek out your pastor or district superintendent and share your call with them.

Submitted by Rev. Katie Ricke, chair, Dakotas Board of Ordained Ministry

Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry

Mission – Helping campers to experience Christ, Creation, and Community through camp and retreat ministries

Core Values – Provide sacred places apart - Nurture Christian faith and discipleship - Teach creation care and appreciation - Partner with United Methodist churches and agencies - Extend Christian hospitality and community - Develop principled spiritual leaders - Inspire and equip lives for love and justice

Outcomes – Disciples and leaders who hear and respond to God's call to share faith, love and accept everyone, serve others, and trust God

Lake Poinsett – 2024 was an incredible year for Lake Poinsett Camp! This year, through generous donations, we were able to add a pickleball court at camp that has become a popular spot for campers and staff! We also introduced sensory tools for our campers to demonstrate a thoughtful approach to inclusivity and to ensure all campers feel comfortable and supported while at camp. It's so heartwarming to see how the local community at Lake Poinsett has come together to help

support our campers and ministries this summer through leading service projects, helping with groundskeeping, and providing scholarships for our campers. 2024 really showed how our camping and retreat ministries truly reaches beyond the church walls, and even the United Methodist Connection, to make a positive impact!

Storm Mountain Center – In ministry, there is always change; some in full view of all while others are behind the scenes. Storm Mountain Center had its fair share of both this year. With the help of supporters of camp, we accomplished so much visibly. If you came to camp this summer, you would have seen the life of the church happening directly around us in so many ways. Our campers experienced another wonderful summer at camp; we started a partnership with Camp America, inviting international staff to join in our ministry; many volunteers answered the call to help make ministry happen by being counselors, builders, demo experts, mowers, painters, dishwashers, cleaners, and so much more. Behind the scenes, we took strides in updating our infrastructure across camp, including taking a deep look at our utility costs, updating our phone and internet to be on par with the world, staffing and volunteer dynamics, maintaining history while preserving vision for the future, and expanding our presence with the local community. The hard and holy work is never finished. We expect to continue to answer these challenges and continue to grow our ministry in the coming years.

Wesley Acres – This past year would have been defined as a year of transitions and growth in the Dakotas' Camping Ministry Program. As the directors were transitioning back into church clergy late spring, a new director came on board mid-summer. With the help of an experienced and dedicated summer staff and an incredible interim director team, Wesley Acres was able to have a successful summer of hosting both youth camps and guest groups. The success of the summer was highlighted by the dedication and strong staff culture present here. Whether the focus was on hospitality ministry for any number of diverse groups hosted or leading our youngest disciples to experience Christ's creation, our staff provided a safe and open environment to foster space to grow His love for them. With many large projects completed in years past on the high ropes course and accessibility, focus was placed on some key infrastructure projects. These may not be visible on the face of camp, but will impact the operations, longevity, and success of the camp in the future.

2024 by the numbers – total summer camp registration 979, 7.9% decrease in summer camper's vs 2023. Church participation: 89 (54%) Dakotas UMC congregations sent 1 or more campers, registration breakdown includes 88% UMC, 9% other denominations, 3% unchurched. Camperships: \$4,412.50 was awarded to 23 campers to attend one event of their choice, churches paid \$104,311.17 in local funds to support local church scholarships.

Staffing Transitions and Celebrations – Welcome: Lori Faleide, Director at Wesley Acres Camp. Goodbye: Paul and Brenda Lint, Directors at Wesley Acres Camp; Beata Ferris, Area Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

Dakotas-Minnesota Area Alignment/Collaboration – Since 2016, the Dakotas and Minnesota conferences' camp and retreat ministries have combined their strengths and leadership, forming a supportive, cooperative, symbiotic and highly collaborative relationship. This alignment helps provide consistent support while significantly reducing financial costs and includes a combined administration office and area staffing, director level staff shared policies, processes, and organizational strategies, and a joint advisory council. The Camp and Retreat Council is made up of equal representation from each conference and meets quarterly.

2024 Financials – The Camp and Retreat Ministry operations of the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences each ended 2024 financially in the black. Success is attributed to strong financial support from local churches and conference boards/teams, unified financial system, controls and review processes, staff management and oversight, regular review of costs/rates, and real-time access to accurate data and information. Dakotas operating income breakdown: 54% from hosted/retreat ministries, 26% from summer camping ministries, 5% from apportionments, 15% from gifts, grants, and earnings.

Camper Safety and the American Camp Association (ACA) Accreditation – Dakotas and Minnesota staff regularly review every facet of camp programs and operations to ensure a safe and quality camp experience for all participants. Each of your six Area sites are fully accredited operations through the ACA, the national accrediting body for camping programs. To earn accreditation, camps must comply with hundreds of health, safety, and program quality standards. Only one in five camps nationwide achieves this distinction.

Current Staffing – Dakotas: Nicole Anderson - Director, Lake Poinsett Camp; Tanner Clark – Director, Storm Mountain Center; Lori Faleide-Director, Wesley Acres Camp. Minnesota: Leslie Hobson - Director, Northern Pines Camp; Dan Ziegler - Director, Koronis Ministries and Kowakan Adventures. Central Camping Office - Stacey Edwards - Camping Coordinator; Linda Bowers - Camping Assistant; Mary Hovden - Camping Accountant; Keith Shew – Area Executive Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries

Thank you for your continued support of your camp and retreat ministries in the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences. Thank you for making sure that the children, youth, families, and adults in your church and community

know about camping opportunities! Your support and encouragement help ensure that your camps and retreat centers can continue to be places where God meets with people. An experience at one of your Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodist Camps has changed the lives of generations of our conferences' leadership. Thank you!

“Camp gives kids a world of good!”

Submitted by Keith Shew, area executive director of Camp and Retreat Ministries

Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM)

We are so grateful for the support of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to be able to continue to offer opportunities for youth and adults to grow in their faith. We recognize that the youth are not the future of the church but are the present of the church. Their engagement, involvement, and passion continue to help the Spirit move through the people called United Methodists.

DAKYOUTH 2024 was held in Aberdeen, SD. We were privileged to have as our guest speaker - Rev. Matt Rawle. Through the use of technology, he connected with the youth and has begun to work with the youth beyond the event to dream and implement real ways in which ministry can continue beyond the event! We were able to laugh and have our hearts touched through the Skit Guys! We were grateful to have Winona Ave as our guest band, and wonderful worship with guest preachers, Rev. Stephanie Eliason and Michelle Kroger. With over 150 participants, representing over thirty churches throughout the Dakotas, we explored the theme of “Crossroads.”

Youth Worker Academy 2024 was held in conjunction with DAKYOUTH 2024 again. We had approximately thirty youth worker adults who were able to attend and learn from guest speaker Mark Oestreicher. We are hoping to continue and improve the way the youth workers can connect with one another as they grow and continue to learn during this time set apart. Mark O has openings for a Dakotas Cohort for those who are interested in working directly with him to be coached and encouraged through youth ministry.

Winter Connection was hosted at three different locations throughout the conference. Approximately ninety youth and adults gathered in Rapid City and Mitchell, South Dakota, and Fargo, North Dakota. Our theme was “Don’t be a Jerk” based on John 3:16. Each site was able to share in worship, bible study, fellowship mission work, and fun.

Our CCYM youth election process has been solidified and applications were made available online in January with a deadline of May 31st. Current CCYM leadership will review candidates’ applications and videos and evaluate them based on their gifts and potential to serve at the 2025 annual conference for the upcoming 2025/2026 year. As always, our hope is that more pastors and youth leaders throughout the Dakotas Conference will continue to encourage their youth to share their gifts and apply in future years to come. Thank you to the six youth and eight adults who worked diligently for the 2024/2025 year!

We continue to use a relatively new process to help us connect with adults who are interested in serving on CCYM. In consultation with the conference nominations team, we created an application for adults to complete that encourages a candidate to share their gifts and strengths, so that we can balance adult leaders not only by their clergy/laity status and location, but also with the strengths they are able to add to the team as well.

Living Transformed for Christ (LTC) formerly, Leadership Training Camp (LTC) continues to be a place and opportunity in which the youth leaders elected to CCYM practice leadership. Staffed by CCYM adults and conference leaders involved in youth ministry, the youth in attendance: learn, plan, and lead worship, engage in small group workshops, hands-on activities, enjoy fun and fellowship, and build lasting relationships. They study biblical themes each day, participate in mission work, and talk about faith and real-life application. This year’s theme is “Geeks of the Bible” based on Romans 12:2 with guest speaker Rev. Matt Rawle.

DAKYOUTH 2025 will be hosted in Aberdeen at the ARCC October 10-12, 2025, we are excited to have as our main guest speaker, author, pastor, and overall awesome person, Rev. Rachel Billups. Our musical guests will be VOTA. Tim Hannig will be making his Dakotas debut! Brad Griffin, from the Fuller Youth Institute will be leading the Youth Worker Academy. Keep an eye out for when registration opens! Early bird deadline is September 25, 2025.

CCYM continues to promote events through updates on Mondays @ Dakotas, email, social media text, paper mailings, and continual revisions and additions to our website: www.Dakyouth.org. To receive text updates, text “DAKYOUTH” to 40650

CCYM continues to be a blessing to the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church as we seek to empower, equip, and encourage our young people for the transformation of the world!

Submitted by Rev. Peggy Hanson, current coordinator, Conference Council on Youth Ministry

Clergy Well-being

Our mission: to embed the value of clergy well-being in order to strengthen clergy resiliency and become more effective pastoral and ministry leaders. Collaborative strategic efforts across both Minnesota and the Dakotas annual conferences guide the mission by equipping and resourcing clergy and thus, churches and ministries, through training, education, and resources as follows:

Seven Area clergy and conference leaders graduated from the Practical Church Leadership graduate certificate program in July 2024. The PCL is a partnership with Dakota Wesleyan University offering coursework to strengthen competencies around financial management and development, human resources and governance, visioning and strategic planning, outreach and communications – all essential skills in leading local churches more effectively. Eight clergy joined the cohort in 2024.

We continued to offer financial education and counseling options for clergy, including student loan repayment counseling (35 participants in 2024), resulting in student debt being reduced, eliminated, or forgiven through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. We awarded \$13,038 to three MN clergy to reduce educational loan debt through our Investing in Leaders Resource Grant. Grants totaling \$5,000 were awarded to clergy who requested an emergency grant.

Scripture Circles, a deep dive into scripture facilitated by a trained leader, were held with 10-week sessions in the spring and fall of 2024 with 63 clergy participants.

We offered a monthly Extension Ministry Connection group for clergy appointed outside of the local church into extension ministry.

We coordinated the in-person training around boundaries and ethics, “Becoming Whole and Holy Leaders,” for all appointed clergy. Ninety-nine clergy attended the event in October 2024. The training was designed to highlight the important relationship between clergy well-being, self-care, and managing one’s boundaries and ethics.

A robust year of orientation to ministry and leadership through the Onboarding Process was provided for clergy new to the Dakotas Conference. We partnered with the Minnesota Conference to hold joint sessions with new clergy when practical.

Sessions were provided for Staff-Parish Relations Committees with training on ways to support local church pastors and staff.

Submitted by Diane Owen, Dakotas-Minnesota area director of Clergy Well-being

Higher Ground

Lilly Endowment’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative, known as Higher Ground, awarded to the Dakotas Annual Conference in 2019, continues to address the pattern of needs of our clergy. By aligning and working strategically with the area initiative around clergy well-being, a full range of wholistic support and resourcing for personal and professional development is available to clergy leaders.

The primary goals of the Higher Ground initiative have remained consistent throughout the grant period. These are:

- Inspire pastors to achieve renewed joy and clarity in their goals and calling.
- Create relationships with pastors and strengthen collegial relationships to reduce experiences of isolation and burnout.
- Equip clergy with tools and experiences to foster resiliency.
- Increase awareness of health and growth in key areas: physical, financial, emotional, social, spiritual and vocational, a recent addition to assist clergy as they review and renew their call to ministry.

Higher Ground continues to have two primary tracks:

- We offer Recharge-Refocus for clergy at their eight-year intersection point to engage in a season of renewal and refocus. The season includes monthly session to learn and connect with other clergy in the cohort, a week-long retreat to deepen the learning and connection, and a year-long focus on a specific intention to improve well-being. Thirteen clergy appointed to extension ministry began a year of renewal and refocus in 2024.
- We offer Annual Coaching for clergy desiring personal or professional growth opportunities. Varied types of coaching are available with the clergyperson guiding their own development. Clergy engage with a coach or counselor for one year. Twenty-nine clergy participated in 2024.

Both “tracks” provide foundational wholistic leadership development for our clergy that is customizable to individuals needs and goals. Other ways Higher Ground provided intentional support for renewal, connection, and growth for clergy in 2024 included:

- The *Clergywomen’s Retreat* held for clergywomen from both conferences who gathered for a three-day retreat for connection and collegiality.
- *Clergy Family Camp*: Higher Ground provided support for clergy families to gather at a Dakotas camping and retreat center for fellowship and connection.
- At the required training for provisional clergy, *Clergy Leadership Academy*, we continued to weave the Higher Ground ethos into our Clergy Leadership Academy. The fall event was hosted by Higher Ground focusing on “Healthy Rhythms in Life and Ministry.”

Numerous partnerships support the Higher Ground purpose. The proposal for the sustainability grant requesting \$500,000 was submitted in March 2025. In order to receive the grant, a required match of \$500,000 was satisfied with the generous contribution from the Dakotas Conference Board of Pensions.

We continue to emphasize the inner work and the understanding that healthy, self-differentiated pastors are needed to lead healthy, thriving churches.

Submitted by Diane Owen, Dakotas Minnesota area director of clergy well-being

Lay Servant Ministry

This past year has been a year of reevaluating our lay ministry programs and processes. Our Lay Academy, led by Rev. Michele Slott with the assistance of Revs. Bob Ruedebusch and Doug Diehl, has been an effective model for those who have been able to participate. The weekend format of engaging content on Friday and Saturday, delivering the message and leading the worship at a local church on Sunday, and then receiving feedback has been provided robust training for lay speaking ministries. However, location and scheduling continue to be an obstacle for many persons to participate. We have sought to make Zoom options available which has helped to some extent but not entirely solved the problem. We have leaned on BeADisciple.com to supplement our lay servant training. This has been an excellent resource that allows us to resource someone who is feeling called to take a next step in ministry and discipleship.

In the coming year, we will be looking at how to continue to cultivate the Culture of Call, particularly how that call might be lived out beyond the local church. We look forward to the ways in which the Mission and Ministry Campaign might open up opportunities to engage laity across the Conference in different forms of ministry.

Submitted by Rebecca Trefz, Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications.

EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS

The Equipping Missional Congregations Link continues to ask questions, listen to local pastors and pilot ways to resource local congregations to help them reach beyond the walls of their churches into the community to share God’s love and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Aligned with Bishop Lanette’s directive of vital faith development, the Equipping Missional Congregations Link continues to focus on Fresh Expressions, rural ministry, and justice, advocacy and mission.

Local churches in the Dakotas Conference, under the leadership of district superintendent, Rev. Dan Bader, continue to meet electronically with Rev. Dr. Michael Beck to brainstorm and learn ways to implement Fresh Expressions in their congregations and communities. The Dakotas Cabinet and selected clergy from local churches attended a conference in Atlanta Georgia in early March to continue to learn more about Fresh Expressions. The Equipping Missional Congregations Link is excited to continue to learn of new Fresh Expressions’ ministry within our conference.

As the Equipping Missional Congregations Link continues to flesh out community visioning with local congregations a congregational visioning cohort to assist pastors with the visioning process, including asset-based community development in their churches, was launched this winter. Follow up materials and assistance to actually complete the church’s visioning work started during this Cohort will continue to be offered. The rural ministries grant may be used for these visioning activities and a workshop on church visioning will be held at this year’s annual conference.

In conjunction with helping pastors vision ways their church(es) can reach out into their local communities there are plans to develop a tool to help pastors with their first “100 days of discernment” at their new appointment. Be watching for this new tool that will include:

- Defining the roles of pastor and leadership team partnership, including the role the conference plays in the triad
- Getting to know key players in the congregation
- Setting the tone for determining the vision of the church
- Establishing consistency and unity, as well as uniform systems of operation for key elements of ministry and management of the church

Conversation in the extended cabinet last year had identified Amplify as a possible format to share resources developed within the Dakotas Conference context. While this work stalled out early in the 2024/2025 year it is now back on track with a Conference staff member shepherding this project through the development stages with Amplify and facilitating the roll out plan in the Conference. A lunch-n-learn identifying progress to date is planned for annual conference this year.

The Practical Church Leadership Certificate program through Dakota Wesleyan University (formerly the Non-Profit Church Leadership Certificate) continues to be an excellent training, coaching and networking opportunity for clergy since plans and projects developed during the program can be immediately applied to each pastor’s individual ministry setting with a coach to help encourage and keep the process on track.

The Equipping Missional Congregations Link has leaned heavily on surveys and conversations with local pastors to determine their needs as they serve their congregations. However, the Link has struggled to obtain feedback from the laity in the conference. We continue to wrestle with the best process to learn about needs in local congregations from the lay perspective.

The Equipping Missional Congregations Link thanks you for the opportunity to serve with you. While COVID is now in the rear view many of the challenges it presented are still very present in our congregations as are the effects and wounds of disaffiliation. As the Equipping Missional Congregations Link continues its work we will continue to rethink, evaluate and look for the best ways to partner with churches and other Conference entities to resource local churches, laity and pastors to be the center of love and grace outside their walls in their communities.

Submitted by Al Roll, Missional Impact Development Coach and Becky Holten, Chair, Equipping Missional Congregations Link

Rural Ministry

Year 4 of our Dakotas Connection Initiative was a period of growth and success for projects in rural ministry. Here are several examples of our work in 2024.

The Abundance Parish began March 1, 2024, created out of three churches / congregations in southcentral South Dakota. This Parish is led by Reverend Thanael Certa-Warner. They were granted \$60,000 over three years to bring on administrative support for the Pastor so he could focus on developing a partnership ministry within the three churches of the Parish. Pastor Thanael started by forming a Parish Covenant between the churches putting them on level ground – all three churches were accountable to one another for success. He then held organizational strategy sessions to determine where the churches were compatible and where they could enhance the partnership by creating uniform practices employed by all the churches on a regular basis. The Parish now holds three identical services every Sunday including message and music, and shares in mission activities, bible studies and small groups. In fact, on many Sundays, the musical accompanist travels with the Pastor from service to service. They have also seen evidence of this unification through members attending services at one of the other churches in the Parish, seeing themselves as a “church” with three service times, rather than three separate churches. Confirmation classes and activities are held jointly, and the Parish has served mission activities in all three communities, breaking down some of the previously existing divisions amongst the towns. This model has allowed Pastor Thanael to utilize his strengths for ministry, relationship building, and love of God and members to go well beyond what any of these churches was experiencing operating independently. This model does require a unique, gifted leader and some reasonable geographic parameters, but it is a highlight of our grant activity to date! We will continue to explore opportunity for more parish partnerships.

In July of 2024, we implemented a Regional Strategist Project. We contracted with an individual to conduct an in-depth study of a specific region—the 50-mile radius surrounding Brookings, South Dakota. This project lasted approximately 6

months and included a detailed report at completion. We learned much about this specific region and our churches there. The intent of the project was to get “boots on the ground,” get a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities within these small communities that are seeing an influx of growth and increase in ethnic diversity, and to begin to develop relationships and build bridges between First United Methodist Church in Brookings and these “mission outposts” as well as explore ways these rural congregations could more effectively partner with one another and their ecumenical partners in each town. An initial learning was that, although we understand every church is unique in size, membership, pastoral leadership, worship style, etc., the critical piece missing in these (and many) congregations was a mission strategy to connect with the community. Equipping churches to understand how their community is changing and provide simple steps to get them beyond the walls is essential, even in seemingly static rural congregations. Next, some of our churches have not done a good job of transitioning from the past to the present, which makes transition to the future extremely challenging. Finally, trust is foundational for building these new partnerships. However, several of these congregations are stuck in survival mode, only seeing what they don’t have rather than what they do, and perceiving suggestions for change from “the conference” as a threat to what’s safe and familiar. We saw, in this six-month experiment, that this relational groundwork was laid. The person serving as the regional strategist has now been appointed to serve full-time at the church in Brookings and our hope is that we will see the fruit of this foundational work come to fruition. This Regional Strategist experiment was also beneficial in that it provided us with a framework to replicate into other regions and to create and distribute resources toward a stronger program to transition from the old way to the new way using community / congregational visioning and dreaming as well as relationship-building and collaborative resourcing.

For most of our grant term, we have been exploring the best way to build a Dakotas Conference Digital Platform to share resources more effectively with churches. These resources include video recorded sermon series, music and worship videos, group bible studies and small group sessions, adult, youth, and children’s educational opportunities, and many other spiritual development offerings. After much searching, we found an excellent framework in our own backyard. The United Methodist Publishing House has a web-based program called Amplify which will allow us to not only access their published materials, but also allows us to create, upload, and share our own materials and tools with all of our member churches. This is a vital component as it utilizes our greatest strength—relationships. Churches can use worship resources in particular that are created by pastors, musicians, and churches that they know and trust. This platform will require minimal effort on our part and save significant financial resources in the long run. In November of 2024, we contracted with a part-time project manager to take on the implementation piece of this project. Our contractor is working directly with the Publishing House to set up the Dakotas Conference page on the website, develop criteria for materials to be created for the platform, and training churches and users how to access and navigate the finished product. We anticipate the development stage of the project will be complete by mid-2025 and be usable to our churches by fall. This project will be instrumental in assisting our churches to access resources they would be unable to access otherwise. As attendance in some churches continues to decline and availability of pastors and lay speakers is scarcer, this sharing of resources will allow those churches to continue with worship and spiritual education for many years to come. Furthermore, this is a wonderful way for the Dakotas Conference to retain its’ connectional philosophy even as we move further apart geographically.

Submitted by Al Roll, missional impact development coach

EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT

The Extending Missional Impact Link (EMIL) met via Zoom several times in 2024 to encourage the mission priorities of the Dakotas Annual Conference and local church initiatives and work.

Numerous grants were awarded for Breakthrough Ministries (innovative ways to do new ministries), Campus Ministry (connecting with college students), and Hunger Grants (\$18,000 awarded in funds to help local church partnerships).

At the 2024 Annual Conference meeting in Bismarck, EMIL hosted a workshop on Green Teams and what local churches can do to help save energy, save money, and save the planet. Dan Johnson of First UMC in Yankton, SD, presented the work of their church’s newly formed team. Josh Schaffner of Capital Electric Cooperative in Bismarck, talked about energy rebate and technology resources, and Cindy Heidelberger of GroundWorks Connect shared about involving youth in environmental stewardship.

Rev. Gail Arnold received the Streams of Justice Award for his long-time advocacy as the Peace with Justice Coordinator for the Dakotas Annual Conference. He served in this capacity since 1997 under various titles, but always promoting international and domestic peace and justice awareness.

Jurisdictional Mission Interpreter, Rev. Katie Meek, presented the work of the Global Ministries to EMIL at its in-person gathering at the 2024 Annual Conference. Katie was ordained in Texas, served in Sierra Leone, and is being reappointed to serve an innovative church in Texas this summer.

In accordance with Bishop Plambeck's initiative to become more missional and supportive of social justice principles, EMIL continues to prioritize topics such as creation care, disabilities, minority acceptance, etc.

Much of the work of the link still focuses on supporting the work of Global Ministries' activities which recommends local United Methodist Churches in the Dakotas focus on missions in the conference whenever possible such as Solar Oven Partners, Spirit Lake Ministry, Tree of Life, Bakken Oil Rush Ministry.

In 2025-2026, the link will continue to promote environmental stewardship and climate justice ministries in local churches by establishing the recently mandated position of Caretaker of God's Creation and team of volunteers to assist, as well as other functions of supporting hunger ministries, justice and peace ministries, campus ministries, and the breakthrough grants.

Biblical Grounding and Social Principles for Creation Care – A report from Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd, Commissioned Earthkeeper, Senior Pastor, Jamestown First UMC

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures; God leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul. God leads me in right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2

Jesus knew the Hebrew scriptures and prayed regularly in the hills around Lake Galilee. He often used examples from nature in his parables – seeds and soils, birds and flowers, foxes and fish, sheep, and hens. Jesus taught outdoors and celebrated the goodness of God's creation every day.

At the last General Conference, The United Methodist Church adopted a newly revised Social Principles where "The Community of All Creation" section of says:

We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God's goodness and providential care. Human beings, nonhuman animals, plants, and other sentient and non-sentient beings participate in the community of creation, and their flourishing depends on the care of all God's creation. Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity's use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God's creation We are also called to honor the role of every part of creation in healing the whole; thus, we praise God with the whole of creation (Ps. 148) and recognize that we are part of complex ecosystems, all valued by God.

We affirm our sacred calling to be responsible stewards and to lovingly tend all that God has wrought. We recognize the inherent worth of God's creation, celebrate earth's abundance and diversity, and, along with the entirety of the cosmos, give praise to its Creator. We recognize we are interconnected members of complex ecosystems, intricate webs of life, all of which have their origins in God's gracious act of creation.

We acknowledge that unsustainable human activities have placed the entirety of God's creation in peril. Further, we confess that the degradation and wholesale destruction of the natural environment threatens unprecedented harm, bringing danger to human and nonhuman life alike.

... Global warming and climate change are already creating extreme conditions that threaten the entirety of life on earth. Over industrialization, widespread deforestation, and overreliance on fossil fuels are but some of the human activities that have contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the earth's atmosphere.

A sharp upsurge in greenhouse gases over past decades already has resulted in a steady rise in sea levels, growing acidification of the world's oceans, increased droughts and famines, and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate scientists warn that the window of opportunity for reversing the negative effects of global warming and climate change is rapidly closing.

Without concerted action by individuals, churches, communities, shareholders, businesses, governments, and international organizations, the negative effects will become irreversible. [emphasis added] (pp 9-10 Social Principles)

“The section ‘Stewardship of Creation,’ exhorts church members to see themselves as the guardians of God's creation. United Methodists are called to “respect, protect, and care for the creation and all interrelated aspects of it.” It advises United Methodists to devote their attention to challenges such as:

- environmental racism, through which many communities of color have become dumping grounds for dangerous, toxic substances,
- sustainable policies and practices,
- food justice, which encompasses not only feeding people but also reducing the detrimental influence of agribusiness and monoculture,
- caring for all creatures,
- protecting space from militarization and economic exploitation, and
- affirming both science and traditional wisdom.”

(Quoted from The Social Principles Part 2 by Cynthia B. Astle March 3rd, 2025)

In 2023, the Dakotas Conference adopted a resolution to encourage local UM churches to establish Green Teams and one church, Yankton First, did that, and presented their accomplishments at the 2024 Annual Conference. The presentation was well attended, and a new Green Team at Huron Riverview is being formed.

At the 2020/2024 General Conference held in Charlotte, NC, The United Methodist Church mandated that every Annual Conference designate the position of Caretaker of God's Creation <https://umcreationjustice.org/caretakers-coordinators/> with an assisting “green team” of volunteers. (Also see: <https://umcreationjustice.org/about/annual-conference-creation-justice-connections/> and <https://www.creationjustice.org/>)

The Survey Questions and Key Findings Revealed

To lay the groundwork for the position of Caretaker of God's Creation and the Conference Creation Care/Justice (Green) Team in the Dakotas Conference, I, Marty Toepke-Floyd, conducted a survey sample by telephone and email. The seven survey questions addressed current creation care ministries (broadly defined), vision for future goals, and openness to learn more about local green teams. The questions asked were:

1. What is your church currently doing in the area of creation care? (lighting, heating, landscaping, recycling, programming, learning, worshiping, advocating)
2. How organized are the efforts in these activities and for how long?
3. What vision is there for the future and/or openness to establishing a Green Team?
4. Does your church engage in any foreign mission work or trips? Where? (Mission engagement exposes the church to other cultures and makes people more aware of effects of climate change, pollution, etc. around the world.)
5. How aware is your church about UM policies and resources on climate justice and creation care?
6. Is there anyone else I should talk to about these questions?
7. Would you or someone you know be interested/willing to serve on a conference level creation care team (Green Team)?

This Earthkeeper survey was conducted in the fall of 2024. A significant sample of local United Methodist churches in the Dakotas Conference regarding their efforts to engage in Creation Care ministries and Climate Justice practices was

involved. Knowing which churches are active, inactive, or open to doing more is critical in moving forward to establish “Green Teams” in more churches across the Dakotas Conference.

Tabulation of Survey Results from Sample Churches

Below is the raw data from the sample surveys with fifty-five persons (mostly clergy) covering seventy churches (including one church camp) in the Dakotas Annual Conference and was attempted to connect with eight other persons.

LED lights Installed	Conserve heat, cooling & water	Reduce use of paper and plastic	Recycle paper, cardboard, plastic & metal	Gardens and landscaping	Study and Worship Creation Care
33	17	14	26	9	19
Engaged in cross-cultural mission work	Low to no level of awareness of UM Policies	Moderate to high awareness of UM Policies	Open and/or interested in a Green Team	Active or forming a Green Team	Have a vision for Creation Care
19	27	7	17	2	10

The salient points revealed by the survey of 70 UM churches are:

1. About half of the churches sampled have installed LED lighting primarily to save money by reducing electricity usage. Environmental stewardship has been a secondary factor for some churches. Trustees or some other organized groups have taken the lead, and only two churches have or are organizing a formal Green Team.
2. Roughly half of churches have some sort of recycling wastepaper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, etc. and this effort occurs mostly in towns and cities that have curbside recycling. Individuals do the recycling in some churches.
3. A third of the churches are engaged in cross-culture mission work, and so have a greater awareness of the environmental conditions and problems others in the world face.
4. Only a few churches have engaged in learning about Creation Care/Climate Justice. Most churches and some pastors are unaware of United Methodist policies and resources regarding creation care, climate justice, and environmental stewardship. The United Women in Faith units are the most aware through the “Just Energy 4 All” program, though few units emphasize it.
5. One-fourth of the churches surveyed report intentionally conserving heat and cooling. One church (Wahpeton Evergreen UMC) has ground-source heating and cooling which has not only saved on utilities cost, but also lowered their carbon footprint. This system was installed decades ago and has paid off well. McCabe UMC in Bismarck put in ground source heating for the addition, at least ten years ago, and plans to upgrade their other systems this summer.
6. Barriers to forming a local Green Team include lingering hard feelings after disaffiliation struggle, politicized attitudes toward energy policies and climate change, and lack of energy to form and fill yet “one more committee.”
7. Roughly one-fourth of the churches surveyed are open to learning more about creation care through establishing a Green Team in their church.
8. Having a committed and motivated core group of individuals who care about God’s Creation and Climate Justice are key to being engaged in creation care at all levels, and so is a positive attitude of the pastor.

Engaging with Local Churches

There are a variety of innovative ministries already happening in local churches.

- SD State climatologist presented a series on climate change at Sioux Falls First UMC
- Milnor UMC planted a living fence with native trees and grasses.

- Pastor Susan Jennys has distributed the First Nations Bible, and her church holds an annual “Creation Sunday” worship.
- Piedmont UMC hosts a community garden and has a church workday in the spring to help families plant. They are considering planting an orchard.
- Arthur UMC has a “Blessing of the Seeds Sunday” for farmers and supports an ecumenical ministry, Growing Hope Globally.
- Lead, SD, Trinity UMC is using the ministry development tool, Simple Church to foster environmental stewardship.
- Montrose UMC is using a similar tool, “Messy Church,” which had a session on creation care.
- Madison UMC has garden boxes to “grow seeds of kindness,” and teaches people how to garden as well as handing out free seed packets.
- Wesley UMC in Sioux Falls has gleaned produce and works at a nearby elementary school to do container gardening.
- Sunnycrest UMC put in a retention pond for runoff and teaches that environmental stewardship is part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Storm Mountain Camp teaches campers about environmental stewardship and is installing water filling stations to cut down on plastic single-use water bottles.

Pierre First Church has offered to host a day long workshop for other churches in the area to come together to explore and engage in what creation care in their local church and community could look like. There is no one-size-fits-all Green Team model, and each church can tailor it to meet their own local needs, resources, and context to begin addressing the urgent work of Creation Care and Climate Justice.

The Caretaker of God’s Creation and others would lead this workshop for up to a dozen local churches, building relationships to advise, resource and support their goals. Other hub churches in the Dakotas could host workshops and/or pairs of Seed Planters could visit individual churches as requested.

Recruiting a Conference Level Green Team

The Extending Missional Impact Link (of which I am co-chair) is sponsoring a resolution to implement the General Conference mandate that all annual conferences have a Caretaker of God’s Creation (CGC) and Conference Creation Care/Justice (Green) Team (CGT).

So, another component of Marty Toepke-Floyd’s Earthkeeper project was to identify individuals willing to serve on a conference level Green Team to assist the Caretaker of God’s Creation in developing, resourcing, promoting and implementing a plan to help local churches in the Dakotas to engage more in Creation Care and/or establish Green Teams.

A conference Green Team needs committed volunteers who are skilled in community organizing, communications and IT, motivational speaking, and fundraising. A number of persons have expressed a willingness to be part of a CGT to work alongside the CGC.

- Tanner Clark, director of Storm Mountain Camp, is especially committed to educating youth who attend the camp. Earth Day (first observed in 1970) is major fund-raising event for improvement projects at the camp, and Tanner works hard to help campers experience and become more aware of God’s Creation.
- Cindy Heidelberger-Coates is a deacon at Sioux Falls Wesley and the executive director of Groundworks Connect, an educational and experiential project in the Sioux Falls area that connects young people to agriculture and creation.
- Dan Johnson, lay member of Yankton First UMC, organized a Green Team in his church in 2023. Not only has the team tackled energy conservation and savings in their building, but they have expanded awareness into the community and advocated for Creation Care and sustainable farming.
- Rodney Knock is the pastor of Hilltop UMC in Sioux Falls which has a strong mission-work oriented ethos.
- Charlie Moore is the lead pastor of Sunnycrest UMC in Sioux Falls which has integrated care of creation and environmental stewardship with basic discipleship as believers in Jesus Christ.

- Jackie Owen is Tanner Clark’s mother, and member of Rapid Valley UMC. She has extensive experience and knowledge of adult and community education as well as working with youth at camp.
- Marty Toepke-Floyd (author) is the senior pastor of Jamestown First UMC and has led workshops on Climate Justice at Mission u for the United Women in Faith.
- Cory Thrall is the lead pastor at Legacy UMC in Bismarck would like to see his church to be strategic in its vision for the future of their building and operations and spreading that vision to other churches. The expanded use of solar panels on the Legacy church and fair-trade coffee are two goals which the church could take.
- Mark Turner is serving three small churches in north central North Dakota, and has been a missionary in Africa, Brazil, and Chile. He has emphasized that being a disciple of Jesus Christ means we are global citizens.

Financial Cost of Caretaker for God’s Creation and Conference Green Team

Here is a proposed budget for implementing the Resolution and funding a CGC position assisted by a CGT:

▪ Annual Stipend for CGC	\$5,000	(40 hours/month)
▪ Mileage, Meals, and Office materials	1,000	
▪ Materials for Workshops	500	
▪ Grants to start new Green Teams	2,500	(five \$500 grants)
▪ Mileage & Meals for volunteer team	<u>500</u>	
Total annual budget	\$9,500	

Many thanks to the people who responded to the survey questions and to the churches who are already engaged in various Creation Care and Climate Justice ministries. Thank you also to the Earthkeepers training team at the Board of Global Ministries, Bishop Lanette Plambeck who preached at the online commissioning service, and to those who have prayed with me for this project.

Submitted by Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd, Co-Chair of EMIL

Bakken Oil Rush Ministry – Watford City, ND

Twelve years ago, the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church said “yes” to planting a ministry in Western North Dakota. That faithful yes has continued to ripple into the present, and what began as a small outreach has now become a thriving expression of God’s love in action. Though Bakken Oil Rush is no longer under the formal umbrella of the UMC, the foundation you laid continues to support our mission today. We remain deeply grateful for your prayers, connection, and care.

2024 Highlights

This year has been filled with growth, generosity, and the unmistakable presence of God moving through every part of our ministry. At the heart of our work is our thrift store — a place where needs are met, relationships are built, and the Gospel is lived out. In 2024, we gave away over \$42,000 worth of clothing, household items, and furniture to individuals and families experiencing hardship. These gifts were not simply transactions — they were opportunities to show people that they are loved and not forgotten.

After years of dreaming, we were finally able to move forward on several much-needed renovation projects. The floor of the store was resurfaced, replacing cracked and peeling concrete. A sidewalk was installed between the store and our Quonset building to help staff and volunteers safely transport donations, and we began work on regrading our gravel parking lot to prevent frequent flooding. These changes have significantly enhanced the experience of both our guests and team members.

Winter Warmth and Emergency Response

Our Winter-Wear Giveaway was again a major lifeline. In 2024, more than seven hundred households received essential cold-weather clothing. Our team also responded to multiple emergencies, including a house fire that left a family of seven

with nothing. Within hours, we were able to provide clothing, household items, and prayer. The father tearfully expressed his gratitude, saying it felt like God had not forgotten them.

Programs That Build Belonging

Our Language and Culture Classes continue to build bridges across cultures. In 2024, we offered two 12-week sessions welcoming both English and Spanish learners. These gatherings go beyond language instruction — they foster friendship and belonging. After our spring session ended, several participants formed their own breakfast group to continue practicing together.

Compassion in Action Events

Our community outreach events flourished in 2024. At Thanksgiving, we served 270 meals, accompanied by a message of hope. Our Toy Mall welcomed 243 children to choose new gifts and hear the story of Jesus' birth. Our Back-to-School event provided supplies to two hundred children, all through local donations.

Community Connections

We believe impact comes through collaboration. This year, we partnered with AmeriCorps, worked alongside first responders, and connected with local businesses and schools. I was honored to speak at the Women's Leadership Summit, representing our mission and the importance of faith-based service.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we step into 2025, we plan to ramp up our community engagement by developing a Care Team to interact and pray with customers needing hope and encouragement at the thrift store. We plan to increase our school supply give-away to support three hundred children with school supplies for the fall. We also hope to expand our resource area, offering space to meet and pray with those in need in a place where they feel safe and loved.

A Final Word of Thanks

To the Dakotas Conference: thank you. Your spiritual investment in Bakken Oil Rush Ministry continues to bear fruit. Your early generosity helped establish something lasting — and every meal served, every coat given away, and every child encouraged is part of your legacy. If you or your church would like to reconnect through prayer, volunteering, or support, we would welcome that with open arms.

Submitted by Melanie Smith, executive director, Bakken Oil Rush Ministry

Solar Oven Partners (SOP)

On 1/2/2025, Randy Harwood began his role as the Director of Solar Oven Partners. He subsequently sought office space in Fargo, ND. Office space was acquired in Faith UMC at 909 19th Ave North. With the assistance of Al Roll, Randy moved the contents of the SOP offices from Elk River, MN, to Fargo.

Once office space was secured, Randy also bought file cabinets, built out a desk and set up a filing system. After consultation with the board Randy purged all files older than 10 years. Faith UMC also donated a commercial copier to SOP which has been helpful in printing brochures. We are allowed to use the new copier in the Faith UMC offices to print our newsletters. Speaking of newsletters, the first newsletter of 2025 was written and edited by Randy and Connie Smith in conjunction with our SOP communications team and was sent out on 4/15/2025.

Randy also set up an Electronic Payment System account with the United States Postal Service to be able to utilize our existing non-profit mailing permit from the Elk River post office, using the postal system's Mail Anywhere application. With this application we can mail from any post office, and we do not have to mail from the Elk River post office.

Randy has visited all of the SOP workshops and has gotten familiar with their managers, operations and management. He has taken numerous pictures and videos of the operations and will use some of them to create a SOP video that can be shown in churches and to other organizations.

Randy is working with our SOP country and site coordinators to set up mission trips for 2025. The trips are scheduled as follows:

Navajo Nation – Albuquerque, NM – June 26 – July 2

Dominican Republic – August 16 – 23 or 25

Sierra Leone, Africa – November 29 – December 13

Currently, Randy is working on budgeting with each site coordinator and recruiting participants for each trip. He looks forward to these mission trips to continue building relationships with site coordinators and participants.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous donors, churches and individuals who contribute regularly. Their support enables us to continue our work. Kudos to our dedicated volunteers in our workshops. Their efforts directly impact the lives of those we serve. The individuals, various women's groups, and the United Women of Faith who all sewed potholders, black bottom cloths, and bread pan covers played a crucial role in our operations. Dakotas Conference and other conference missions' support and contributions are invaluable in advancing our mission work to the communities we serve.

Thank you to SOP board and staff for the exciting work of Solar Oven Partners. Our commitment to empowering people through self-help solar cooking and water pasteurization is commendable.

Visit our website [Solar Oven Partners](#) and learn about our mission! Solar ovens not only cook food but also change lives and communities. By harnessing the sun's energy, we are promoting well-being in the DR, SL, and the Navajo Nation. On our [Facebook page](#) we share updates and engage with the community.

Submitted by Randy Harwood, director of Solar Oven Partners

Spirit Lake Ministry

There is always something happening at Spirit Lake Ministry and The Journey. We are excited to update everybody on the activities that have been held and the future plans for this amazing facility and ministry on the Spirit Lake Nation.

Last summer, we had several different types of teams and groups visit and be able to rest and fill their souls with peace. We had our first annual ladies' tea held in Arthur Hall with ladies from the First United Methodist Church in Devils Lake and ladies from The Journey. We enjoyed visiting, and had a light lunch, a tour of the property, and invited all the prayer warriors of that group to pray over the ministry that day and throughout the year. It was a perfect way to start our year out.

Because God blessed us with this facility and with connections with other ministries, we also had our first Celebrate Recovery leadership weekend. CR leaders from Bismarck came for the weekend to rest, pray, and celebrate their successes in their ministry. We also were blessed that the Spirit Lake Employment and Youth program held their cultural camp twice during the summer for their young adults; and the best part was that both times they were at the ministry we had other teams here. The teams enjoyed sitting in and listening to some of the speakers and witnessed teepee building! For the first full summer after COVID, and with it being our first summer as directors, we had seven different teams come from all over the United States. We were in awe of the individuals that came, and their willingness to give from themselves so freely – each week with these teams were different but amazing. We were able to reach out through vacation bible school, update the ministry with paint, staining, organizing, fixing, and building. Kim and I were so nervous about the summer, but all the individuals came, accepted us, and supported us and once again, showed us what Jesus looks like!

And of course, no newsletter can be without an update of Christmas Shoe Boxes – it was crazy and wonderful, crazy, and beautiful! We received a record number of shoeboxes from all over the nation (6,000). We had new volunteers and groups that came and assisted us with checking each box, and helped deliver the boxes to three different reservations, the schools on Spirit Lake Nation, the districts, Head Start and daycares in the areas. We heard some testimonies from people from when they received the boxes when they were young and the impression it had on them.

Our time at Spirit Lake is always busy – we had ministry teams come throughout the summer, we received and distributed six thousand Christmas Shoeboxes – and every Sunday at 5:00 pm The Journey gathers for a time of prayer, worship, singing and once a month sharing a meal. Our congregation has grown throughout the year with 75% being children (and we even have a brand-new baby girl that in the next year is looking to be baptized.) We love doing things together. We have a boy's night where we went bowling and enjoyed supper together. We had girls' night where we went to a movie and supper. We had a Halloween party where we ate and enjoyed games. Youth night took place on Wednesdays during the summer where we enjoy a meal, some games, a short lesson, a fire and always a game of basketball and UNO!!!!

We are excited for this summer. Besides us planning to meet our third grandchild, we are looking forward to having at least the same number of teams come to visit with some being new and some being old friends. Our projects will be something rather different than the past as we feel we want to support the families in the area and in our congregation by having a few steers that we will feed and at end of fall, butcher and help feed the families in need. We will plant a

community garden and partner with the local college and preserve the food we all grow. We have to finish the brand-new shower house; and we also want to choose a family that dedicates their lives to foster care and help with some repairs. We are biting off quite a bit but with prayers and support (volunteers and financial help) I believe that we can do anything if it is what Jesus wants us to do. We all just need to be obedient – no matter how big and scary and wonderful the tasks are ahead of us.

We thank you all for your support and cannot wait to tell you about the updates for next year!

Submitted by Kim & Paulet Paulson, co-directors, Spirit Lake Ministry Center

Tree of Life Ministry

2024 was another successful year for the “Tree”. Volunteer in Mission Teams were present weekly throughout the summer, food and goods distributions were made weekly to the community, and several on campus projects were completed.

Although Covid had a lasting impact and did slow down mission activity, being shut down by Tribal authorities for extended periods of time, it did allow for a time to catch a breath and accomplish much needed onsite projects. After several years of facility construction and renovation, the new soup kitchen is now up and running and serving meals daily. In addition, the thrift store continues to provide many needed items to community members at very little cost – the thrift store is a major source of revenue along with mission team contributions. Both the kitchen and store have been amazing successes for the Tree.

As 2024 progressed, Linda Garriot, former Director, indicated it was time for her to retire after many years of service to the community and ministry. The Board of Directors conducted a director search near the end of the year and in early 2025 they hired Sandra Spotted-Tail, a local area resident, to succeed Linda as the new director. Sandra has been a long-time resident and knows the needs of the community well. She brings great ideas on how to reach out more intentionally to the individuals and groups on the Rosebud Reservation. Please welcome Sandra to the Tree of Life and the Dakotas Conference. At the same time, please thank Linda for her years of service and support to the mission.

The Tree of Life would like to thank the many donors, volunteers, and mission teams who participated in projects during 2024. Additionally, the Board of Directors continues to seek new board members so don't hesitate to contact Sandra if interested. And, as always, you are always welcome to visit, share, volunteer, or whatever you feel called to do in the Tree of Life Ministry.

Submitted by Al Roll, Missional Impact Development Coach

United Methodist Women in Faith

United Women in Faith's purpose statement:

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of missions through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Our organization is present in local churches, districts, and the conference, inviting and empowering women to have an active faith through ministry to women, children, and youth. The elected lay women who serve in offices on each of these levels are trained in various leadership capacities, and in turn, provide leadership and mentoring to our local members.

Our conference participates in the national programs of United Women in Faith (UWF), such as the Reading Program, Mission U, Soul Care, and social justice initiatives, but we also lead our own projects, such as Love Ribbon Grants, the New Opportunities Grant, and UWF Sunday.

We contribute to the “Pledge,” money that is sent to National UWF and is given to the many projects and mission institutions that UWF sponsors. We also keep some of the money in our own conference to do the work of mission here at home.

Our Love Ribbon Grant program awards money to local projects in the Dakotas that serve women and children. This year, \$2700 in grants was given to ten projects in the following churches: Ben Claire, Brookings, Canton, Fargo First, Jamestown St. Paul's, Miller, Minot Faith, Pierre First, Spearfish, and Wahpeton.

We also awarded our New Opportunities Grant to a woman from Epworth UMC in Valley City. She received \$1000 to continue her studies to receive a degree in education.

We helped send several women to the North Central Jurisdiction UWF Quadrennial event in Indianapolis in May. Participants experienced inspirational worship and music, educational and motivational speakers, connection to other women via small group discussions, and incitement to live out our faith through action.

Events led by the Dakotas Conference UWF:

- District and Conference Annual Celebrations. We gather to worship, hear special speakers, engage in spiritual growth study, and complete business.
- Soul Care Saturday. Held in several locations in the spring, we learn about taking care of our spirit, minds, and bodies so that we can extend that compassion to others.
- Mission u. These educational retreats are held at Jamestown University and Dakota Wesleyan University in July. In 2024, participants studied the book, *Welcome Home*, by Neomi Fletcher, an exploration of how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. We also examined what it means to live in the kin-dom of God by developing practices for building and existing in healthier communities.
- MMIR Webinar. Funded in part by a grant from National United Women in Faith, in August we hosted a webinar on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, featuring Lily Mendoza, advocate for indigenous persons and founder of the Red Skirt Society based in Rapid City, SD. We learned about the impact this problem has on our Dakotas communities and were spurred on to take further steps to learn more and take action. Rev. Susan Jennys presented us with a spiritual foundation for awareness of this issue. The webinar is available on the Dakotas UMC website.
- UWF Sunday. Local women lead worship in their own churches, following an order of worship developed by our own Dakotas Conference officers, complete with songs, prayers, and sermon.

Respectfully submitted, Colleen McKirdy, Dakotas Conference United Women in Faith President

GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES LINK

The work of the Generating Missional Resources Link is functionally lived out within the following committees that are committed to the work of stewardship development and resource management within the Dakotas Conference.

Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA)

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) focused on a variety of administrative issues including clergy moving policies, budget planning, and financial reporting. We received updates on policy revisions for clergy move reimbursements, emphasizing clarity and accountability. The moving base stipend was held steady at 2024 levels for 2025 at \$5,000 for clergy moves, with additional provisions for couples and large families. Mileage reimbursement was also held steady for 2025 at \$3 per mile, with specific limits for retired and seminary clergy. This policy emphasizes clergy agency in managing their moves while allowing for supplemental grants under extraordinary circumstances. The total moving budget was projected based on estimated moves, with a planned review of stipend adequacy if costs trend higher.

The committee discussed strategies throughout the year to recruit new members to fill vacant roles and strategies to enhance our engagement with churches. Discussions also addressed reducing health insurance costs for staff and churches, facilitated by Board of Pensions contributions. The Transitional Reserve Fund's allocation and potential uses were deliberated, reflecting a proactive approach to fiscal challenges.

Due to the challenging financial landscape post-disaffiliations, the Committee also decided to maintain our current church apportionment rate at 13.0% of church operating income for 2026. The treasurer's report outlines apportionment collections, budget forecasts, and management of disaffiliation funds. The 2023 audit was finalized in late 2024, resulting in another favorable audit opinion. The latest audit report is posted on the Dakotas Annual Conference website, www.dakotasumc.org/finance-and-benefits/finance/conference-finances.

The overall tone of the CCFA reflects a commitment to financial stewardship, strategic planning, and support for conference ministries amidst evolving challenges.

Submitted by Ray Baker, chair – Dakotas Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Dakotas Methodist Foundation

At the Dakotas Methodist Foundation, we believe that financial resources are more than numbers on a page — they are seeds of hope, tools of transformation, and expressions of faith in action. Walking alongside churches in this understanding is one of our greatest joys. We've seen church leaders and committees shift from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance — becoming not just stewards of resources, but catalysts for possibility.

As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation held \$43.4 million in investments. Over the course of the year, we were honored to distribute more than \$2,206,262 to churches, organizations, and seminary students across the Dakotas. Every dollar given or granted was a step forward in our shared mission: turning money into ministry.

Investing in Future Leaders: Seminary Scholarships

Supporting the next generation of spiritual leaders remains a core part of our work. In 2024, we \$106,102 in scholarships to thirteen seminary students pursuing their call to ministry:

Tia Felberg, Carrie Gilkerson, Rebecca Hafner, Andrea Hult, Jesse Irvine, Amber Laffey, Sara Nelson, Andrea Plueddeman, Laura Sherman, Janson Steffan, Shawn Stoll, Cory Thrall, and Brandon Vetter

We also provided scholarships through the Dollars for Scholars program to three undergraduate students: Tyra Gates, Anna Mutzenberger, and Rosalie Wehlender. These investments ensure that passionate, committed leaders are equipped and supported for the journey ahead.

Empowering New Ministry: Breakthrough Grants

Breakthrough Ministry Grants provide churches with funding to launch or expand impactful ministries. In 2024, \$52,650 was awarded to fifteen churches for seventeen new ministry initiatives.

These projects include outreach ministries, church-school partnerships, young adult and campus ministries, and programs supporting a Culture of Call. Churches dreaming of new ministry opportunities are encouraged to apply. Grant applications are accepted quarterly: January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31 — details are available at www.dkmmmf.org.

Connectional Giving in Action: Builders Club

The Builders Club exemplifies our connectional spirit — individuals, churches, and organizations across the Annual Conference come together to support building projects that help churches better reach their communities.

In 2024, Builders Club members gave over \$108,000 across four calls, supporting:

- Prairie View UMC, which made needed updates to their parsonage to ensure its safety and comfort for their incoming pastor.
- Madison UMC, which repaired their roof, sanctuary, bell tower, and Sunday school rooms after suffering water damage following the derecho in 2022.
- Huron Riverview UMC, which created more welcoming and functional spaces, including bathroom and office spaces, made repairs to their roof and updated their parking lot, to accommodate the influx of new members following the disaffiliation of Huron First UMC.
- United Church of Garretson, which remodeled their basement to create a dedicated space for the youth and a functional meeting space.

To join the Builders Club or apply for a grant, visit our website <https://www.dkmmmf.org/dakotas-builders-club> or call our office at 605-990-7790.

A Shared Journey of Faith and Impact

As we journey forward together, we remain committed to cultivating generosity, fostering community, and equipping ministries for growth. The work of building these connections is deeply rewarding. Every transformed space, every equipped leader, every launched ministry is a reflection of God's abundance and your faithful generosity.

We look ahead with gratitude and hope — excited for what's next in our partnership with churches, organizations, and ministries throughout the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences.

Our Mission:

To cultivate and secure resources for churches and ministries by developing relationships with a community of donors who embrace the value of changing lives and seeking the love of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Together, we will continue the journey — turning money into ministry.

Submitted by Sheri Meister, president/CEO Dakotas Methodist Foundation and Rev. Cory Thrall, chair, board of directors

Human Resources Committee (HR)

Through the good work of JoAnn Early, Benefits and Human Resources Officer, and Kaylynn Schutte, Finance and Benefits/Human Resources Assistant, we were able to update most of the employee handbook. We plan to finalize the employee handbook review in 2025. The plan going forth is to annually review to stay current with any pertinent annual conference, legal changes, and/or employment best practices.

At the end of calendar 2024 job descriptions were updated and reviewed with all employees. Employee performance reviews were completed with each employee. Additionally, employee handbook updates and policy changes were reviewed with employees in December.

A Conflict-of-Interest policy was added to the employee handbook along with a process for all employees to annually complete a Conflict-of-Interest Declaration.

Submitted by Nancy Bohlen, chair, Human Resource Committee

Board of Pensions

Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. and
South Dakota Annual Conference United Methodist Board of Pensions, Inc.

The Dakotas Conference Board of Pensions (Board or BOP) administers the pension, health care and other benefit programs available to clergy and lay employees of United Methodist institutions (local churches, Dakotas Annual Conference, and other UM related entities). The purpose of the Board is to wisely provide pension and health care benefits for its clergy, lay employees, and their families so that they can more freely equip the local church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (See Para. 638.1 in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline).

Major accomplishments over the past year include gifting funds to the Central Conference Pension Initiative, giving clergy and their families the opportunity to attend a Dakotas Annual Conference camp for free, and providing a grant to cover December's direct bill for churches participating in HealthFlex Exchange and pensions. Pre-82 surviving spouse's benefits have been increased from 70% to 85% of the benefit the clergy person was receiving. The minimum years of service needed to be eligible to receive HRA or premium support will stay at 14 years. Additionally, we completed a formal Investment Policy Statement that outlines the general rules and guidelines for managing the Board of Pensions investment portfolio, including investment objectives, risk tolerance, asset allocation, and other important parameters, serving as a roadmap for investment decisions.

Grants: The board will continue to offer parental leave grants to help cover lay supply expenses while a pastor or spouse is on leave. Medical grants will continue for eligible clergy to help with large out-of-pocket medical bills. Surviving spouses will continue to be eligible for premium grants to help with Medicare Part B as those rates continue to increase.

Clergy Medical Leave: Clergy members Richard Zeck, Howard Baird, Lori Broschat, and Kevin Kloster were approved to continue medical leave for the conference year of July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

The Pre-82 (Past Service) Annuity Rate: The Board of Pensions recommended that the 2026 Past Service Annuity Rate (effective 1/1/2026) be set at \$850 for each year of pre-82 service in the Dakotas Annual Conference. This is a 1.84% increase over 2025.

2026 Pension Direct Bill: New clergy and clergy who are eligible for CRSP now will be eligible for Compass effective January 1, 2026. The churches direct bill will include three types of contributions:

- A flat dollar contribution of \$150 per month, which will increase by 2% each year (in \$5 increments) for full-time clergy and prorated for three-quarter and half-time clergy.

- 3% of clergy pensionable pay (base pay plus either the housing allowance or the deemed value of a parsonage equal to 35% of base pay).
- 4% of clergy pensionable pay (which accounts for the \$1/\$1 match).

The 3% for Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) will continue to be included in the pension direct bill for clergy that are full-time and three-quarter time appointments.

2026 HealthFlex Exchange Direct Bill: Due to the increase in HealthFlex Exchange premiums over the past years and a 7.2% increase from 2025-2026 the HealthFlex Exchange direct bill will increase from \$15,791 in 2025 to \$18,160 in 2026. For churches with full-time clergy on HealthFlex Exchange the full-time direct bill will be \$18,160 annually. Churches with full-time clergy that opt-out of HealthFlex Exchange will be billed 50% of the full-time direct bill. Churches with three-quarter time clergy on HealthFlex Exchange will be billed 75% of the full-time direct bill. Churches with three-quarter time clergy that opt out of HealthFlex Exchange will be billed half of the 75% direct bill. For churches with T The Wespeth health team will continue to answer questions regarding HSA, HRA and FSA.

The chart below shows the actual cost for each category of participant enrolled in the 2026 HealthFlex Exchange:

Active Clergy and Laity

Plan	Single Coverage	Participant +1 Coverage	Participant and Family Coverage
H5000	\$11,148	\$21,168	\$28,968
H2500	\$11,868	\$22,560	\$30,876
H2000	\$13,824	\$26,268	\$35,952
C3000 (default plan)	\$12,348	\$23,460	\$32,112
C2000	\$14,184	\$26,940	\$36,876
B1000	\$14,772	\$28,068	\$38,412

The Board of Pensions will provide a premium credit to offset the cost of health insurance for active clergy and laity as follows:

Type of Coverage	Premium Credit
Single	\$10,920
Participant +1	\$20,700
Participant and Family	\$28,344

Eligibility to participate is specified in the HealthFlex Exchange plan documents and conference policy.

All premiums will be paid in accordance with conference policies regarding such payments (see Policy section of the 2024 Journal).

ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN

See the Pensions and Health Benefits Guidelines in the 2024 Journal for all eligibility rules.

UPDATE ON THE RETIREE HEALTH LIABILITY FUNDING PLAN AND NEW INFORMATION ON A RETIREE HEALTH FUNDING PLAN/HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS:

To fund the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) contributions, the Board of Pensions uses funds accumulated in the Retiree Health Fund invested with Wespeth, as well as the Frank Lynch Trust and Georgia Lynch Trust invested in Union Bank. In 2019, all the stipulations within the Lynch Trusts were fulfilled to allow the funds to be transferred from the Frank Lynch Trust to the Retiree Health Fund. The Georgia Lynch Trust with a balance of \$105,707.84 as of 12/31/2024 still has not been received from Union Bank but will need to be transferred to the Retiree Health Fund upon receipt.

It is the policy of the Board of Pensions to manage these funds like an endowment so that 4.5% of the average balance is made available for HRAs. By managing the Retiree Health Fund in this manner, the Board of Pensions intends to grow the balance of this fund as well as the amount contributed to HRAs.

UPDATES ON VIA BENEFITS FOR RETIREES:

The average retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to a participant for 2025 is \$4,288. 42% of all our retiree HRA accounts had funds roll over from 2024. Of those accounts, 64% rolled over a minimum of \$1000.

Regarding Corpus Amounts Endowment and Trust Fund:

The corpus was established at \$1,000,000 for the merged Dakotas Conference as of 1/1/1994. Additions since the merger total \$84,646.59. The corpus of the endowment is \$1,084,646.59, as of 12/31/24. The corpus is not viewed as a “target balance.” Instead, it is the foundation of all Dakotas Pension and Health Plans and cannot be expended for any reason. The Board has adopted a strategy of “reserve savings” with accompanying policies endorsed by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration which will enable the Board to help the Dakotas Conference with increases in health insurance premiums, secure the Ministerial Pension Plan and the Pre-82 Plan, and provide funding for CRSP liabilities. Reports of the amount of this “reserve savings” and its use will be reported to the Dakotas Annual Conference upon request.

Administration of All Plans and Work of the Board: The Board of Pensions recommends that the following be authorized to sign necessary documents relative to the Dakotas Board of Pensions for 2025-2026: Board Chair, Conference Benefits Officer, and Treasurer of the Board of Pensions.

Pension Payments and Rental/Housing Allowance

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Dakotas Conference

The Dakotas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits & Investments (“WBI”), during the calendar year 2026 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespeth (WBI) and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth (WBI) plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson of

this Conference rendered to any local Church, Conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

Submitted by JoAnn Early, conference benefits officer

Conference Board of Trustees

The Conference Board of Trustees' primary purpose is to oversee and care for all Conference property, while making the property available for the agencies of the Conference. The Trustees are also tasked with investing any proceeds received from the sale of property so that the proceeds and earnings can be used to fund other ministries. The report below summarizes the details of the properties currently owned by the Dakotas Conference as well as property related activity that occurred in the past year:

Property	Date Acquired by DAC	Insured (Building)	Insured (Personal Property)	Responsible For Maintenance	2024 Maintenance (1)
Conference Center	1970	\$1,296,000	\$260,000	Conference Board of Trustees	\$10,262
Southeast Pierre Church	2022	\$1,455,000	\$85,000	Conference Board of Trustees	\$0
Mohall Church/Lot (2)	2019	\$0	\$0	Conference Board of Trustees	\$0
Amelia Bailey Church	2024	\$155,000	\$0	Conference Board of Trustees	\$0
Spirit Lake Ministry	2006	\$1,868,400	\$354,000	Spirit Lake Ministry	\$0
Storm Mountain Center (3)	1974	\$6,870,400	\$1,038,500	Camping Council	\$66,500
Lake Poinsett Camp (3)	1946	\$8,801,000	\$1,451,500		
Wesley Acres Camp (3)	1952	\$4,007,000	763,800		
Totals		\$24,452,000	\$3,952,800		

(1) Only includes the amounts provided by Trustee Repair Funds or Apportionments for maintenance.

(2) The Mohall church was covered under our Conference liability insurance until it was demolished in mid-2024. The remaining lot continues to be covered under our Conference liability policy.

(3) Storm Mountain received \$18,500; Wesley Acres received \$38,500; and Lake Poinsett received \$9,500 from the Conference.

Due to the Mohall, ND, church being in disrepair, the Board of Trustees determined the church should be demolished. This demolition was completed in 2024. The total cost of the demolition was \$38,090 and was funded by the Rural Church Fund, which was established with the proceeds from the sale of the Mohall parsonage in 2023. The remaining church lot is under contract for \$8,000 and is scheduled to close on May 5, 2025.

The Amelia Bailey UMC church in Moffitt, ND, closed in September 2024. This church is currently under contract for sale (as of March 27, 2025) at \$50,000, before closing and other expenses. Unfortunately, the abstract could not be located, and the recorded legal description was incorrect. Therefore, the property had to be surveyed and recorded at the county office. This property sale is estimated to close in May 2025.

Our Conference Treasurer was also made aware that the Dakotas Annual Conference continued to own a Tree of Life Ministry Property, even though Tree of Life Ministry is now a separate ministry (this property was previously the office and parsonage of the director. It is now only used for dormitory for Volunteer in Mission work teams). Therefore, the Board of Trustees approved completing a Quitclaim Deed to transfer interest in the property to Tree of Life Ministry. This deed was submitted to the Tree of Life Ministry Director in January 2025.

The Dakotas Conference also owns the following farmland parcels:

- McPherson County farmland (159 acres), near Leola, SD, is leased for \$100/acre. The lease was renewed for another three years on the same terms as the prior lease to the same party (Leola United Methodist Men's group). The current lease will expire on December 31, 2026. The assessed value of this farmland (as of 2024) is \$263,105.
- Brookings County farmland (71.80 acres), near Lake Poinsett, SD, is leased for \$140/acre. The current lease will expire on December 31, 2025. The assessed value of this farmland (as of 2024) is \$221,420.
- Codington County farmland (65 acres), near Watertown, SD. This land was gifted to the Dakotas Conference in the 1990s with the request that the Jenkins Living Center in Watertown receive the rental proceeds. Currently, the land is farmed by the Watertown First United Methodist men's group. The agreement includes the Jenkins Living Center paying for all property taxes and one-third of certain crop input costs each year (e.g., fertilizer, pesticides, etc.). In return, the Jenkins Living Center receives one-third of the crop receipts. Conversely, the Watertown First United Methodist Men pays two-thirds of crop inputs and receives two-thirds of the crop receipts. The assessed value of this farmland (as of 2024) is \$172,360.

The Trustees met several times throughout the year to discuss a variety of property related issues, including reviewing and approving the discontinuation agreement related to Embrace Church presented at the Special Session of Annual Conference in November 2024.

Thank you to everyone who served on the Board of Trustees, as well as the Chancellors. Your service is appreciated!

Submitted by Kathy Chesney, Board of Trustees Chair, and Jim Ducker, Conference Treasurer

Wisdom Council Report

Part One: Purpose and Overview of Wisdom Council Work

In spring 2024, Bishop Lanette Plambeck called together a varied group of laity and clergy from across the Dakotas Conference. The Wisdom Council members committed to one year and were asked to provide evaluation, feedback, and ideas for consideration as the Dakotas Conference moves into a new quadrennium. The Wisdom Council members were: Dr. Alisha Vincent (facilitator), Rev. Kris Mutzenberger (facilitator), Terry Nebelsick, Tad Jacobs, Robert Green, Abi Van Regenmorter, Karl Rockeman, Richard Wahlstrom, Rev. Thanael Certa Werner, Rev. Quaya Ackerman, Rev. Travis Voeltz, Rev. Tiana Bohn, and Rev. Brandon Vetter.

The work of the annual conference is to assist local churches in making disciples by **Resourcing Equipping, Aligning, Connecting and Herald**ing the Wesleyan Way (R.E.A.C.H.). The work of the Wisdom Council was aimed at offering observations and feedback related to the systems, strategies, and supports the annual conference uses to fulfill this purpose.

During their monthly 2-hour ZOOM meetings, the Wisdom Council learned about the current landscape of the Dakotas UMC, analyzed surveys and research, shared their insights and experiences in their respective churches and communities, and conducted small group work.

Part Two: Evaluation and Ideation

From June through December, the Wisdom Council engaged in a variety of methods to collect and analyze evaluations and research related to current state and future implications for the Dakotas Conference and the communities it serves.

Methods included:

1. surveys of Annual Conference participants designed to assess services of current and future importance,
2. surveys of laity and non-church attendees in local communities that examine dynamics impacting participation in the local church as well as perceived strengths and gaps in annual conference support,
3. review of existing conference documentation related to strategies, programming, resource deployment, and finances,
4. interviews with extended cabinet members to assess resources and programming,
5. review of research on trends that are and are expected to impact the church.

Surveys of Annual Conference participants highlighted the following:

- The conference structure, offering financial support, and leadership development are currently among the best services offered.
- Ensuring that the conference and local churches have financial support, leadership development, and connectionalism should be a current, priority emphasis.
- Members believe leadership development, enhancing connectionalism, and focusing on next generation ministries is important future work for the conference.

Surveys conducted among local lay members/attenders and non-church attendees showed that:

- Members/attenders love the friendly, small, and supportive environment of their UMC community.
- Members/attenders attend because of connections, to grow in their faith, and because of tradition.
- Members/attenders see gaps or are concerned about youth engagement, declining memberships, and responsiveness to social justice issues like houselessness, mental health, and political divisions.
- Members/attenders are excited about the UMCs non-judgemental ethos, openness, and desire to serve.
- Members/attenders feel the conference supports their pastor but are not well aware of other connections to the conference.
- Members/attenders would like to see more from their DS, receive financial support from the conference, and get pulpit supply support.
- Non-attendees don't come because they don't feel connected, feel judged, or have other scheduling priorities.
- Non-attendees wish the church would offer more authentic acceptance, reach out more, and be less traditional or formal.

Some of the important findings from denominational and other church-related research showed that there has been a 50% drop in persons practicing Christianity since 2000 and 1/3 fewer Americans attend church weekly (compared to 1993). There is also declining church loyalty and even though persons might attend they are more reluctant to become members. Nearly 80% of non-church members look for churches that respond to important social justice needs. Millennials and younger value connection, authenticity, and meaningful formation. They also value community and spaces for relationship building over sermons and more traditional church experiences.

After conducting and evaluating surveys and research, Wisdom Council team members worked in small groups to generate initial areas of opportunity that the conference might focus on. In December, the Wisdom Council and Extended Cabinet exchanged ideas and information related to areas of opportunity and emerging needs. Following the December meeting, the Wisdom Council further explored ideas for administrative restructuring and refined their observations and recommendations.

Based on this work, the following observations and considerations emerged.

Part Three: Key Observations and Considerations

Observations from the Analysis	Consideration or Recommendation
Local churches look to the conference to design and support resources and programs that are responsive to their emerging and localized needs.	Use experts to conduct more robust analysis of the programs, resources (financial and personnel), policies and procedures to evaluate whether or not they are responsive to local church needs. Ensure that support provided to local churches is aligned with UMC mission and engages works of piety and works of mercy. Ensure that resources are intentionally engaged to equip, empower, and disciple younger generations.
There is a gap in understanding about our connectional system, especially with lay members of local churches and a need to increase awareness and improve understanding about the connections between the local church, annual conference, and General Conference.	Create video resources that local pastors and lay leaders can share with their congregations and community (for social, during services, etc.) Ensure that web and online resources are linked and prominent on annual conference and local church websites and social pages. Use Amplify and other denominational resources to equip pastors and lay leaders to emphasize and utilize our connectionalism. Create and provide other FAQ resources for on-demand access (and other resources as requested by local leadership). Work with developers or tech experts to investigate ways that AI (i.e. AI bots) can be leveraged to help pastors and others easily access support resources from the denomination and/or conference.
Pastors and lay leaders seek practical administrative and leadership support from the conference.	Support (financially and/or training) and create educational and mentoring opportunities for clergy to build acumen in areas of financial development and management, staff development, communication, conflict management, preaching and pastoral care. Opportunities should be accessible (online and/or in-person). Support and create more robust and accessible learning and mentoring opportunities for lay leaders to lead and/or support administration and leadership needs in the local congregation. Ensure that trainings offered are systematic (well planned, easily accessible, well-advertised, consistent on the calendar, etc.) Develop a better system and processes for ascertaining the calling, gifts, skills, and interests of laity and clergy and assist local leaders with strategies for encouraging people in their call to ministry.
Changes and emerging movements facing ministry and mission elevate the need for more innovation in rural, town, and urban areas.	Have the conference support assessment of needs in each community, examining unique environments, circumstances, and cultures of those communities and work with local leaders to develop innovative and responsive strategies and pair persons with giftedness needed in order to respond. Use simple methods (i.e. social media, email, virtual meet-ups,

	etc) to connect local churches with similar demographics and needs together to develop and pilot/deploy responsive innovations (could be cross state and include MN or other conferences). Connecting, utilizing, and sharing information and resources not just in our AC but beyond
There is a heightened consensus about the need to focus on, and resource, youth and young adult development for current and future mission and ministry.	Lean into momentum with DWU to help bolster innovation and connections with emerging leaders and experts in youth development. Consider resourcing persons to do more multi-site ministry (i.e. one person serving multiple churches, deploying regional gatherings, etc.). This might require multiple churches pooling resources to hire a regional director. Reimagine youth events (fewer but more robust and designed by youth and young adult leaders to be responsive to today and tomorrow's youth who are and are not connected to the church). Lean into Fresh Expressions and recruit and train youth and young adults (<25) to do and lead this.
Resources to make the mission of the UMC thrive do exist. However, engaging leadership and local churches to cultivate those resources through training and development of the spiritual discipline of generosity and stewardship is lacking.	Create strategies in partnership with trusted non-profits like the DK-MN Foundation that are designed to raise and manage funds for the advancement and sustainment of the conference and local ministry. Develop and deploy easy-to-offer resources that clergy and lay leaders can use in their churches that emphasize financial resource management and stewardship (how to make an appeal, relational giving, generosity, etc.) Create training materials for locally trained leaders (clergy and laity) to take into their churches that help congregants understand things like estate planning, donor advised funds, and asset management. Ensure that there are easy pathways for laity to give generously beyond the offering plate (i.e. easy-to-give to foundation or specific sustainable funding mechanisms). Innovate to help support advancement and sustainability (i.e. launch a capital campaign to endow the DS positions in the conference).
Funding constraints and changes in conference makeup and structure require the conference to adjust significant overhead expenses, including District Superintendents.	Reduce DS positions to the equivalent of 3 FTE (which may be 1 full-time and 4 part-time or 2 full-time and 2 part-time etc.). If using PT positions, make sure clear expectations and boundaries are in place. Create a DS-in-training program whereby these persons learn, are mentored, and offer support to the DS with duties that they can reasonably accommodate in accordance with the <i>Book of Discipline</i>.

	Re-evaluate the training, development, and job descriptions of the DSs, ensuring that expectations are clear and reasonable. Emphasize connection to local church (i.e. charge conference) and mentorship for clergy.
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Part Four: Other Emerging Ideas

As the Wisdom Council engaged in their work they often asked the question...How might we... to encourage creative thinking aimed at addressing issues or seizing opportunities. In doing so, other creative ideas for future consideration emerged. Among these were:

A Hub and Spoke Model: How might we leverage this type of model to create greater connection between local churches, clergy, laity, shared ministries, and the annual conference? How might we use this model to provide increased access to programs for local churches? Or create partnerships between local churches for needs in communities and local churches in a regional way? How might we use this model to think about superintending differently? Staffing differently?

Centralized Support Systems: How might we create a centralized admin support system that could include help with activities such as: finances/payroll, IT, HR, basic communication, etc? How might we encourage congregations to partner to share these sort of services? How might we lean into the giftedness of laity who are skilled in Admin/IT areas to become part of a support network?

Centralized Education/Training System: How might we create an innovative and on-demand training system that could be utilized for lay and clergy development across all ages and stages? How might we curate and/or create online classes, training videos, studies, youth education programs, coaching etc. to assist our people in mission and ministry? How might we deliver these resources and promote these resources? How might we utilize our connectional system to help provide educational resources?

The final, and perhaps most important, theme and consideration that emerged from the Wisdom Council was to ensure that all work is surrounded by the Holy Spirit and pointed toward the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Disciple-making in the Wesleyan Way and transformation of persons and communities should be central and paramount to how we steward all resources.

Conclusion

The observations and themes noted above are focused on the strengthening of connections and programs to assist local congregations, investing in lay and clergy leadership development, reaching youth/young adults, and growing the pool of resources for local and conference ministries. All work should help our Dakotas UMC realize a future where we are known for our Wesleyan Way of loving Jesus and neighbors. The Wisdom Council is grateful to have been given the opportunity to provide observations and key themes to assist the annual conference as we fulfill our purpose to R.E.A.C.H. and encourages the Dakotas Conference to continue to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we move forward in mission and ministry.

Seminary and University Reports

Africa University

Greetings and thanks to you, the members of the Dakotas Annual Conference, for your love of Africa University! Your love, lived out in the local church, and across every level of The United Methodist Church worldwide, is a source of hope and of dreams brought to life.

Africa University's students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni are deeply appreciative of the gracious investment of 55.76 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment by the local churches of the Dakotas Annual Conference in 2024. Thank you for investing in equipping change leaders who share the gospel of Jesus Christ, reduce hunger, improve public health, instill hope, and build prosperous and peaceful communities. As the 2025-2028 quadrennium unfolds, Africa University is urging the members of the Dakotas Annual Conference to:

- Encourage their congregations to maintain their support for the Africa University Fund at the 2016 budget level and strive for 100% investment of the asking each year.
- Help identify at least two (2) churches (keystone congregations) in the conference to provide second mile gifts of \$7,000 each (or \$14,000 in total each year) for annual scholarships for two undergraduate students.

Through Africa University, The United Methodist Church is nurturing servant leaders with ethics, empathy, and an audacious, can-do mindset. Having experienced God's grace through your love in action, students and graduates of Africa University are excited, energized and stepping forward to help churches and communities to thrive. Here are highlights of the impact of Africa University faculty, administrators, and students in 2024:

- Africa University start-up, Reagan Technologies, earned a [semi-final finish in the Hult Prize Global Accelerator competition](#). Known as the 'Nobel prize contest for students' the three-student AU team impressed the Hult Prize judges with an innovative concept for generating electricity from footsteps. The team's climate-smart pavement tiles stood out against the competition from more than 60 universities.
- Another AU trio is transforming education by bridging the digital divide in Africa. Three students majoring in computer science won the [top prize at the UbuntuNet Alliance Women's Hackathon](#) with FUNDISA. It's a chatbot that delivers instant, curriculum-aligned explanations to students who lack internet access but have phones with SMS functionality. The chatbot enables students to simply send a text to a short code to receive educational support.
- Africa University is excited to share that its Doctor of Ministry program, a first for the continent of Africa, was accredited by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education. D.Min. candidates now have options for specialization in Mission and Evangelism, Liturgical Theology, Church Administration, Church and Society, and Chaplaincy Ministry. A pioneer group of ten (10) senior officers in the military, prisons and policing from Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have completed the program, thanks to a collaboration between Africa University and Wesley Theological Seminary. The doctoral research projects of this first group of candidates generated new knowledge that addresses deployment trauma, reducing drug abuse among officers, and the use of psalms of lament for facilitating healing in families of inmates.

This is the transformation story that Dakotas United Methodists, in their faithfulness, are writing through Africa University. Thank you for showing up, always, as the means through which promise, dreams, and a just future are being realized. Your leadership and generous contributions are as pivotal today as they were at Africa University's inception, 33 years ago. Thank you for journeying alongside Africa University in ministry.

Submitted by James H. Salley, President/CEO of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc. and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Africa University.

Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH)

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2024, Boston University School of Theology's (BUSTH) commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

Students: Our academic year 2024-25 entering class was among our most diverse, with 109 new students enrolling, 33% of whom are international students.

Faculty: In July, Shively T. J. Smith was promoted to Associate Professor of New Testament, and in September we welcomed new [faculty member](#) Emilie m. Townes, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Religion and Black Studies. In January we welcomed new Assistant Professor of Religion and Society Luther Young, Jr.

Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming: BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—continues to expand since launching in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage challenges of public life: bu.edu/sth/marpl. An online Master of Divinity program is planned for Fall 2026.

Faculty Research: Associate Dean Cristian De La Rosa received a second Lilly Endowment Parenting Grant for \$1.25 million. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2024. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as social justice activism, historical Methodist leaders, responding to trauma, and the use of AI to predict religious extremism. Selected stories are found at bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.

Scholarships: We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include Rev. James M. Smith ('51) Fund for Latinx Lay Education and Rev. Tom Sears ('59) Chaplaincy Operating Fund. We have increased an endowed fund for students specializing in Hebrew Bible.

Accreditation and Curriculum: BUSTH concluded a thorough curriculum revision for the MDiv and MTS programs which launched in fall 2024.

Online Lifelong Learning: BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “A Womanist Ethic of Care.” To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.

Development: Recent accomplishments include endowing the Raíces Latinas Program in Theology, Leadership, & Research and meeting a \$250K match in support of the Religion & Conflict Transformation Program.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as “[Spiritual Leadership in Divided Times: Trauma and Thurman](#),” and \$500 DEI scholarships are offered to students with financial need to participate in our travel seminars.

Our Fall 2024 [Lowell Lecture](#) premiered “Simulating Religious Violence,” which captured the work of computer scientists and religious scholars to seek to address conflicts rooted in religious violence.

Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

Submitted by G. Sujin Pak, dean.

Candler School of Theology

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, welcoming students from more than forty denominations. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 416 from thirteen countries, forty-one states, thirty-two annual conferences, and 43% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Religion and Leadership, Master of Religion and Public Life, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry), most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our hybrid-format Master of Divinity, blending online classes and in-person intensives, continues to be strong: 63% of 2024's MDiv entering class chose the hybrid model. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning contextual education credit by serving as student pastors in

local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler’s recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God’s call to ministry.

Generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2024-2025, we are on track to award nearly \$6.5 million in scholarship support across all degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarship support, and those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships. Plus, a remarkable gift this year of \$20 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation promises to have a transformative impact on the school and future students alike, fueling a considerable expansion of our scholarship program and reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a hub of Christian learning for an expanding audience. Those who are not seeking a graduate degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, which offers in-person and online short courses, events, and certificate programs; the United Methodist Course of Study for educating licensed local pastors; the Candler Center for Christian Leadership for refining business skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa Academy, offering a graduate certificate in theological studies via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

Candler continued to strengthen the already robust United Methodist presence among our faculty with four key appointments this year: Geordan Hammond, associate professor of Methodist and Wesleyan studies; Soren Hessler, assistant professor in the practice of leadership and administration; Jennifer Quigley, assistant professor of New Testament; and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who joined us as bishop-in-residence following the retirement of Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

Jonathan Strom became dean of Candler in August 2024, when former dean Jan Love returned to the faculty. Strom has served on Candler’s faculty since 1997 as professor of church history, with nearly a decade as senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs, and a number of years as director of international initiatives. He is committed to nurturing the school’s deep connection with The United Methodist Church.

Candler is strengthened by your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of the church. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu and follow us on social media to stay informed of all we offer throughout the year.

Submitted by Office of Communications, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)

The 2024-2025 school year has been one of significant growth and development within Dakota Wesleyan University’s Campus Ministry. Campus pastor The Rev. Dr. Anthony Purcell and associate pastor Taryn Ragels have led a plethora of activities and initiatives that are proven successes by the increase in participation.

This year, Campus Ministry intentionally incorporated Fusion Church into campus life as a "University Church." With Ragels’ 50/50 ministry appointment split across the two institutions, it is a move that has already fueled energy, growth, and increased student involvement in the local church and community leadership. We have seen attendance increase from 4-8 DWU students attending Fusion every Sunday last year to 20-30 every Sunday this year so far.

We have continued to grant scholarships to students, maintain funding for faculty in religious studies, support campus ministry, assist Fusion United Methodist Church, and carry on with other endeavors.

Dakotas Annual Conference funding of \$75,500 was provided, along with Dakota Wesleyan’s ongoing, significant financial commitment to United Methodist higher education.

\$101,400 in scholarships were exclusively dedicated to supporting United Methodist student leaders.

\$98,000 supported a full-time United Methodist faculty member in religion. This individual introduces all students to concepts in Wesleyan theology through the general education program.

\$150,000 was provided to campus ministry. This commitment includes one full-time and one part-time campus pastor, as well as programming. Programming includes bringing national speakers to campus, supporting internship opportunities for students in ministry, and providing supplies for our justice ministries, Bible studies, small groups, and mission trips.

\$25,000 of in-kind support was directed to the Fusion United Methodist Church.

In Summer 2025, DWU will be providing in-kind use of facilities, IT and staff support for several days to accommodate the annual conference. Value of rental fees and support totals \$6,100.

Reporting on this busy year, The Rev. Dr. Purcell detailed a full slate of initiatives. He writes:

This year I am pleased to report that we have had to seek out additional spaces across campus to accommodate the many structured and organic activities that are centered around Campus Ministry. In partnership with our interim Dean of Students Heather Miller-Cink, Campus Ministry has worked to reshape the Rollins Talent Center into a communal area where students choose to spend time studying, collaborating, and hanging out together. There are homey changes, and our Campus Ministry team has worked to make the space inviting and engaging with free ice cream and snacks for students, stationing student chaplains there for office hours and shared work together, and by collaborating with students in the space.

In the wake of transforming the Talent Center into a student hub, Campus Ministry has extended its work to the McGovern Library now offering dedicated space. Our campus pastors and student chaplains spend their afternoons in McGovern, meeting with students to do homework, play games together, hold small group and student club meetings.

FCA and Student Ministry Council are both growing, particularly as we continue to shape the aim and focus of each student faith life organization. With Student Ministry Council, we have focused on adding a layer of discipleship and practices of faith leadership to our weekly meetings to complement the atmosphere of fellowship and worship that already existed. This year, we have seen a growth of SMC particularly among our young men, which has been quite exciting! We started last year with two young men on campus regularly attending and participating in Student Ministry, and this spring we have eight young men who are regularly involved.

We believe part of this is because of the growth and atmosphere created by FCA, which created a space for our young men and women to explore their faith, grow in leadership on their teams, and build more intentional spiritual relationships with each other and with coaches across our athletic teams. FCA has focused in on providing a way for student-athletes to explore how to live out their faith across all aspects of their lives, creating community that extends beyond the teams they play for, and growing leaders who step up to serve and give back in our community. Across the year, we have students from every sport represented on our campus who serve as team captains for FCA, helping plan faith life community-building events on our campus and growing into becoming miniature “team chaplains” for their teams and coaches. This spring, we have started mentoring and sending out DWU FCA student leaders to schools and churches in our community to speak with and encourage middle and high schoolers to live out their faith in all aspects of their lives, including sports. We have worked with the state FCA leadership to help place our students at local school FCA rallies to encourage and empower the young people present as they grow into their faith.

Also, this year, with the support and vision of Dr. Kittle, we are leading both domestic and international service-immersion trips for our students. We recently sent a team of nine student-athletes, performing arts majors, and campus ministry connected students to Denver, Colo., to explore what relationship-focused service and support of those experiencing homelessness looks like. President Dan, Ashley, and Grant Kittle will lead a team of nine students in partnership with AsOne for two weeks in Uganda after the spring semester closes. Both trips allow students to build relationships with local ministries, and with those in need, as they learn what serving with hearts of faith and leadership looks like across our country and world. We hope that these immersion trips shape the imaginations of our students while modeling practical approaches to service that they can live into in their own communities with the knowledge and skills they develop here at DWU.

Much work lies ahead as we pursue ways to fund these and other future initiatives. In February we received a \$10,000 grant from the Dakotas-Minnesota United Methodist Foundation to support vocational exploration and leadership development as an aspect of our student chaplaincy program, and we’ve applied as a partner with the conference for a \$50,000 concept exploration grant as a first step in Lilly’s multi-million dollar “National Storytelling Initiative on Christian Faith and Life.”

Finally, this academic year, as we welcomed and celebrated the gift of a Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* installed on our campus, we have chosen to explore how we as a campus might embrace community together with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. In the fall Chapel series, we explored how God has created us to reflect his love and glory in community together through our creativity, creation, and vocations. This semester, we are exploring how and what Christian community lived out faithfully looks like. We are enjoying imagining and practicing with Jesus what making God's Kingdom real on earth as it is in heaven looks like.

It is obvious that Pastors Anthony and Taryn's efforts are having an impact. Each brings a wealth of experience and insights that will undoubtedly enhance the spiritual and personal growth of our students. Their dedication to guiding students along their faith journey and empowering them to become leaders within our community aligns perfectly with the values of DWU.

Submitted by Jan Larson, director of communications and marketing

Drew University Theological School

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry cohort in South Korea and a pilot in-person Master of Divinity cohort in Liberia. Regular chapel worship originates on campus in Seminary Hall, but also is live streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2024 Drew Theological School welcomed ninety-four new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2024 semester being 388. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 157 students in Fall 2024. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across all aspects of the teaching, learning, and the formation of students: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of The United Methodist Church in the annual conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

Submitted by Rev. Edwin David Aponte, dean, and professor at Drew University Theological School.

Duke Divinity

In the fall of 2024, Duke Divinity School celebrated its 98th Opening Convocation with these words from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric: "There are potential pulpits across this university and throughout this land. ... If you are here studying how to become a pastor or a chaplain, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here studying to be a theologically formed social worker or health care provider, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here as an aspiring scholar or merely as a Christian, you are a Pentecost preacher."

Through God's sustaining grace and faithfulness, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for ministries ranging from rural church pastorates to hospital and prison chaplains to community service leaders to theological educators. In 2024, we were joined by 224 students from 41 U.S. states and the District of Columbia as well as new students who hold either primary or secondary citizenship in 11 other countries. The Master of

Divinity program gained 108 new students, including 62 residential students (up from 54 the year before) and 46 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled eight new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 39 (up from 22 last year); Master of Theology, 10; Master of Theological Studies, 27; the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students to campus and 21 to the hybrid program.

We are grateful that God continues to bring people with a diversity of backgrounds and gifts to Duke Divinity School. Of the new residential M.Div. students, 42 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic identities, and female students make up 50 percent of incoming residential M.Div. students. For new hybrid M.Div. students, 33 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic; and female students make up 63 percent of incoming hybrid M.Div. students.

This has been a year of centennial celebrations for Duke University and The Duke Endowment. The Divinity School was honored to participate in a Founders' Weekend chapel service, held in Duke Chapel, in which both United Methodist Church bishops in North Carolina (Bishop Connie Shelton and Bishop Ken Carter) participated in leading the service, along with Dean Colón-Emeric. Divinity students and alumni contributed prayers and music, and of particular note were three women in our Master of Theology program who offered prayers in Mandarin, Hindi, and Korean. It is a joy to share these gifts from our global community with the university campus.

Duke Divinity School continues to invest in ways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral formation. Our D.Min. program welcomed two new cohorts, one in Traditional Leadership and one in Missional Leadership, with support from the Parish Ministry Fund and The Duke Endowment. These 39 students are strengthening their capacity for leadership, establishing new faith communities, and meeting the challenges confronting churches and communities.

Master of Divinity students in the UMC had the opportunity in the spring 2024 semester to enroll in a course designed to prepare them to be observers at the UMC General Conference, held in Charlotte, N.C. So many students were interested that the enrollment cap had to be raised. Students met weekly with Duke Divinity faculty who are ordained elders in the UMC as well as with nearly half a dozen bishops and denominational leaders. As one student (pursuing ordination in the Virginia Conference) said: "It is a time when we hold fast to our convictions and identify what is unique to the United Methodist Church. What is our role, currently and in the future? It's amazing: our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am excited about my ministry journey and the future of the UMC."

Duke Divinity continues to build on our connection to Methodist churches around the world through a formal partnership with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea. This agreement, signed on Sept. 21, 2024, supports the creation of pathways for the exchange of students, faculty, and academic programming.

Closer to home, Duke Divinity remains committed to our deep roots in the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church. We mourned the devastation from Hurricane Helene that affected so many of our alumni, supporting congregations, and community partners in western North Carolina. The school—and many students and staff—have sought to support Bishop Ken Carter and the Western North Carolina Conference with resources and relief items.

Our faculty continue to excel in their committed service to teaching, research, and ministry. Two scholars joined our faculty this year: Aaron Griffith, assistant professor of American church history, and Kevin Hart, Jo Rae Wright University Distinguished Professor, with a joint appointment in the Duke University department of English. William Turner Jr., James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of the Practice of Preaching, received the Duke University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Service, the highest honor bestowed by the university.

Duke Divinity commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Women's Center at the school with a guest preacher and celebration dinner. With a \$5 million gift from The Duke Endowment, we are strengthening our Office of Black Church Studies through recruiting a senior scholar and supporting academic, theological research. A \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., part of their Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative, will help launch a Duke Divinity program to study how congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The program, "Let the Children Come," is a regional partnership of congregations and leaders from across the southeastern United States.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean of Duke Divinity School

Gammon Theological Seminary

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY is the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon's Mission is to help prepare for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all.

GTS is currently an "extended unit" of the Interdenominational Theological Center. As a constituent member of the ITC who is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), GTS has conferred degrees in partnership with the ITC for Gammon Theological Seminary graduates since 1959. Gammon Theological Seminary seeks separate accreditation through SACSCOC and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

We are excited to share Academic and Operational updates for 2024.

- In June 2024, we hired a world-renowned theologian and scholar, Dr. Renita J. Weems, as our Chief Academic Officer.
- This Fall 2024, we launched state-of-the-art renovations to the Gammon building. The renovations transformed the facility into a place for four in-person class sessions, upgrading all meeting spaces with state-of-the-art technology and furnishings.
- In September 2024, the Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary approved the submission of our application to begin the SACSCOC Accreditation process. This historic decision included Gammon launching our Independent MDIV degree program in September 2024.

Here are a few of this year's ministry and fund development highlights.

- In Spring 2024, Gammon hosted our 2nd Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, which received \$70,000 in donations toward the scholarship fund.
- The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship The fund, which was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough, continues to grow with matching gifts in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2024, the Florida Conference's Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed at the Florida United Methodist Foundation, continued to grow with donations for 2024. Now, the fund balance exceeds \$130,000.00, and Dr. Geraldine McClellan was honored at our 2024 Founder's Day/Pastors and Leaders Conference Gala banquet with our Icon of Excellence Award.
- Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under the age of 35. The students explored their sense of call and vocational discernment.
- In December 2024, Gammon celebrated our 141st Founder's Day and Pastors and Leaders Conference. We hosted over three hundred people attending workshops (in person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.
- Gammon received two \$10,000 donations for two new endowed funds from Dr. James H. Salley, in honor of his parents in the South Carolina Conference, and from Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen, District Superintendent for the North Georgia Central North District.

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Candace M. Lewis, president - ceo

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues to live into its mission of *Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of justice, compassion, and hope...for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world*. We do this work in partnership with the annual conferences of the United Methodist Church and other partners who share our values. Now in our 172nd year of ministry to the church, the academy, and the world, Garrett is a strong, growing, thriving community of faith and learning that represents the fullness of the global church's witness.

During this past academic year, Garrett welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade for a fifth straight year, with 135 new students, and a current enrollment of 324 students representing 38 states and 24 nations from across the globe. We continue to see growth in our student body from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students who constitute more than half of our student body. Our faculty also reflect this regional and global diversity, with fully half originating from nations outside the United States.

Our growth in recent years continues to reflect patterns seen across theological education, mainly in distance and online learners. For the first time in our history, distance learners in the entering class outnumbered residential students. This has allowed for truly global learning spaces that have enriched our conversations and our overall learning environment. We're blessed to have the world represented in our classrooms, which also impacts how our faculty teach, what they research, and for whom.

Over the last year Garrett has also been blessed by multiple major grants to fund faculty research and institutional priorities. A major grant is funding the work of our Center for Ecological Regeneration, allowing the seminary to partner with local congregations in the Midwest to equip them to respond to climate change in their communities and the disproportionate impact it tends to have on the poor and local economies. Another major grant is funding work in our Centro Raíces Latinas to strengthen Hispanic-Latiné pastoral leaders and congregations, helping clergy and communities build institutional capacity and expand their ministries. Yet another grant is helping to expand the reach and impact of our Garrett Collective, our lifelong learning and resource platform that seeks to make theological education accessible and affordable to a significantly broader audience.

Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. They are also partnering with annual conferences and local churches in delivering much needed programming for leadership development and faith formation, an expanding focus of our Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships division. Garrett is proud to be a United Methodist institution, and proud to continue to deepen its partnership and programming with annual conferences around the globe.

Submitted by Vilma Franco, executive assistant to the president

Saint Paul School of Theology

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community dedicated to forming leaders for innovative, creative ministry. Our integrated theological education, enriched by faith and social justice, combines real-world experience with academic rigor. Through our FLEX schedule offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning options, our Master's and Doctorate programs provide customized education guided by dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders. Our graduates emerge equipped with the tools and first-hand experience to pursue diverse paths in ministry, service, and leadership locally and globally.

Saint Paul recently launched an innovative Doctor of Ministry program: Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership. This program focuses on developing contemplative spirituality practices that empower students to become change agents in church and society. Grounded in divine listening, students engage with innovative ministry practices while learning to manage and sustain them through adaptive principles, emotional intelligence, and intercultural competence. The program prepares leaders to forge renewed paths for faithful leadership in a challenging world. Discover more about the Saint Paul DMin at spst.edu/doctor-of-ministry/.

In July 2024, the Pause/Play Center for Preachers welcomed its first cohort of twelve preachers from five denominations nationwide. These leaders sought to revitalize their preaching through Spiritual Direction, coaching, retreats, and specialized resources. The Center's inaugural public gathering drew fifty pastors nationwide for a two-day event featuring keynote

speaker and Saint Paul alumna Dr. Marcia McFee. The Center accepts applications for the next pastor cohort open in March, with registration for the July 30-August 2, 2025, Kansas City gathering beginning in January.

Saint Paul School of Theology earned the distinction of hosting the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "[Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?](#)" through a national competition by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and American Library Association (ALA). Scientists and experts from the NMNH Human Origins Program will visit our Kansas Campus in Leawood to lead community events, including clergy programs, educator workshops, and community conversations. The exhibit, running February through May 2025, features interactive panels, kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos that explore humanity's evolutionary journey. This free public exhibition encourages meaningful dialogue about human origins while embracing diverse perspectives from both scientific and theological viewpoints.

Our hybrid format continues to unite our community, enabling participants to join chapel services and events either in-person or online. Weekly chapel services throughout the academic year showcase the talents of students, alums, faculty, and local leaders. At the same time, Spiritual Formation sessions engage participants in varied spiritual practices, from outdoor experiences to community leadership connections.

The [Saint Paul faculty](#) consistently upholds high scholarship, research, publication, and engagement standards. Notable recent faculty achievements include:

Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, and Biblical Interpretation, contributed the chapter "Biblical Interpretation and Criticism in Neocolonial Africa: Challenges, Conceptualizations, and Needs in the Twenty-First Century" to *The FUTURE of the Biblical PAST*

Dr. Jacob Randolph, Assistant Professor of History of Christianity, and Academic Director of the Oklahoma Campus, published "What About the Palestinians? Southern Baptists vs. Southern Baptist Missionaries"

Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers authored "Designing Worship from a Process Perspective" in *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God* and launched the Pause/Play Center for Preachers podcast.

Dr. Richard Liantonio, Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Bible, reviewed *The Bible: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd ed. in the *Journal of Jewish Studies*

The 2024-2025 academic year brought significant leadership changes to Saint Paul. The Board of Trustees appointed Mrs. Dana Aldridge as Board Chair and welcomed Tom Cochran as Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Cochran's extensive experience strengthens our donor relationships and alums network. We are actively reconnecting with alums across the Midwest and beyond through regional events, fostering collaboration and sharing recent achievements.

The [Course of Study \(COS\) School](#) served 233 students in 2024-2025, including sixty-six new enrollees, offering forty-five classes with approximately 550 total registrations. The program serves 34 Conferences and 92 Districts, supporting 107 full-time and 121 part-time Licensed Local Pastors. Twenty-two students completed the 20-course program this year. With GBHEM approval, we offer both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. COS School students receive full seminary benefits, including library access, chapel participation, and engagement in campus events.

Saint Paul maintains strong financial health with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment nine to ten times our annual expenses. Seven years of focused sustainability efforts have positioned us for strategic growth. As always, we continue to be grateful for the community donations supporting technology advancement, scholarships, and program development. Our enhanced hybrid learning model provides flexible options for students while maintaining educational excellence. The Board's newly approved strategic plan charts an ambitious course for our future.

Our partnership with Zoom and Neat has yielded significant technological improvements. The new Neat Center technology enhances remote classroom participation, while upgraded Classroom Neat Boards offer improved functionality and flexibility. These advancements, combined with AI enhancements in Microsoft 365, our Student Information System, and our Learning Management System, create a more dynamic learning environment. In addition, the Fall 2024 chapel renovation has transformed the space into a more sacred and technologically enhanced environment.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. Your advocacy for the seminary and generous financial support have been vital in realizing our accomplishments.

Many thanks for the innumerable ways you have helped Saint Paul. Your prayers and actions on behalf of the seminary are a blessing to all of us.

Submitted by Jay K. Simmons, president St. Paul School of Theology

United Theological Seminary

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. United welcomes all who are following God's call on their lives, and many are answering God's call! In the 2023-2024 academic year, the seminary served 595 graduate students, making it the second largest of the thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, according to the Association of Theological Schools.ⁱ

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 35 states, 21 nations, and 48 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest group at 30 percent of the student body.ⁱⁱ

Academics

In large part, enrollment growth is due to continued interest in United's Houses of Study programs, which offer master's and certificate tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve.

In summer 2024, United welcomed its inaugural cohort of Doctor of Theology students. The advanced research degree program is conducted primarily from a distance, requiring only four weeks of in-person intensives during the three-year program. During their program, students develop original research with a focus on church renewal.

United's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract students looking for an advanced professional degree to expand their ministerial and leadership capabilities. In the 2023-2024 school year, 267 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Finances

United celebrated becoming debt free in May 2024, after making its last payment on a \$3.3 million debt to its endowment. In addition to eliminating the seminary's debt, United has been focused on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment will expand scholarship opportunities for students for generations to come. With the increase in scholarship gifts from the Fresh Wind campaign and the reduction of United's own debt, the seminary has significantly increased scholarship support for United students.

Innovation Center

The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center celebrated the third anniversary since its launch as United's "research and development" hub for ministry practitioners and thought leaders seeking to create and provide innovative resourcing for congregations. In 2024, the Innovation Center engaged over 2,200 participants through more than 30 live webinars, training events and courses.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? *And how shall they hear without a preacher?*" United's students and graduates are going out into the world to proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love. Thanks be to God!

ⁱ ATS 2023-2024 Annual Data Tables (Table 2.12 and Table 2.2-A) on fall 2023 enrollment.

ⁱⁱ Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2023-2024 academic year. Demographic figures represent those who responded.

Submitted by Dr. Kent Millard, president

5.11 Wesley Theological Seminary

The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) is to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

Today, the world needs public servants. Wesley DC remains committed to nurturing future leaders in church and society with theological and spiritual growth and community engagement:

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees: Our diverse programming serves our diverse

student population. We offer traditional, brick and mortar, in- person study and flexible, online and hybrid models. Wesley DC is committed to curating space for diversity, community, and (re)imagining ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

Doctor of Ministry Degree: Wesley DC maintains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs, offering specialized tracks of study for scholars going into local parishes, global missions, or military chaplaincy. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>

The Hub for Collaboration and Imagination: Wesley DC envisions a dynamic, Spirit-inspired church that responds to God and neighbor. To that end, we catalyze faith communities and leaders to learn about innovation and spiritual entrepreneurship to enact transformative ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

Center for Public Theology: Wesley DC continues to provide sound theological training for future ministry leaders. We foster an entrepreneurial mindset and the practical skills needed to create ministry models which help the church to remain a vital institution that fosters flourishing. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

Community Engagement Institute: Wesley DC offers ground-breaking foundational courses and electives in community, engagement, public theology, political theology, and social ethics. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion: Wesley DC is thrilled to share two new exhibits, *Un/familiar Terrain{s}*, a creative dialogue between UK-based artist, Michael Magruder, and Artificial Intelligence; and *Notebook*, featuring works by Iranian-born artist, Mojdeh Rezaeipour. We also welcomed Ama BE, a Ghanaian American transdisciplinary artist exploring African migration ecologies. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

Lewis Center for Church Leadership: The Lewis Center conducts leading edge research for the local church. Wesley DC is pleased to report generous support from the Lilly Endowment, and continued training for clergy and lay leaders. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

Call us: (202) 885-8659 Email us: admissions@wesleyseminary.edu

Follow us: Facebook/IG: @WesleySeminary and LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary

Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President



Rev. Rebecca Trefz, left, assistant to the Bishop for connection and communications, presented the Dakotas Conference Francis Asbury Award to Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart, right. (photo by J. Lynn Studios)

Conference Speakers

(photos by J. Lynn Studios)



Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart, theologian in residence for the 2025 Dakotas Annual Conference session, spoke words of invitation and challenge as he taught on “The Fireseeds of Renewal.”

Rev. Jennifer McDonald shared a message on 1 John 4 during the Miracle Offering worship service on Saturday, June 7. She highlighted loving one another so God can live within us and through us.



Bintou Diao, program manager for UMCOR’s International Disaster Response program, brought greetings from UMCOR and Global Ministries.

Hailey Srstka, left, who serves as the Vice President of Operations for Feeding South Dakota and Abby Tow, right, from Great Plains Food Bank in North Dakota shared the importance of partnership with the laity session.



FINANCES AND BUDGET

Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2024

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 698,907
Accounts receivable, apportionments and direct bill	1,602,230
Other receivable	4,636
Prepaid expenses	13,528
Notes and contracts receivable, current portion, less allowance for credit losses of \$0	15,263
Total Current Assets	<u>2,334,564</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Notes and contracts receivable, less current portion and allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0	53,337
Investment accounts - affiliated organizations	10,214,191
Deposit accounts - Conference Board of Pensions	53,418,017
Beneficial interest in trust funds	105,697
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>63,791,242</u>

Property and Equipment - net

<u>3,360,960</u>
<u>\$ 69,486,766</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 457,977
Accrued payroll	73,155
Accrued real estate taxes	18,376
Deferred camps revenue	12,475
Current portion of post-retirement benefit obligation	966,079
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,528,062</u>

Noncurrent Liabilities

Post-retirement benefit obligation	<u>33,092,890</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>34,620,952</u>

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	13,278,056
With donor restrictions	21,587,758
Total Net Assets	<u>34,865,814</u>
	<u>\$ 69,486,766</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church,
Inc. Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2024

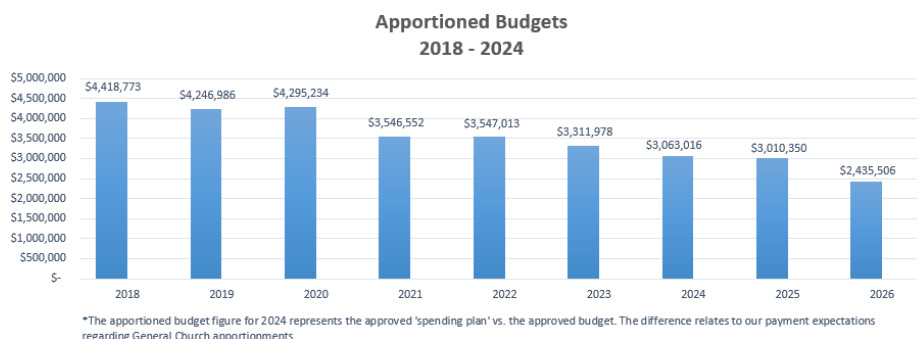
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support			
Apportioned giving	\$ 2,208,046	\$ --	\$ 2,208,046
Less: portion collected for/remitted to the General Church	(549,159)	--	(549,159)
Apportionments, net	\$ 1,658,887	\$ --	\$ 1,658,887
Contributions and bequests	12,529	469,599	482,128
Investment income	1,350,818	1,285,926	2,636,744
Program fees and sales	869,391	--	869,391
Miscellaneous income	1,719	--	1,719
Net realized gain on property, plant and equipment	1,256,150	--	1,256,150
Net unrealized gain (loss) on long-term investments	1,287,303	163,995	1,451,298
Net assets released from restrictions	2,568,798	(2,568,798)	--
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	9,005,595	(649,278)	8,356,317
Expenses			
Program Services			
District superintendency	564,087	--	564,087
Equipping churches	912,466	--	912,466
Connectional ministries	441,895	--	441,895
Camping program	1,104,559	--	1,104,559
Total Program Service Expenses	3,023,007	--	3,023,007
Supporting Services			
Stewardship of resources	1,793,077	--	1,793,077
Pensions and insurance	4,354,553	--	4,354,553
Total Support Service Expenses	6,147,630	--	6,147,630
Total Expenses	9,170,637	--	9,170,637
Change in Net Assets	(165,042)	(649,278)	(814,320)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	13,443,098	22,237,036	35,680,134
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 13,278,056	\$ 21,587,758	\$ 34,865,814

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

Treasurer's Discussion and Analysis

Apportioned Budget Overview (2026)

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) recommends a 2026 apportioned budget totaling \$2.436 million, a reduction of \$574,844 (19%) from our 2025 approved budget. CCFA understands that we need to continually analyze how we are allocating our financial resources and, although we still have more work to do (with an estimated budget deficit of \$241,080), this budget reduction demonstrates that we are making progress to right size our budget. The graph below illustrates our effort to reduce our apportioned budget over the past several years:

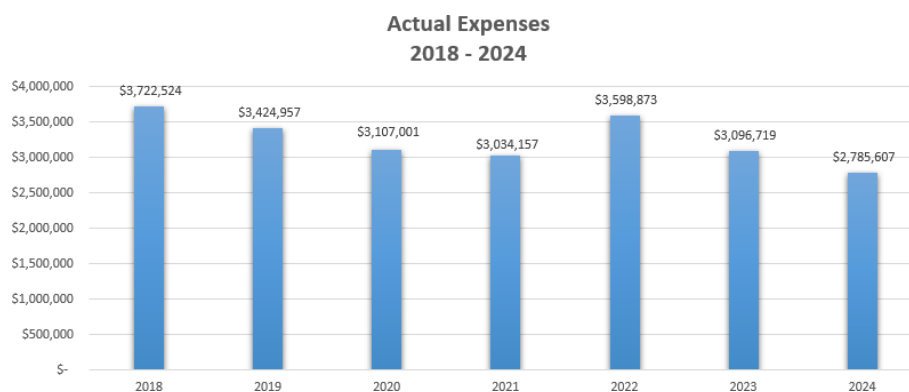


See below for additional details, including our budget to actuals for 2024, our non-apportioned budget details, our Conference reserves, Board of Pensions budget, finance and benefits/human resources office staffing, and other administrative highlights.

Apportioned Budget to Actuals (2024)

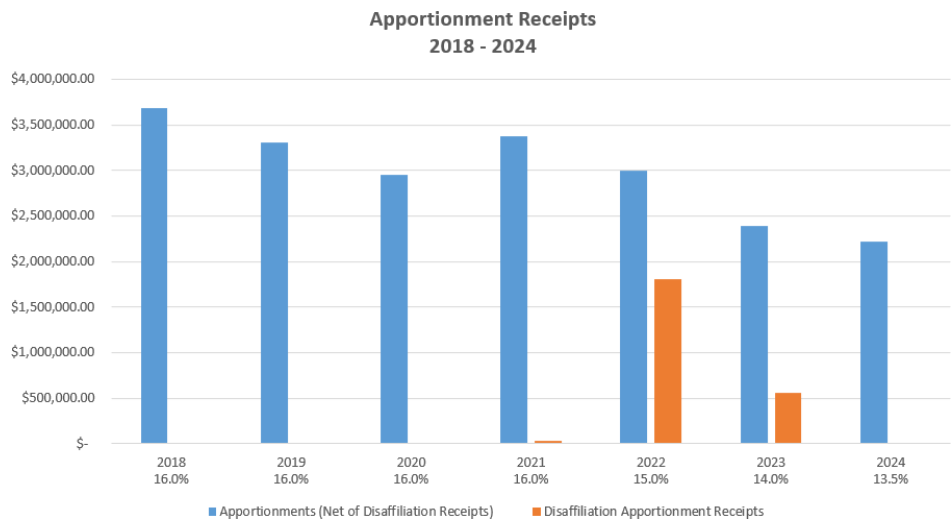
Apportionments received from our local churches in 2024 totaled approximately \$2.221 million, down from approximately \$2.944 million in 2023. However, the 2023 figure included \$553,000 from churches that disaffiliated in 2023, resulting in total apportionments received from churches remaining UMC after 2023 of \$2.391 million, a net decrease from 2024 to 2023 of 7.3% after removing the effects of disaffiliated churches. Additionally, we also earned \$105,131 in interest and dividend income on our Conference operating reserve funds, in addition to an unrealized gain of \$50,026. Therefore, total income including interest, dividend, and unrealized market gains was \$2.376 million.

Conversely, total net expenses for 2024 were \$2.786 million, a decrease of \$311,000 from 2023 and below our 2024 spending plan of \$3.063 million. However, \$189,000 of this decrease is related to the gift from the Board of Pensions to cover our Conference staff HealthFlex direct bill costs. Removing that from the total results in a net expense decrease year over year of approximately \$122,000 (and \$89,000 less than our 2023 budget). In summary, our total budget shortfall in 2024 was \$565,000 before considering our Conference reserve earned and unearned income of \$155,000. Including these earnings results in a net budget shortfall of approximately \$410,000. Although we had sufficient financial resources in our Conference operating account to meet the deficit in 2024, we will need to begin to tap our Conference reserves to meet budget obligations starting in mid-2025. The graph below illustrates our actual net expenses over the past few years:

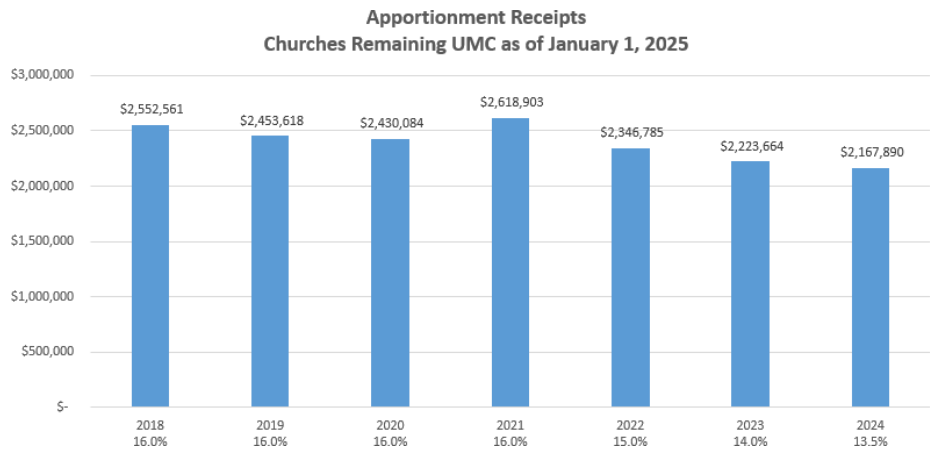


Apportionments – A Brief History (2018 – 2024)

As you know, our Conference has witnessed incredible change over the past few years. So, unsurprisingly, our apportionment receipts have been on a downward trend over the past years as illustrated below:



However, it’s helpful to analyze apportionments from the 161 churches that remain UMC churches, as of January 1, 2025 (removing all disaffiliated, discontinued, and closed churches) going back to 2018. The table below illustrates these results and represents an ‘apples to apples’ comparison during this time period:



As you can see, the decrease in apportionment receipts from these remaining churches is less drastic than what is illustrated in the preceding graph (with a decrease in apportionment receipts in 2018 compared to 2024 of \$384,671, or 15.07%).

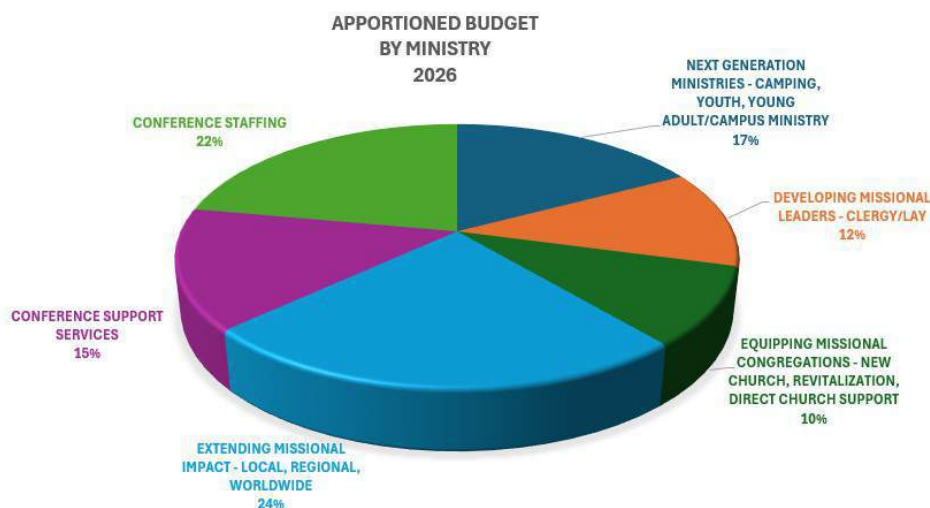
However, comparing that to the apportionment percentage decrease over that same period (from 16.0% to 13.5% of local church operating income), it’s nearly identical at 15.63%. Although it’s likely not a 100% correlation, it’s interesting that the apportionment receipts have decreased at nearly the same rate that we decreased the apportionment rate. Additionally, before we started reducing the apportionment percentage, the apportionment collections were steady, and in fact apportionment receipts from these churches in 2021 was HIGHER post-COVID than apportionment receipts from these same churches in 2018 pre-COVID! Obviously 2025 (and the economic uncertainty we now face) is not included in this analysis. But it is hopeful that the rate of decrease/decline in apportionment receipts from our remaining churches is not as drastic as we might expect. Especially when considering that our apportionment percentage has decreased by the same rate over the same period.

Apportioned Budget Detail (2026)

As noted in the Overview section above, an apportioned budget request of \$2.436 million was approved by the CCFA for submission to the Annual Conference for approval. Our 2025 proposed budget represents a decrease of \$574,844 (or 19%) from the 2025 budget request. See ‘Apportioned Budget Summary’. This reflects the work that Conference leadership, CCFA, and the Wisdom Council have made to move our Conference closer to a balanced budget. Some of the key budget reduction and re-allocations include the following:

- Decreased the number of District Superintendents from four to three FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) as of July 1, 2026. This will save the Conference approximately \$75,000 in 2026 and \$150,000 per year beyond 2026. *Note: At the time of this report, a final determination on the details of this reduction has not been made but will include less than full time District Superintendent positions.*
- Continued to reduce the direct apportionment allocation to our two Conference Missions (Solar Oven Partners and Spirit Lake Ministries) from \$40,000 in 2025 to \$0 in 2026. However, we will continue to provide full administrative support, including processing cash receipts, accounts payable, payroll, human resources, and communications. Additionally, these two ministries have substantial carryover reserve balances which have been built, in part, by allocating apportioned dollars to these two ministries over many years. As of December 31, 2024, Spirit Lake Ministries balance is over \$400,000 and Solar Oven Partners is over \$300,000. Therefore, these ministries have substantial resources to continue to serve and thrive for years to come. Additionally, both ministries plan to re-focus on direct fundraising efforts to help them be fully self-sustaining going forward.
- Continued to reduce the direct allocation to camping ministries from \$123,000 to \$111,000, or a net decrease of \$12,000. This total does not include the salary support for the central camping office (e.g., Executive Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries and other support staff). This salary support is included in our Support Services section of our apportioned budget.
- Reallocated other Conference financial resources in a strategic way. For example, we will utilize Urban Church Funds to help support ministries in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Previously these ministries have been supported primarily by Thrive funds as well as apportionments.
- Reduced the direct apportionment allocation to new churches to \$0. However, we will financially support our new church ministries with the Urban Church Fund and Thrive funds.
- Reallocated a portion of the Conference Treasurer’s salary (35%) to the Board of Pensions, reflecting the approximate time spent by the Treasurer on Board of Pensions related activities. Furthermore, we also reallocated 20% of the Conference Benefits and Human Resources Officer (CBHRO) to the Conference (from the Board of Pensions) which reflects the amount to time the CBHRO spends on Conference human resources related activities. The ‘net effect’ is a reallocation of approximately \$25,000 to the Board of Pensions budget from the Conference apportioned budget.

Although the Apportioned Budget Summary table is informative, it only illustrates the budget on a line-item basis and does not fully tell the story of what your apportioned dollars support. The pie chart below better illustrates what programs and ministries your apportioned dollars support from a functional perspective. Key points that are illustrated in the Apportioned Budget By Ministry pie chart include the following:



- Next Generation Ministries, e.g., Camping and Youth/Young Adult Ministries – 17% – This includes the Dakotas Conference portion of the camping central office staff salaries that are shared with the Minnesota Annual Conference, as well as 30% of the Finance Office support staff (based on a 2024 analysis that approximately 30% of Finance Office support staff activities support the three Dakotas Annual Conference camps and youth/young adult ministries). This area also includes support for Dakota Wesleyan University and youth events, such as Dak Youth.
- Developing Missional Leaders (10%) and Equipping Missional Congregations (12%) – We allocated District Superintendent salaries and support expenses evenly between these two ministry areas since their primary purpose is to support leaders and congregations across our Conference. Developing Missional Leaders also includes other areas, such as our Board of Ordained Ministry and helping to ensure we have safer sanctuaries throughout our Conference. *Note: We separated ‘Next Generation Ministries’ outlined in the preceding bullet point from the Developing Missional Leaders in the pie chart. However, Next Generation Ministries also falls under the Developing Missional Leaders section of the budget.*
- Conference Support Services – 15% - This includes our expenses related to our Communications Office, Trustees (e.g., conference insurance and administrative expenses), Chancellors/Legal, Annual Conference Session, Common Table, HR Committee, Episcopacy Committee, Archives and History, Conference Center Operations (not including salary expenses), and Area (Episcopal) Office Support. This also includes expenses related to clergy introductory meetings as well as our clergy moving budget.
- Conference Staffing – 22% - This includes Conference Staffing salaries (not including what is allocated to other ministry areas). This area helps ensure that all other ministries of the Conference operate smoothly.
- Extending Missional Impact – 24% - This includes 50% of our Missional Impact Coach salary as well as 10% of our Finance Office support staff salaries (based on a 2024 analysis that approximately 10% of Finance Office support staff activities support Spirit Lake Ministries and Solar Oven Partners). Furthermore, approximately \$502,000 of our apportioned budget helps support our General Church ministries across our United Methodist Connection. See ‘General Church Apportionments’ section below for further details.

Lastly, as mentioned in the CCFA report, due to the challenging financial landscape post-disaffiliation, the committee felt it was prudent to maintain our current church apportionment rate at 13.0% of church operating income for 2026.

Maintaining this apportionment rate reflects the budgetary constraints the Conference is experiencing. However, CCFA will continue to monitor apportionment collections each year and determine an appropriate rate to ensure long term financial stability.

Non-Appportioned Budget Detail

Although most of our total Conference expenditures are covered with apportionments received from you, our local churches, a significant portion of our operating budget (approximately \$1.2 million) is covered with non-apportioned dollars that help support our various ministries highlighted above. These non-apportioned dollars include funding from: 1) grants (e.g., Lilly), 2) fundraising campaigns (e.g., Thrive), 3) the sale of Conference property (e.g., Urban Church and Campus Ministries), 4) Board of Pensions gifts, and 5) other miscellaneous sources of income (e.g., registration income, rental income, and individual/church contributions).

Note: This does not include income (or expenses) derived from our three Dakotas Annual Conference camps or our Conference Missionaries (Spirit Lake Ministries and Solar Oven Partners).

The non-apportioned funding sources represent approximately 33% of our budget and help support our Developing Missional Leaders, Equipping Missional Congregations, and our Support Services ministries. The table below provides additional details regarding the sources and amounts of these non-apportioned funds:

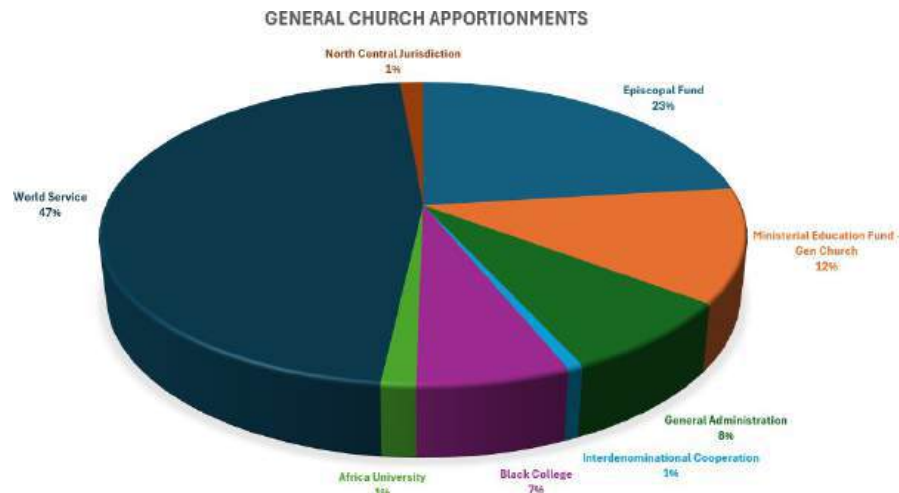
Non-Apportioned Funding Sources Budget Detail 2026			
Funding Source	2024 Non-Appt. Actuals	2025 Non-Appt. Budget	2026 Non-Appt. Budget
Higher Ground Initiative (Lilly Grant)	\$ 162,534.00	\$ 228,177.00	\$ 166,800.00
Dakotas Rural Initiative (Lilly Grant)	\$ 149,621.42	\$ 261,530.00	\$ 325,632.15
Thrive Campaign Funds	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 177,500.00	\$ 67,125.00
Urban Church Fund	\$ 20,696.43	\$ -	\$ 91,875.00
Trustees Unrestricted Fund	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 127,740.00
Trustees Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 10,309.50
Campus Ministry Funds	\$ 17,778.86	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Ministerial Education/Ministerial Student Aid Funds*	\$ 34,136.55	\$ 61,161.00	\$ 60,334.50
Board of Pensions Conference Reimbursements (HealthFlex)	\$ 188,579.62	\$ -	\$ 210,838.43
Endowment and Other Grant Income	\$ 2,963.08	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Other Ordinary and Investment Income	\$ 411.76	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
Rental Income	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Registration Income	\$ 70,969.30	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 62,000.00
Sale of Merchandise	\$ 1,072.44	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Reimbursement Donation	\$ 545.93	\$ -	\$ -
Individual/Church Contributions	\$ 7,805.50	\$ -	\$ 6,700.00
Conference Sponsored Camps	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL NON-APPORTIONED FUNDING	\$ 993,234.89	\$ 961,368.00	\$ 1,178,104.58

*Includes the 25% of the General Church MEF apportionments retained by the Dakotas Annual Conference

General Church Apportionments

Each General Church fund represents our core connectional giving and supports the UMC and its ministries in a variety of ways. These funds include: 1) World Service Fund, 2) Africa University Fund, 3) Black College Fund, 4) Episcopal Fund, 5) General Administration Fund, 6) Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and 7) The Ministerial Education Fund. The Dakotas Conference paid General Church apportionments for 2024 totaling \$544,953. This represents approximately 56% of our total apportionments allocated to the Dakotas Conference of \$977,320. As mentioned last year, while it is always our goal to pay 100% apportionments to the General Church, meeting the full obligation for 2024 was unrealistic primarily due to the impacts of the pandemic and church disaffiliations, since the apportionment calculation was based on the 2016 General Conference methodology.

The 2026 budget includes 100% of our General Church apportionments (\$515,211) and represents slightly more than half the total General Church apportionments allocated to the Dakotas Conference in 2024. This is due to GCFA lowering the base rate percentage (from the 2016 base rate) that was approved at General Conference and reflects the effects of disaffiliations. The pie chart below illustrates the ministries our General Church apportionment support.



A brief description of each area is highlighted below:

- World Service Fund – 47% – This is the heart of our denomination’s world-wide presence, underwriting Christian mission and ministry around the world. This fund strengthens our evangelism efforts, stimulates church growth, expands Bible studies, and enriches spiritual commitment. Supporting this fund helps God’s children everywhere, shaping the lives of tomorrow’s leaders and proclaiming our Christian Faith.
- Episcopal Fund – 23% - This fund supports the work of Bishops throughout the world. The fund pays salaries, benefits, and office expenses. It also covers the cost of travel for church leaders to promote temporal and spiritual interests of our denomination.
- Ministerial Education Fund – 12% – Twenty-five percent of its receipts stays within the Annual Conference to be used for scholarships, continuing education and other programs developed by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The remaining 75% supports the United Methodist seminaries and ministerial education programs made available through our denomination.
- General Church Administration Fund – 8% – This fund finances the General Church activities such as the cost of General Conference, the Judicial Council of the church, and the office of administrative oversight and fiscal accountability.
- Black College Fund – 7% – This fund was started in 1972 to provide consistent funding for eleven colleges whose roots are in the Freedman’s Society, which was established after the Civil War to help meet the educational needs of newly freed individuals. These institutions make a quality education available to many who have experienced racial, economic, or academic barriers at other colleges.
- Interdenominational COOP Fund – 1% – This fund helps our denomination nurture the ministries of churches from pan-Methodist churches as well as other denominations that confess one holy, universal, and apostolic churches advocating for global peace and justice.
- Africa University Fund – 1% – This fund supports the only United Methodist degree granting university on the continent of Africa and the first private university in Zimbabwe. The University was initiated by vote of the 1988 General Conference. The University promotes academic excellence and the physical and spiritual development of men and women from all over the continent of Africa.

Finally, the North Central Jurisdictional Fund (separate from General Church Apportionments) supports the cost of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference which meets every four years. This Conference elects and places Bishops for the denomination.

Conference Reserves

The Conference continues to maintain reserves available for use through this transitional period. These reserves include approximately \$2.374 million in our general CCFA Savings Reserve Fund (partially originating from apportionments collected from disaffiliating churches). We also have approximately \$1.18 million remaining in our Transitional Reserve Fund that was allocated by the Board of Pensions. As of April 15, 2025, approximately \$606,000 has been granted from this fund to 28 churches in our Conference that were most impacted by the disaffiliation process. The Transitional Reserve Fund was partially replenished by the Board of Pensions in 2024 in the amount of \$300,000. Since these funds were originally allocated to assist the Conference office with meeting budgetary challenges, part of these funds may be used in 2025 to help cover the Conference budget deficit.

Board of Pensions HealthFlex, Pension Programs, and Administrative Budget (2026)

HealthFlex – As you can see, due primarily to the rising costs of premiums, our HealthFlex budget is projected to increase by approximately 12.9% to \$2,359,282 from our 2024 actual HealthFlex costs. This total includes the cost of all HealthFlex plans, including church clergy, conference and camp staff, participants on disability, participants that are ‘Pre-65’ retirees, and those participants who have coverage with us via sub-adoption agreements through Wesley Acres and Sunnycrest Retirement facilities. It is important to note that our deficit (total costs minus premiums collected from participants) is projected to be approximately \$436,000 for 2026. This is due to the Board of Pensions maintaining a flat HealthFlex direct billing to churches from 2023 – 2025, even though HealthFlex premiums continued to rise. This decision was made by the Board of Pensions to maintain financial stability for our local churches during a challenging season. Although we have adequate reserves to continue to cover this budget deficit, the projected ongoing deficit is

sizeable, and this is something we will continue to monitor closely as healthcare costs will likely continue to rise.

However, increasing our HealthFlex budget deficit further is not financially prudent for long term sustainability of our HealthFlex plan. Therefore, the Board of Pensions approved a 15% increase in our HealthFlex direct bill to churches, to \$18,160 (from \$15,791 in 2025). Although this is a sizable year over year increase for HealthFlex, due to the shift to our new clergy retirement plan (Compass), most churches will see an overall DECREASE in combined retirement plan and HealthFlex direct bill.

Health Reimbursement Accounts – Our financial allocation to our Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) for 2026 will be \$910,807, up from \$881,433 in 2025. This amount is determined by calculating the 16-quarter historical average balance of our HRA account and then allocating 4.5% of that total the following year. Therefore, since the balance in this account has grown in recent years, the total allocated for our HRA accounts has grown as well.

Compass Retirement Plan – As you know, 2026 will usher in a new retirement plan, Compass. While we are excited for this new plan, we also understand that it's a change (shifting from a defined benefit plan (CRSP) to a defined contribution plan (Compass)). We look forward to continuing to educate clergy on this new plan prior to implementation on January 1, 2026. From a budget perspective, the total retirement plan costs, which include CPP (Clergy Protection Plan), is projected to decrease from 2025 levels, which is the last year for the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). This will also result, as mentioned above, in a decrease in retirement plan direct billings to churches.

Administrative Budget (Benefits Office, Board of Pensions, Grants) – Finally, the increase in our benefits office expense is primarily a result in reallocating a portion of the Treasurers salary to the Board of Pensions. This more accurately represents the time spent on various activities within our Finance and Benefits/HR Office. As always, we appreciate how the Board of Pensions has continued to financially support the Conference! Please see the Board of Pensions HealthFlex, Pension Programs, and Administrative Budget for further details.

Discontinuations (2024)

Two churches discontinued as United Methodist Churches in 2024: 1) Embrace (\$1,250,000) and 2) McClusky (\$16,208). McClusky discontinued on June 30, 2024, and Embrace discontinued on December 31, 2024. Both met their Book of Discipline para. 2549 financial obligations as of December 31, 2024. Although the original agreement with Embrace included a payment plan in 2025 for a portion of the financial obligation, they ultimately paid their financial obligation in full by December 31, 2024. The funds received from Embrace were deposited into our Urban Church Fund at the Dakotas/Minnesota Methodist Foundation, net of legal fees (\$20,696). Quitclaim deeds for their property were provided to them from the Conference after receipt of archive documentation. The Urban Church fund is designated to support our Urban Church ministries (defined by the Book of Discipline as any city exceeding a population of 50,000). Conversely, the funds received from McClusky, in part, remained in our Conference operating account to fulfill their apportionment and legal/administrative costs (\$6,576), whereas their pension liability portion of their payment (\$3,482) was transferred to our Board of Pensions Pension Reserve account (\$3,482) and the remaining \$6,150 was transferred to our Rural Church fund.

Other Financial Support

Since other financial support from individuals and local churches is not included in our formal budget, I wanted to give you a summary of the support our Dakotas Conference members and churches have provided to various ministries throughout our Conference and broader United Methodist connection. I am pleased to report that these individual and church donations total over \$470,000 in 2024! This amount was close to the total donations received in 2023 of \$487,000. These funds provided much needed financial support in 2024 to various projects and ministries, including (but not limited to) our three Dakotas Conference Camps, Spirit Lake Ministries, Solar Oven Partners, Dakotas Disasters, UMCOR, Tree of Life, Abbott House, World Poverty and Hunger, Thanksgiving Offering, Native American Awareness, Human Relations, Peace and Justice, UM Student Day, Youth Service Fund, UMCOR Sunday, World Service Blankets, World Communion Sunday, Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE) Mexico, Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, Heifer Project, African University, Grace World Health Clinics, and Global Health. Supporting these ministries makes an enormous difference and is life-giving to many people throughout the Conference and the world. Thank you for your

generosity!

Staffing

We incurred a few additional changes in our Conference staffing in 2024; however, we are now fully staffed and have an outstanding team! Additionally, as we head into 2026, Kathy Roll will retire from serving the Conference (at least in an official capacity!). We have appreciated her being part of our team over the past couple of years serving as our Sr. Accountant and Payroll Administrator as she helped ‘bridge the gap’ while we were in transition with the retirement of JoAnn Schlimgen.

Dana Bassett continues to take on additional responsibilities as the Assistant Treasurer and will likely assume the payroll administrator and bank reconciliation responsibilities after Kathy Roll rides off into the sunset (planned for early 2026). Dana has done a phenomenal job absorbing the change that has taken place, and I appreciate her leadership as she continues to become more proficient and knowledgeable in her new role, while retaining some of her former role. Thank you, Dana, for continuing to lead our office in an exemplary fashion!

Kaylynn Schutte was hired in April 2024, and we are blessed to have her on our team. She has already made a significant impact, including being an instrumental part of our efforts to update our Conference Employee Handbook as well as modernize our Conference operations with her work on implementing our new credit card platform, Emburse. While she currently processes all check payments received by the Conference, she will also likely assume electronic payments processing once Kathy Roll retires. Thank you, Kaylynn, for being an integral part of our team!

JoAnn Early has begun her second year as Conference Benefits and Human Resources Officer and has knocked it out of the park! Her enthusiasm and positivity are contagious and is only exceeded by her care and compassion for our Conference clergy. She has a true heart for her ministry, and we are very grateful that she is part of our team. Her most notable contributions include managing the Employee Handbook revision project and working on educating our Conference and clergy on our new clergy retirement plan (Compass).

JoAnn Schlimgen continues to serve the Finance office on a very part time basis, approximately one day per week. Her primary focus is continuing to provide guidance and training to Dana Bassett. As we continue moving forward, JoAnn will likely assist only ‘as needed’ during busy times of the year, such as our year-end accounting and audit processes or when we may need to augment our full-time staff, e.g., vacations or for other reasons. Thank you, JoAnn, for your continued support!

Lastly, Leana Stunes assists our Benefits Office on a contract basis at approximately 10 hours per month (as needed). We have appreciated her assistance and guidance!

Key Accomplishments

During 2024, our Finance and Benefits/HR Office processed over 8,100 financial transactions – that equates to approximately 32 per business day! In 2024, we also processed payroll on a bi-weekly basis for at least 29 staff, and up to a maximum of 69 during the height of camping season (seasonal staff). These two stats illustrate the hard work that our Finance Office puts in day after day to help ensure our Conference and the ministries we support run smoothly.

In addition to the day-to-day operations, the Finance and Benefits/HR Office continues to make progress as it relates to improving and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of our Conference. Recent key accomplishments include the following:

- Zoom Phones – Zoom phones were recently implemented at our Conference office. This will increase the ability to connect with Conference staff, especially as many of us have hybrid work arrangements. An added benefit includes decreasing our total phone costs. We also plan on continuing to roll this out to our Dakotas Conference camps later in 2025.
- Emburse Card Platform – We have completed our transition to Emburse, our new credit card expense platform. This platform, which includes having an app on cardholders’ smart phones, helps us modernize how we retain and submit receipts, and how we process our credit card transactions. This has enhanced our efficiency, both from a user as well as from a Finance Office perspective.

- Vanco Electronic Payments – The Conference is transitioning to Vanco’s new user interface. Please note, this does not change how Vanco operates ‘behind the scenes.’ This interface modernizes the look and feel of our electronic payments webpage and makes it easier for the Conference to add/remove funds for specific registration or fundraising activities. Although the ‘Classic’ version continues to be available, the long-term plan by Vanco includes sunsetting the old interface. So, we encourage churches who are submitting electronic payments to the Conference via Vanco to begin using the new interface (link to this interface is on our Dakotas Annual Conference webpage, under Finance and Benefits). If you haven’t already transitioned to electronic payments using Vanco, we highly encourage you to consider this option. It’s easier and more secure than paper checks and helps enhance our operational efficiencies and supports our goal of being good stewards of conference resources. Additionally, if you don’t use Vanco or another electronic payment platform, this can increase and smooth out local church giving throughout the year. Please contact the Finance Office for more information on how to receive select pricing through our partnership with the Dakotas/Minnesota Methodist Foundation.
- Chart of Accounts – The Finance Office worked with conference and camp staff to reduce the number of accounts, improve the description of accounts, and standardize how we account for various expenses across our conference departments.
- Employee Handbook – We have completed a major revision of our Employee Handbook! Special thanks go out to JoAnn Early, Kaylynn Schutte, and the entire Human Resources Committee. All have worked diligently over the past several months to update and add additional Human Resources policies, such as our Remote Work, Cell Phone, Travel, Vacation, and Auto policies.
- Investment Policy Statement (Board of Pensions) – We have developed a formal Investment Policy Statement for our Board of Pensions. This formalizes the Board of Pensions investment objectives, investment guidelines, documents our key benchmarks for monitoring investment performance, and includes a specific asset allocation policy for each investment account. Additionally, this policy will be used as a template to create an Investment Policy Statement for the Conference. A special thanks goes out to the Board of Pensions Finance Committee for their work on this policy.

We are excited about these major improvements, and we will continue to find areas where we can enhance our efficiency and effectiveness.

Final Thoughts

As we begin to ‘find our footing’ after several years of major change, I am hopeful and excited to see what God has in store for us as we continue to re-focus on our core ministries and what God has called us to do. As always, whether it be questions regarding this report, or ideas on how we can improve our operations and better support you, our local churches, I’m always eager to hear from you. So please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is jim.ducker@dakotasumc.org or you can reach me at 605-990-7786. God bless!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Ducker, Treasurer

Apportioned Budget Summary 2026					
Program	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget Request	Change* \$	Change* %
DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS					
MISSIONAL LEADER LINK	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICE	\$ 1,270	\$ 6,700	\$ 3,550	\$ (3,150)	-47%
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY	\$ 42,570	\$ 52,050	\$ 51,000	\$ (1,050)	-2%
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND	\$ 24,746	\$ 18,373	\$ 17,966	\$ (408)	-2%
LAY SERVANT MINISTRY	\$ 477	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,200	\$ (450)	-27%
LAY LEADER	\$ 442	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,000	\$ 750	60%
CAMPING OFFICE	\$ 16,428	\$ 18,600	\$ 17,400	\$ (1,200)	-6%
CAMPING & RETREAT MINISTRIES	\$ 128,639	\$ 123,000	\$ 111,000	\$ (12,000)	-10%
YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 4,500	\$ (4,500)	-50%
COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES	\$ 33,743	\$ 31,200	\$ 31,900	\$ 700	2%
YOUNG ADULT & HIGHER ED	\$ 82,643	\$ 68,500	\$ 65,500	\$ (3,000)	-4%
SAFER SANCTUARIES	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	50%
DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS	\$ 330,957	\$ 331,323	\$ 307,516	\$ (23,808)	-7%
EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS					
MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS LINK	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,150)	-20%
MINISTRIES OFFICE	\$ 5,937	\$ 10,700	\$ 8,550	\$ (21,000)	-100%
NEW CHURCHES	\$ 10,214	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ (4,500)	-100%
CHURCH REVITALIZATION	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
DAKOTAS RURAL CONNECTION INITIATIVE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (450)	-4%
CONGREGATIONAL TOOLS/TRAINING	\$ 10,685	\$ 12,800	\$ 12,350		
EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS	\$ 26,835	\$ 49,000	\$ 20,900	\$ (28,100)	-57%
EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT					
MISSIONAL IMPACT LINK	\$ 313	\$ 500	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500	900%
GENERAL APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 549,159	\$ 543,086	\$ 501,877	\$ (41,209)	-8%
CONNECTIONAL MISSIONS	\$ 14,853	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ -	0%
CONFERENCE MISSIONARIES	\$ 90,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ (40,000)	-100%
EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT	\$ 654,325	\$ 600,586	\$ 523,877	\$ (76,709)	-13%
GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES					
COUNCIL OF FINANCE & ADMIN	\$ 100	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	0%
FINANCE OFFICE	\$ 30,502	\$ 29,100	\$ 33,250	\$ 4,150	14%
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION	\$ 9,700	\$ 18,000	\$ 15,000	\$ (3,000)	-17%
D&O; WORKER'S COMP COVERAGE	\$ 7,611	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,000	\$ (1,000)	-10%
GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES	\$ 47,913	\$ 57,900	\$ 58,050	\$ 150	0%
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY					
SHARED EXPENSES	\$ 6,789	\$ 6,100	\$ 5,100	\$ (1,000)	-16%
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS	\$ 460,092	\$ 552,208	\$ 405,475	\$ (146,733)	-27%
CONTINGENCY FUNDS	\$ 13,731	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ (5,000)	-25%
INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS	\$ 2,253	\$ 6,500	\$ 4,500	\$ (2,000)	-31%
MOVING FUND	\$ 62,403	\$ 105,000	\$ 85,000	\$ (20,000)	-19%
DISTRICT BUILDING & LOCATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
RESPONSE TEAM	\$ -	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,000	\$ (300)	-13%
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY	\$ 545,268	\$ 692,108	\$ 517,075	\$ (175,033)	-25%
SUPPORT SERVICES					
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE	\$ 42,039	\$ 104,850	\$ 46,350	\$ (58,500)	-56%
UMCONNECT	\$ 16,690	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
CONF SECRETARY/JOURNAL	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,100	\$ (700)	-25%
TRUSTEES	\$ 137,694	\$ 145,888	\$ 126,665	\$ (19,224)	-13%
CHANCELLORS/LEGAL	\$ 10,050	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION	\$ 33,369	\$ 28,050	\$ 28,000	\$ (50)	0%
NCJ CONFERENCE SESSION	\$ 21,334	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
COMMON TABLE	\$ 8,900	\$ 5,300	\$ 7,600	\$ 2,300	43%
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 750	\$ (250)	-25%
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,000)	-33%
ARCHIVES & HISTORY	\$ 38,893	\$ 40,403	\$ 41,400	\$ 997	2%
CONFERENCE CENTER OPERATIONS	\$ 863,210	\$ 898,143	\$ 723,224	\$ (174,919)	-19%
AREA OFFICE SUPPORT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	N/A
GENERAL USE	\$ 5,982	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ (40,000)	-100%
SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 1,180,309	\$ 1,279,434	\$ 1,008,088	\$ (271,345)	-21%
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES (NET OF NON-APPORTIONMENT FUNDING SOURCES)	\$ 2,785,607	\$ 3,010,350	\$ 2,435,506	\$ (574,845)	-19%
APPORTIONMENT INCOME**	\$ 2,220,673	\$ 2,220,214	\$ 2,094,426	\$ (125,788)	-6%
INTEREST/DIVIDEND INCOME (NET OF FEES)***	\$ 105,131	\$ 82,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (32,000)	-39%
UNREALIZED MARKET GAINS/(LOSSES)^	\$ 50,026		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	N/A
GRAND TOTAL NET INCOME	\$ 2,375,830	\$ 2,302,214	\$ 2,194,426	\$ (107,788)	-5%
NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)	\$ (409,777)	\$ (708,136)	\$ (241,080)	\$ 467,056	-66%
SAVINGS RESERVES USED FOR BUDGET DEFICIT	\$ 409,777	\$ 708,136	\$ 241,080	\$ (467,056)	-66%
GRAND TOTAL REMAINING NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
*Change is comparing the 2026 Budget to the 2025 Budget.					
**The apportionment estimates for 2024, 2025, and 2026 were reduced proportionately by the reduction in apportionment percentage each year (i.e., 13.5% in 2024 and 13.0% in 2025 and 2026).					
***Earned interest and dividend income (net of fees) from our CCFA savings reserves and our Conference operating account.					
^Unrealized market earnings from CCFA savings reserve account held at Dakotas Minnesota Methodist Foundations					

Board of Pensions

2026 Healthflex, Pension Programs and Administrative Budget

		2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Percent of Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Request
1	HealthFlex Premiums - Actives (Total)*	1,573,020	2,089,645	100%	2,061,202	2,359,282
	HealthFlex Premiums - Actives (Church Clergy)*		1,571,853		1,495,800	1,796,054
	HealthFlex Premiums - Actives (All Conference/Camp Staff) HealthFlex		314,510		332,400	371,933
	Premiums - Actives (Disability)		57,597		44,755	33,634
	HealthFlex Premiums - Actives (Pre-65)		46,989		66,267	51,030
	HealthFlex Premiums - Actives (Continuation Coverage) HealthFlex		6,552		9,884	7,115
	Premiums - Actives (Sub-Adoption Agreements)		92,144		112,096	99,516
	Retiree Health Contributions (Via Benefits) Via	833,660	703,375	84%	881,433	910,807
	Benefits Admin VP Incentives Medicare Part B	13,000	8,105	62%	25,000	10,000
	Allowance for Uncollected Premiums (1%)	72,000	55,221	77%	110,299	59,805
		12,000	-	0%	14,958	-
	HealthFlex, HRA, and Personify Health Expenses	2,503,680	2,856,346	114%	3,092,892	3,339,894
	Premiums Received From All Sources (includes participants share)*	(1,121,811)	(1,768,148)	94%	(1,800,939)	(1,988,021)
	Direct Bill Received From Churches (includes participants share)* Direct	(242,343)	(1,284,182)		(1,308,858)	(1,445,749)
	Bill Received From Conference (includes participants share) Direct Bill		(288,129)		(274,517)	(353,538)
	Received (Disability) (includes participants share)		(50,910)		(11,842)	(33,727)
	Direct Bill Received From Sub-Adoption, Continuation Coverage, and Pre-65 (incl. participants share) Endowment and		(128,920)		(185,722)	(140,007)
	Trust Fund (Premium Grants)		(9,100)		(20,000)	(10,000)
	Endowment/Investment Income (Foundation Endowment)		(6,908)		-	(5,000)
	Budgeted Deficit (Absorbed by HealthFlex Reserves) Transfers from	(300,867)	(381,314)	127%	(405,520)	(436,066)
	Retiree Health Fund	(833,660)	(703,375)	84%	(881,433)	(910,807)
	Investment Income (Realized Gain/Loss) - Deposit Acct HealthFlex	(5,000)	(3,509)	70%	(5,000)	(5,000)
	Offsets	(2,503,680)	(2,856,346)	114%	(3,092,892)	(3,339,894)
	Expenses Less Offsets	0	0	N/A	0	0
2	Pension Program Premiums					
	CPP	195,354	195,116	100%	200,853	189,338
	CRSP-DC	194,866	193,395	99%	197,081	
	CRSP-DB	542,686	444,746	82%	557,667	
	UMPIP - Church Contribution and Conference Clergy	192,598	193,114	100%	199,940	
	Compass**					610,538
	Pre-82 Contribution	-	958,462	N/A	-	85,000
	Allowance for Uncollected Premiums	6,000	-	0%	6,000	-
	Pension Expenses	1,131,504	1,984,833	175%	1,161,540	884,876
	Direct Bill Churches (Clergy)	(1,125,504)	(921,077)	82%	(1,072,005)	(725,054)
	Direct Bill Conference Staff (Clergy Only)	(75,000)	(87,741)	117%	(83,535)	(74,822)
	Pre-82 Contribution (From Pre-82-Designated Fund)	-	(958,462)	N/A	-	(85,000)
	Endowment/Investment Income (Foundation Endowment)	(13,000)	(6,248)	48%	(6,000)	-
	Pension Offsets	(1,213,504)	(1,973,527)	163%	(1,161,540)	(884,876)
	Expenses Less Offsets	(82,000)	11,306	-14%	0	0
3	Benefit Grants (Parental Leave and Medical Grants)	15,000	3,036	20%	15,000	10,000
	Benefit Grants (Retiree Premium Grants)	18,000	9,265	51%	20,000	10,000
	Program/Seminars, Stipends, Retiree Honorariums and AC Dinner	14,500	5,045	35%	11,000	11,500
	Benefits Office	153,770	125,254	81%	155,787	193,928
	Administration Expenses	201,270	142,600	71%	201,787	225,428
	Transfer from Endowment	(201,270)	(142,600)	71%	(201,787)	(225,428)
	Expenses Less Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
4	Board Expenses	9,500	7,308	77%	8,500	10,000
	Transfer from Endowment	(9,500)	(7,308)	77%	(8,500)	(10,000)
	Expenses Less Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Insurance, Pension, and Administrative Expenses	3,845,954	4,991,087	130%	4,464,719	4,460,198
	Total Offsets	(3,927,954)	(4,979,782)	127%	(4,464,719)	(4,460,198)
	Balance	(82,000)	11,306	-14%	(0)	1
	Direct Bill to Churches (Includes Participants Share for HealthFlex)	(2,247,314)	(2,205,259)	98%	(2,380,863)	(2,170,803)

* Beginning with the 2025 budget (including 2024 actual expenses), additional details are now included for the HealthFlex costs and billing, including premium and billing information related to conference/camp staff, Pre-65 enrollees, and those on our sub-adoption agreements. Therefore, the bold figures illustrate the 'apples to apples' comparison for church clergy and church direct billings.

**Beginning January 1, 2026, Compass will replace the CRSP and UMPIP retirement plans for clergy.

Note: Due to rounding, small discrepancies can be found in the totals

VII. HISTORICAL

Record of the Sessions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegations

Session	Dates	Location	Presiding Bishop	Conf. Secretary
1 st	June 1-5, 1994	Aberdeen, SD	William B . Lewis	Linda R . Harris
2nd	June 5-11, 1995	Bismarck, ND	William B . Lewis	Dr . Mark Ahlsten
3rd	June 6-9, 1996	Mitchell, SD	William B . Lewis	Dr . Mark Ahlsten
4th	June 5-8, 1997	Bismarck, ND	Michael J . Coyner	Dr . Mark Ahlsten
5th	June 4-7, 1998	Aberdeen, SD	Michael J . Coyner	Dr . Mark Ahlsten
6th	June 3-6, 1999	Bismarck, ND	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
7th	June 1-4, 2000	Aberdeen, SD	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
8th	June 7-10, 2001	Bismarck, ND	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
9th	June 5-7, 2002	Sioux Falls, SD	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
10th	June 5-7, 2003	Fargo, ND	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
11th	June 2-6, 2004	Pierre, SD	Michael J . Coyner	Mark S . Ellingson
12th	June 8-11, 2005	Bismarck, ND	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
13th	June 7-10, 2006	Watertown, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
14th	June 6-9, 2007	Sioux Falls, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
15th	June 4-7, 2008	Fargo, ND	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
16th	June 3-6, 2009	Rapid City, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
Special	Nov 20-21, 2009	Aberdeen, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
17th	June 9-12, 2010	Bismarck, ND	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
18th	June 8-11, 2011	Watertown, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
19th	June 7-10, 2012	Sioux Falls, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey	Mark S . Ellingson
20th	June 6-8, 2013	Bismarck, ND	Bruce R. Ough	Mark S . Ellingson
21st	June 5-7, 2014	Rapid City, SD	Bruce R. Ough	Mark S . Ellingson
22nd	June 4-6, 2015	Fargo, ND	Bruce R. Ough	Mark S . Ellingson
23rd	June 9-11, 2016	Sioux Falls, SD	Bruce R. Ough	Mark S . Ellingson
24th	June 8-10, 2017	Bismarck, ND	Bruce R. Ough	Kristen Krogman
25th	June 7-9, 2018	Sioux Falls, SD	Bruce R. Ough	Kristen Krogman
26th	June 6-8, 2019	Bismarck, ND	Bruce R. Ough	Kristen Krogman
27th	June 11, Sept .18, Oct .10, 2020	Sioux Falls, SD & Online	Bruce R. Ough	Amber Laffey
28 th	June 11-12, 2021	Sioux Falls, SD, Bismarck, ND, Fargo, ND, Rapid City, SD & online	Laurie Haller	Amber Laffey
29th	June 9-11, 2022	Bismarck, ND	Deborah L . Kieseey, Bruce R . Ough, assisting	Amber Laffey
Special	Nov. 19, 2022	Sioux Falls, SD, Bismarck, ND, Fargo, ND, Rapid City, SD	Deborah L . Kieseey, Bruce R . Ough, assisting	Amber Laffey
30th	June 7-10, 2023	Sioux Falls, SD	Lanette Plambeck, Bill McAlilly, assisting	Amber Laffey
Special	August 15, 2023	Online	Lanette Plambeck	Amber Laffey
31st	June 5-8, 2024	Bismarck, ND	Lanette Plambeck, Carlo Rapanut, assisting	Amber Laffey
Special	Nov. 23, 2024	Online	Lanette Plambeck	Amber Laffey
32nd	June 5-8, 2025	Mitchell, SD	Lanette Plambeck	Amber Laffey

DELEGATIONS

2020/2024 General Conference:	Laity—Kara (Togel) Heagal, Clergy—Rebecca Trefz
Jurisdictional Conference:	Laity—Beata Ferris Clergy—Sara Nelson
Reserves:	Clergy—Ray Baker, Jennifer Hallenbeck Orr
2019 Special Called Session of General Conference:	Laity—Beata Ferris Clergy—Rebecca Trefz
Reserves:	Laity—Matthew Bader Clergy—Roger Spahr
2016 General Conference:	Laity—Jodi Cataldo Clergy—Rebecca Trefz
Jurisdictional Conference:	Laity—Matthew Bader Clergy—Roger Spahr
Reserves:	Laity—Emma McKirdy-Wilsey, Nathan Bader, Natalie Buck Clergy—Kermit Culver, Jenny Hallenbeck Orr, Jen Tyler
2012 General Conference:	Laity—Janelle Jones Clergy—Rebecca Trefz
Jurisdictional Conference:	Laity—Jodi Cataldo Clergy—Greg Kroger
Reserves:	Laity—Matthew Bader, Angelica Laudermith, Larry Madsen Clergy—Rich Zeck, Doug Diehl, Jennifer Hallenbeck
2008 General Conference:	Laity—Bruce Blumer Clergy—Teri Johnson
Jurisdictional Conference:	Laity—Janelle Jones Clergy—Eldon Reich
Reserves:	Laity—Kathleen Enzminger, Sheila Mennenga Clergy—Randy Cross, Bob Ruedebusch
2004 General Conference:	Laity—Karl Kroger, Kathleen Enzminger
Jurisdictional Conference:	Clergy—Teri Johnson, Eldon Reich
Reserves:	Laity—Mary Hayenga, Barbara Goodman Clergy—Dar Berkenpas, Doug Diehl
2000 General Conference:	Laity—Don Nash, Bruce Blumer, Janelle Jones, Ray Wagner
Jurisdictional Conference:	Clergy—Rob Moorlach, Rich Zeck, Debra Ball-Kilbourne, Randy Cross
Reserves:	Laity—John Ewing, Mary Hayenga Clergy—Douglas Diehl, Teri Johnson
	Laity—Ray Wagner, Marion Muthiah
	Clergy—Penelope Eberhart, Eldon Reich
	Clergy—William Bates, Peary Wilson, Dwight Meier, Debra Ball-Kilbourne
1996 General Conference:	Laity—Cynthia Nelson, Warren DeKrey, Barbara Goodman, Ron Williams
Jurisdictional Conference:	Laity—Ray Wagner, Mary Hayenga
Reserves:	Clergy—Penelope Eberhart, William Bates
	Laity—Marion Muthiah, John “Jack” Ewing
	Clergy—Peary Wilson, Eldon Reich
	Laity—Bubbles Jensen, Ron Williams

2020/2024 Delegation



Rev. Rebecca Trefz
General Conference
North Central Jurisdiction
Clergy Delegate



Kara (Togel) Heagal
General Conference
North Central Jurisdiction
Lay Delegate



Rev. Sara Nelson
General Conference
Clergy Reserve Delegate
North Central Jurisdiction
Clergy Delegate



Beata Ferris
General Conference
Lay Reserve Delegate
North Central Jurisdiction
Lay Delegate



Rev. Ray Baker
First Reserve
North Central Jurisdiction
Clergy Delegate



Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr
Second Reserve
North Central Jurisdiction
Clergy Delegate

In memory Clergy

Reverend Allan Brockway 1932-2024



The Rev. Allan Brockway, 92, died on Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Dallas, Texas.

Allan Reitz Brockway was born on March 22, 1932, in Lawrence, Kansas, to Horace and Esther (Reitz) Brockway. His parents were active in the Methodist church, speaking in churches as

lay witnesses and teaching Sunday school classes. They inspired Allan to pursue a ministerial life and career.

Allan became a probationary member of the North Arkansas Conference in 1953 and earned a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, in 1954. He was ordained deacon in 1956 and then elder and member in full connection in 1957. He transferred to the Northwest Texas Conference in 1957 and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. He served the Wesley Foundation at West Texas State College in Canyon, Texas, and Christian Faith-and-Life Community in Austin, Texas.

In 1963, Allan earned his master's degree at the University of Chicago and moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the Board of Christian Social Concerns. He advocated for racial and social justice, traveling to Selma, Alabama, and attending the World Council of Churches Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Allan worked for the General Board of Church and Society and edited their magazine, "Engage/Social Action." In 1977, he transferred to the North Dakota Conference. He moved to Dallas in 1978 for a year, working on the issue of Jewish-Christian relations with the Dallas office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

In 1979, Allan was appointed to serve with the World Council of Churches and moved to Geneva, Switzerland. He specialized in Jewish-Christian relations and edited the program's material for the WCC's newsletter, Current Dialogue. He served as the liaison with the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. He organized conferences and consultations and traveled to Germany and Israel.

In 1989, Allan retired and moved to Birmingham, England, to teach and to complete his doctorate at the University of Birmingham. He worked at the Centre for the Study of Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations at Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham from 1989 to 1994.

He was recognized as Jubilee Clergy by the Dakotas Conference in 2003.

Allan's numerous publications included "The Secular Saint," "Uncertain Men and Certain Change," "Learning Christology through Dialogue with Jews," and "The Theology of the Churches and the Jewish People."

Allan had been married to Martha Lou King. He had four sons: Scot, Paul, Dan, and Benjamin.

Reverend Rodney "Rod" Gist 1926-2024



The Rev. Rodney Gist, 97, died Saturday, June 22, 2024, at Ava's Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, after a brief illness. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 27, 2024, at First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls. Interment with military rites

was at Richland Cemetery in Inwood, Iowa.

Rodney Raymond Gist was born on October 4, 1926, to Joseph and Gladys (Leffler) Gist on their family's farm near Presho, South Dakota. In 1937, when weather and economic conditions made farming there impossible, the family moved to a farm near Worthing, South Dakota, and then to a farm near Madison, South Dakota, where his parents worked as tenant farmers.

Rod attended rural public schools and Madison High School, where he graduated in 1944. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Philippines at the end of World War II. Guarding Japanese prisoners of war who worked on the reconstruction of Manila caused Rod to see the humanity of wartime enemies and inspired him to devote his life to working for peace and reconciliation among people.

Rod used the GI Bill to attend General Beadle State Teachers College in Madison, the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, and the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, South Dakota, where he graduated in 1950. He was admitted on trial by the South Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church in 1950 and enrolled at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois. He was ordained deacon and full member in 1952 and elder in 1953. He later earned his doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

At his grandmother's funeral in Inwood, Rod met musician and teacher Doris Leivestad. They corresponded for two years before marrying on June 15, 1953, the same day he graduated from seminary.

Together, Rod and Doris served Methodist and United Methodist churches in the South Dakota Conference at Viborg-Irene (1953-1955), Sioux Falls First (1955-1960), Britton-Langford (1960-1963), Canistota-Salem (1963-1966), Canistota-Riverside-Canistota First Presbyterian (1966-1969), Spearfish (1969-1974), Gregory Larger Parish (1974-1980), and Canton (1980-1989).

Rod exchanged pulpits with the Rev. William Andrews of England and served nine small churches in a Methodist circuit in and near Louth, Lincolnshire, England from 1968 to 1969. During that year, Rod entertained his parishioners at home with a weekly newspaper column titled "Life in England Filtered Through a Yankee." He was a poet and a humorist.

Rod served on the Clergy Observer Corps, which mediated the deadly clash between members of the American Indian Movement and the FBI at Wounded Knee in 1973. He received an honorary doctorate from Dakota Wesleyan University, in Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1982 and was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2000.

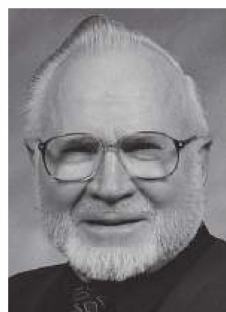
Rod received the Dakotas Conference Peace and Justice Award in 2012. He and Doris made a naming gift for the Gist Lodge at Storm Mountain Center in the Black Hills.

After retiring in 1989, Rod and Doris moved to Inwood to care for Doris's mother and disabled sister. In 2002, they moved to Sioux Falls, where they were involved with First United Methodist Church, The Banquet, Active Generations, and the Democratic Forum. Rod joined a Midwest Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., which was a moving experience for him.

Rod is survived by two daughters: Barbara (David) Cook of Fennimore, Wisconsin, and Linda (James) Marten of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; three nephews; and a niece.

He was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 70 years, Doris, on February 14, 2023; his brother, Kent Gist; his sister, Ruth Spencer; and a niece.

Reverend Roger Smith 1926-2024



The Rev. Roger A. Smith, 98, of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, passed away on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. At the time, he was the oldest clergy member of the Dakotas Conference.

Funeral services were held Sunday, August 4, 2024, at the Alcorn Funeral Home in Hawthorn,

Pennsylvania, with Pastor Bud Davis and Pastor John Phillips officiating. Following the service, the Walter W. Craig Post No. 354 of New Bethlehem American Legion honored their fallen comrade. Interment was

in the Putneyville Cemetery in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

Roger A. Smith was born on January 1, 1926, to Urban A. and Mary Viola "Ollie" (George) Smith in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. He graduated from New Kensington High School in 1944. He then served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1945, during World War II.

In 1951, Roger graduated from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, with a bachelor's degree in religion. He was ordained deacon and probationary member of the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church in 1955. He attended Asbury College in Kentucky for two

years before earning his master's degree in divinity from Drew College and Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, in 1958. That same year he was ordained elder and full member.

Roger served churches in the North Dakota Conference at Rural-Fort Rice (1951-1952), Hettinger-Bethany-Lemmon, South Dakota (1958-1963), and Bottineau-Gardena-Russell (1963-1965).

While serving in North Dakota, Roger responded to a call from the National Council of Churches to go to Mississippi. Skilled leaders were needed to assist in predominantly black communities during the oppression that led to the civil rights movement. He then served in extension ministries in Mississippi, retiring in 1989 but continuing in Mississippi until 1994.

An article in the April 11, 2018, Courier Express newspaper, out of DuBois, Pennsylvania, tells of Roger's involvement with the civil rights movement in Mississippi over a span of nearly 30 years. While living

in Mississippi, he encountered poor living conditions and the ongoing threat of violence and met many prominent civil rights leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

After Mississippi, Roger returned to his farm outside of New Bethlehem. The last church he served was the Putneyville United Methodist Church. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2001.

Roger had a love for music and enjoyed singing the old hymns. He was a member of the Walter W. Craig Post No. 354 of New Bethlehem American Legion and served as chaplain for many years.

On August 7, 2010, Roger married Bonnie Sue Heckathorn. She preceded him in death on June 17, 2015.

Roger was the last of his immediate family. In addition to his parents and his wife, Roger was preceded in death by a sister, Esther M. Charlesworth; and three brothers: Byron Smith, Carmen Smith and William David Smith.

Reverend Penelope “Penny” Ritter 1947-2024



The Rev. Penelope Ritter, 77, passed away on Monday, August 19, 2024, in Truman, Minnesota. A memorial service was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Truman. Burial was in Westford Cemetery at Truman.

Penelope Jane Ritter was born on March 17, 1947, to Harold W. and Annie (Brownlee) Ritter in Truman. She graduated from Truman High School in 1965. In 1969, she graduated from Sioux Falls College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with a sociology degree and was a social worker in Martin County, Minnesota.

Penny earned her master's degree in divinity from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls in 1978. She had been licensed to preach in 1977 by her home church, Truman Community Baptist Church, and was ordained in 1978. She transferred her credentials to the South Dakota Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1983 and was made a full member in 1985.

Penny served United Methodist churches in the South Dakota Conference at White-Aurora-Sterling (1983-1988) and Beresford Zion (1988-1994). She served the Community Baptist Church from 2001 until 2010, when she retired.

Before and after her service in the South Dakota Conference, Penny filled the pulpit in Sioux Falls, Sac City and Storm Lake, Iowa, and Truman, Fairmont, Winnebago, Mapleton, and Amboy, Minnesota. Other ministries included Sioux Falls College chaplain and chaplaincies for hospice, several hospitals, and Fountain Center Drug and Alcohol Rehab in Fairmont. She also held a weekly Bible study group.

Penny loved to travel and toured Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, the East Coast, Ireland, England, and Italy. She enjoyed Mississippi River cruises and multiple trips to Japan. Her time spent at the “cabin” in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, was very special to her.

Penny is survived by her brother, Robert (Lois) Ritter; and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Reverend Linova “Lin” Jennewein 1936-2024



The Rev. Linova Jennewein, 88, passed away on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at Friendly Horizons Memory Care in Summerset, South Dakota, after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease. A celebration of life service was held Saturday, September 21, 2024, at the Canyon Lake United

Methodist Church in Rapid City, South Dakota. Burial was at Mountain View Cemetery in Rapid City.

Linova Lee Jennewein was born on June 25, 1936, to J. Leonard and A. Marjorie (Bullock) Jennewein at Pierre, South Dakota. She graduated from Huron High School, Huron South Dakota, in 1954 and from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1957.

On June 9, 1957, Lin married DWU classmate Andrew Hubbeling, of Oacoma, South Dakota. They later moved to Rapid City and had three children together.

Lin graduated from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, in 1981 with her master of degree in divinity. She was ordained deacon and probationary member in 1980 and elder and full member of the South Dakota Conference in 1982.

Lin served United Methodist churches in South Dakota at Pierre First (1981-1982), Rapid City Rapid Valley

(1982-1985), Gettysburg (1985-1987), McCook Lake (1987-1992), and Deadwood (1992-1994). After a year of sabbatical leave, she served at Clark-Garden City (1995-1999) and Plankinton-Mt. Vernon (1999-2001). After retiring in 2001, she served Faith-Marcus PC-USA and Presho-Kennebec-Reliance.

Lin was a second-generation pastor in the United Methodist Church, having followed in the footsteps of her maternal grandfather, the Rev. C.D. Bullock, Methodist pastor and founder of the Boy Scout movement in South Dakota.

Lin was active in many organizations including South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota Hall of Fame, Rotary, United Methodist Women, AAUW, Democracy in Action, the Democratic Party, choir, Well Done Players performance troupe, book clubs, the medical ethics board for the Rapid City Regional Hospital, Church Response outreach organization, and P.E.O. Her insightful column, “The Great Mystery,” in the Rapid City Journal newspaper is fondly remembered by many.

Lin is survived by her children: Jil Hubbeling Jennewein, Karine Blackett, and Paul (Tina) Hubbeling; and 5 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Sylvia McTighe.

Reverend Peter “Pete” Moe 1932-2025



The Rev. Peter Moe, 92, passed away Friday, January 3, 2025, at Westhills Village Health Care Facility in Rapid City, South Dakota, following a six-month illness. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Canyon Lake United Methodist Church in Rapid City.

Peter Walton Moe was born on September 19, 1932, in Ipswich, South Dakota, to Peter A. and Kathryn (Walton) Moe. When he was nine, the family moved to Redfield, South Dakota, and then a year later to Canton, South Dakota, where his father managed the Red Owl grocery stores. Later, the family moved to Lemmon, South Dakota, and owned the Ideal Cafe.

Peter injured his back playing high school football, so he turned to music, playing the clarinet, singing, and acting in plays. It also was in high school when he felt called to the ministry. Peter graduated from Lemmon High School in 1950.

While attending Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, Peter sang in the Scotsman Quartet and the choir, played in the band, acted in theatrical productions, and worked on the student newspaper. He also served as pulpit supply at the Plankinton and White Lake Presbyterian churches and then the Artesian-Farwell Methodist churches (1953-1954) until he graduated in 1954.

After college, Peter moved to California to live with his parents to work and save money for seminary. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and completed basic training

at Fort Ord, California. He was shipped overseas to Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a clerk typist, then company clerk, and then personnel sergeant to the Okinawa Engineer District.

Following his military service, Pete attended the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, where he met fellow seminary student Grace Young. They were married December 27, 1959, in the Iliff Chapel. While in seminary, Grace would often accompany Peter as he commuted from Denver to serve the Edgemont, South Dakota, Methodist church on weekends. He graduated with his master's degree in 1960.

Peter was ordained deacon and admitted on trial in 1958 and elder and full member in 1960 by the South Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church. Together, Peter and Grace served the South Dakota Conference at Edgemont-Burdock (1959-1963), Rapid City Canyon Lake (1963-1964), the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, Wesley Foundation (1964-1974), Spearfish (1974-1983), Yankton-Gayville-Volin

(1983-1987), Watertown First (1987-1992), and as Western District Superintendent (1992-1994). After the 1994 merger of the North Dakota and South Dakota conferences, Peter served as Southwest District Superintendent (1994-1998).

Peter retired from the ministry in 1998. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2003. For several years, he edited the "In Touch" newsletter for retired clergy and spouses.

Peter and Grace enjoyed fishing and visiting with family and friends. They made many trips around the country, to Europe, and to Tennessee to see their grandchildren. Peter will be remembered for his wisdom, sunny spirit, and sense of humor, including his love for bad jokes.

Peter is survived by his daughters: Shelli (Troy) Riggs of Jackson, Tennessee, and Shauna Moe of Rapid City; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Grace, on November 3, 2020; his parents; and his sisters: Bobbie, Beverlee Ann, Jean, and Joan.

Reverend Wayne McKirdy 1929-2025



The Rev. Wayne McKirdy, 95, passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, North Dakota. An informal prayer service was held at the North Dakota Veterans Home on Friday, January 31, 2025, with pecan pie following.

The funeral service was Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Epworth United Methodist Church in Valley City, North Dakota, with more pecan pie following. Burial was in the Gladstone Cemetery at Gladstone, North Dakota.

Wayne Miller McKirdy was born on June 9, 1929, at Gladstone, the 13th of 16 children born to Herbert and Dagmar (Miller) McKirdy. Wayne graduated from Gladstone High School in 1947 and attended Dickinson State Teachers College in Dickinson, North Dakota, for one year and Utah State Agricultural College in Logan, Utah, for one year. Wayne served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict in the early 1950s.

Wayne was granted a license to preach and appointed to serve Napoleon-Braddock (1953-1954) and Pettibone-Lake Williams-Malcolm UCC (1954-1955). After two years at Jamestown College in Jamestown, North

Dakota, Wayne graduated in 1955.

He went on to attend Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, earning his master's degree. When he was ordained deacon by the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church on May 24, 1956, at the First Methodist Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota, he met Maybelle Ralston.

Wayne was ordained elder and full member in 1958. He and Maybelle were married on August 24, 1958.

Together they served the North Dakota Conference at Napoleon-Braddock (1958-1961), Tioga (1961-1963), Edgeley-Jud-Nortonville (1963-1968), and Edgeley (1968-1970). Wayne transferred to the South Dakota Conference, and they served at Black Hills Methodist Camp and Piedmont (1970-1973), Faulkton-Seneca (1973-1983), and Big Stone City-Revillo (1983-1986).

Wayne transferred back to the North Dakota Conference in 1986 and served as conference executive director of camping (1986-1990) and conference camp facilities manager (1990-1991) at Wesley Acres Camp near Dazey, North Dakota. After retiring in 1991, Wayne and Maybelle bought a house in Valley City, North Dakota, and served the North Dakota churches of Wimbledon, Salem, Dazey, Leal, and Valley City Epworth. Wayne

was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2003.

After Maybelle was diagnosed with primary progressive aphasia in 2005, she and Wayne started writing the story of their years together. Maybelle passed away September 10, 2009. Wayne finished their book, "Together," in 2013.

In his early years, Wayne was nicknamed "Birdy McKirdy," as birding was always his passion. Whether leading Boy Scout troops, canoe trips, bird hikes, or

working in his many gardens, he was connected to nature throughout his life. He gave up his yard in 2012 and moved to the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, where he always felt he was "treated like a general."

Wayne is survived by his children: the Rev. Scott (Colleen), Stuart (Ellen), Bruce (Lori), and Donna McKirdy (Carlos Diaz); 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

In memory Clergy Spouses

Steve Nygaard 1951-2024



Steven Nygaard, 73, spouse of the Rev. Julie Nygaard, died on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Jackson, Michigan. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Jackson on Thursday, June 27, 2024, with the Rev. Tonya Arnesen officiating.

Steven Jon Nygaard was born on January 15, 1951, in Pierpont, South Dakota, to Melvin and Ruth Nygaard. He lived and worked on the family farm until marrying Julie Jewel on August 15, 2004.

Together, Steve served with Julie in appointments at Webster, Bristol, Cresbard, Rockham, Miranda, and Tolstoy, in South Dakota. Julie retired in 2016, and they moved back to Julie's home state, Michigan.

Steven is survived by his wife of 19 years, Julie; and his brother and sister-in-law, George and Rose Nygaard, of Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Jean Nygaard; and his sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Duane Timmons.

Esther Samuel 1927-2024



Esther Samuel, 96, surviving spouse of the Rev. Jothaya Samuel, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Funeral services were held Monday, July 1, 2024, at Faith Baptist Fellowship Church in Sioux Falls. Burial was

at Woodlawn Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

Esther Kadana was born on October 30, 1927, to Yeshvanth Kadana and Lingamma Kadana in Pegadapally, a small town in Telangana, India. She was the sixth of eight children.

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, and taught English for 25 years.

Esther married Jothaya Samuel on May 30, 1951, at Bidar, Karnataka, India. In 1964, they and their two sons moved from Hyderabad, India, to Hounslow, a small neighborhood in London, England, where she continued her teaching career.

In 1977, they emigrated from England to South Dakota, so Jothaya could pursue a career in Methodist ministry. While he attended seminary, Esther worked at McKennan Hospital, administering heating pads to patients undergoing physical therapy.

Together, Jothaya and Esther served United Methodist churches in the South Dakota Conference at Burke Larger Parish, Brothersfield, Bowdle-Tolstoy, and White Lake-Underwood. He took disability leave in 1988.

On November 25, 1992, Jothaya died in London, England. He was buried in his native land of India.

Esther spoke four languages: Telegu, Hindi, Kannada, and English. She was fiercely independent, living alone until she was 92. She traveled the world and loved to

laugh. She greeted everyone with a kiss on both cheeks.

Esther is survived by her older son, Divisha Samuel, and daughter-in-law, Rani Samuel; daughter-in-law, Debbie Samuel; four grandchildren; and five great-granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Jothaya; her younger son, Dhanraj Samuel; and all her siblings.

William James “Jim” Oates 1939-2024



William James “Jim” Oates, 84, husband of the Rev. Muriel Oates, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at Rapid City, South Dakota. A memorial service was held Sunday, August 11, 2024, at Canyon Lake United Methodist Church in Rapid City. Interment was Monday, August 12, 2024, at

Mountain View Cemetery in Rapid City.

William James Oates was born on August 15, 1939, to Ted and Kathryn Oates in Deadwood, South Dakota. Jim grew up in Lead, South Dakota, graduating in 1957 from Lead High School, where he excelled in basketball, football, glee club, and band.

Jim was certified in mine safety-first aid methods in 1959 and completed the machine-shop practices program in 1961. He worked at Homestake Mining Company for 37 years, using his expertise to ensure that the many hoists and pumps were maintained to keep the mine safe and running.

In 1957, Jim married Barbara Chilcott, and they had five children: Diane, Mike, John, Mary, and Robert. In 1986, Jim married Muriel Athow, who had two children: Mark and Janell Athow.

Jim retired from Homestake Mining Company in 1994 as the maintenance foreman. After retirement, he supported Muriel as she became a United Methodist minister. Together, Jim and Muriel served the Dakotas Conference at the Faith and the Rapid City Open Heart (South Maple) United Methodist churches. They also were active in ministries beyond the local church. Jim assisted with church activities, helped on ranches, and worked at the Storm Mountain Methodist Retreat for several years.

Jim loved golfing. He coached intramural sports at Lead High School for 25 years and was the official scorekeeper for the varsity basketball and football teams. He loved sports and encouraged his children to excel in sports and to be dedicated and dependable on and off the court.

Jim is survived by his wife of 38 years, Muriel; children: Diane Allen, Mike (Stephanie) Oates, John Oates, Mark (Stacy) Athow, Mary Oates, Janell (John) Gerberding, and Robert (Jessica) Oates; 15 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Uncle Jack and Aunt Thelma Sanito; and his sister, Elizabeth Bertolotto.

Enid Roth 1931-2024



Enid Roth, 93, surviving spouse of the Rev. Robert Roth, passed away on Monday, September 9, 2024, at United Living Community in Brookings, South Dakota. A memorial prayer service was held on Friday, September 13, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church in Brookings. Funeral services were held Friday, September 20,

2024, at the United Methodist Church in Sturgis, South Dakota. Interment was at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

Enid Jean Wilkins was born on March 25, 1931, at Aberdeen, South Dakota, to Raymond and Bertha Wilkins. She grew up in the Cresbard community, graduating from Cresbard High School in 1949. She received a teaching certificate from Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen and taught at a rural school in Edmunds County for two years.

On May 28, 1951, Enid married Robert J. Roth in Aberdeen. Their first home was on the Roth farm, where Bob farmed with his father. He served the Methodist Church at Seneca, South Dakota, 1958-1959, as part-time supply.

In August 1959, they moved to Fulton, South Dakota, where Bob was student supply pastor of the Fulton and Farmer Methodist churches while attending Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota.

After Bob graduated in 1963, the family moved to Marshall, Wisconsin, and Bob attended Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He graduated in 1967, and they moved to Belle Fourche.

Together Bob and Enid served Methodist and United Methodist churches in South Dakota at Belle Fourche, Harding County, Britton, Langford, and Sturgis. Bob also served as conference program director for the South Dakota Conference when the couple resided in Mitchell. Enid taught Sunday school, and she and Bob provided leadership in marriage enrichment workshops.

Enid was an artist. She wove macramé pieces, painted pictures, and had her own business selling functional stoneware pottery. She collected rocks, pieces of wood, and tree roots and incorporated them into the landscaping and interior décor of their homes. She loved tending to her flower gardens.

In 1996, Bob and Enid retired to a new home in Boulder Canyon, near Sturgis. In 2010, they moved to Spearfish.

Bob passed away March 16, 2019. Enid later moved to assisted living in Sturgis, and in 2023, she moved to Edgewood Memory Care in Brookings.

Enid is survived by five children: Thomas of Shawnee, Kansas; Gerald (Kay) of Moorcroft, Wyoming; Joanne (Rex) Vigoren of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Ronald Roth of Sturgis; and Cheryl (James) Honomichl of Volga, South Dakota; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and two sisters: Irene (Allen) Roth of Mesa, Arizona, and Betty (Russ) Arendsee of Watertown, South Dakota.

She was preceded in death by her husband; one daughter, Janice Roth; an infant grandson; her parents; two brothers: Howard and Keith Wilkins; and her sister, Ardell (Ronald) Bierman.

Carlyle E. Richards 1935-2024



Carlyle Richards, 89, husband of the Rev. Sheila Richards, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, died Sunday, September 15, 2024, at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, following a brain injury. A musical celebration of life was held Friday, October

11, 2024, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, with the Rev. Jeff Whillock and the Rev. Andrea Johnson presiding.

Carlyle Edward Richards was born on July 21, 1935, at Deadwood, South Dakota, to Clinton and Marian (Coventry) Richards. He grew up in Deadwood and graduated from Deadwood High School in 1953. He

graduated from Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, in 1957 and from the University of South Dakota School of Law at Vermillion, South Dakota, in 1960.

After law school, Carlyle worked as the law clerk for U.S. Federal District Court Judge Axel Beck in Aberdeen. One of the first people he met in Aberdeen was Sheila Beaver of Indianapolis, Indiana, who was attending Northern State Teachers College. They were married on December 23, 1961, at First Methodist Church in Aberdeen. They had three children – Leisa, Keith and Renee – and they adopted their daughter Iris in 1970.

After clerking for Judge Beck for one year, Carlyle practiced law for decades. In 1971, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate for the Northern Division of the District of South Dakota, where he served until 2000 and then again in 2008 and 2009. He also specialized in cooperative law and represented many agricultural cooperatives in eastern South Dakota, serving as counsel for the South Dakota Wheat Growers (now Agtegra Cooperative) for most of his time in practice. In 2015, he was inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame. He retired in 2019.

Carlyle was an active member of Aberdeen First UMC from 1960 through 2005. He taught Sunday school to high school and college students; then, with other young married couples, formed the Anglers Sunday School class, which he taught for 35 years. He served on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Board

of Trustees, provided special music, and sang in the choir. From 2005 until his death, he was a member of Aberdeen North Highland UMC, where he taught the adult Sunday School class, sang in the choir, and chaired the Finance Committee. He served many years as a delegate to the Annual Conference, chaired the United Campus Ministry Committee for 20 years, and served on the Conference Board of Trustees.

Together, Sheila and Carlyle served the United Methodist churches of Eureka, South Dakota, and North Highland and Church of All Nations in Aberdeen. Sheila also was superintendent of the Southeast District.

Carlyle served on boards and foundations and was a member of the Aberdeen Lions Club, Masonic Lodge No. 38, and the Prairie Players. He and Sheila founded the local AA chapter of Families Anonymous. He loved music, trains, reading, and walking. He walked to work year-round.

Carlyle is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sheila; his children: the Rev. Leisa Richards of Aberdeen, Keith of Los Angeles, and Renee of Minneapolis; his sister Cynthia Richards Borsa of Pavia, Italy, and Denver; his brother Reed (Mary) Richards of Spearfish, South Dakota; and his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Iris in 1992, and his parents.

Eldon J. Moon 1941-2024



Eldon Moon, 83, surviving spouse of the Rev. Jacqueline Moon, died on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Sogge Memorial Good Samaritan in Windom, Minnesota. A celebration of life service was held on Friday, October 11, 2024, at First United Methodist Church in Windom. Military honors were provided by American Legion Post

#206 of Windom. Burial was in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery in rural Windom.

Eldon Jay Moon was born on February 20, 1941, in

Heron Lake, Minnesota, to Jess and Hazel (Clark) Moon. He graduated from Windom High School in 1959 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He toured on the USS Putnam. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Windom. He attended Humboldt Institute, earning an associate degree in traffic management in 1960.

On April 25, 1965, Eldon married Jacqueline Erickson in Windom. They lived and raised their family in Windom; Lewistown, Montana; Yankton, South Dakota; and Beresford, South Dakota.

Together, Eldon and Jackie served the Todd-Mellette Larger Parish's United Methodist churches at White River and Mission, South Dakota, from 2003 until

Jackie's death on August 14, 2006.

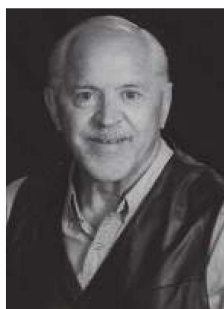
After Jackie's passing, Eldon moved back to Windom. On October 16, 2010, he married Deanna (Guritz) Gregory at the First United Methodist Church in Windom. Eldon worked as a John Deere salesman and then owned a Culligan water conditioning business.

Eldon was a skilled woodworker and enjoyed hunting and taking Sunday afternoon drives. He was a longtime member of both the First United Methodist Church and the Bald Eagles Club in Windom.

Eldon is survived by his wife, Deanna Moon, of Windom; brother Jerry Moon of Windom; his children: Lisa (Eric) Vernon of St. Anthony, Stacey Deery and Scott Zerfas of Las Vegas, Nevada, and David (Diana) Moon of Austin; his step-children: Kim (David) Reynolds of Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Lynn (Karen) Gregory of Carver, and Tammy Tordson of Redwood Falls; seven grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Jackie; and brother Bruce Moon.

James "Jim" Eichinger 1939-2024



James Eichinger, 85, husband of Pastor Connie Eichinger, passed away Saturday, October 26, 2024, at his home in Sturgis, South Dakota, due to complications from Parkinson's disease. Connie and his daughter, Brenda, were by his side. Funeral services were Monday, November 4, 2024, at Grace United Methodist

Church in Piedmont, South Dakota, with Pastor John Britt officiating. Graveside services were at Piedmont Cemetery in Piedmont.

James Dale Eichinger was born June 7, 1939, to George Ralph Eichinger and Erma (Knee) Eichinger at their home in Lake Wilson, Minnesota. When Jim was about 10 years old, his father abandoned the family, leaving his mother to support six children. Jim was "farmed out" to a farm family for one year. He spent his remaining childhood with Cliff and Andy Petersen near Avoca, Minnesota.

Jim's dream of enlisting in the U.S. Air Force was thwarted by an unrepaired torn ACL that he suffered in high school. On August 30, 1958, Jim married Barbara Joyce Bestge. They were married for 19 years and had three children: Brenda, Daniel, and Curtis.

Jim and Barb lived in Valley Springs, South Dakota, where Jim served with the volunteer fire department and was treasurer and then mayor of the town. He worked for Coleman Manufacturing for many years and then as

a salesman for Morton Building. In the 1970s, he moved to Rapid City, South Dakota.

Jim's work with Morton Buildings took him to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where he sold agricultural equipment for Dill Implement. After a nearly fatal auto accident, he was again employed by Morton Building and relocated to Tempe, Arizona. After the business closed, Jim returned to the Black Hills, living in Black Hawk, South Dakota, and working as a salesman for Jenner Equipment in Rapid City. He retired in 2001.

In 1989, friends introduced Jim to Connie Nicholson Walters, who had two children: Matt and Eric Walters. Jim and Connie were married in 1994. They were involved at Grace United Methodist Church in Piedmont for many years. Jim served on their board of trustees during the building of the new church.

Since November 1, 2012, Connie and Jim served the Faith United Methodist Church and the Marcus Presbyterian Church in South Dakota.

Jim was a people person who always had a smile and a joke ready. He loved children and could make anything fun. He and Connie enjoyed camping.

In 2006, Jim was diagnosed with stage four lymphoma. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2017.

Jim is survived by his wife of 30 years, Connie; children: Brenda (Don) Wood, of Manderson, Wyoming, Daniel (Susan) Eichinger, of Black Hawk, Curtis (Phoebe) Eichinger, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Matt (Trisha) Walters, of Black Hawk, and Eric (Mindy) Walters, of

Sioux Falls, South Dakota; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a sister, DeEtte Fenske, of Portland, Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: William, Gerald, and David; and two sisters: Carole and Rita.

Mary Heitzman 1930-2025



Mary Bryan Heitzman, surviving spouse of the Rev. Charles Bryan, died Monday, January 20, 2025.

Mary Elizabeth Dahlager was born in 1930. She married the Rev. Charles L. "Chuck" Bryan Jr. on June 9, 1957, in Barnes County, North Dakota, and they had a daughter, Laurie.

Together, Chuck and Mary served at Fairmount and Bethany Methodist churches in the North Dakota Conference from 1957 until his death. A diabetic who had lost his sight, Chuck died November 24, 1962, in Breckenridge, Minnesota, at the age of 31.

Mary married Glenn D. Heitzman on June 25, 1965, in Cass County, North Dakota, and they had a son, Christian. Glenn died in 2017.

Verna Eberhart 1926-2025



Verna Eberhart, 98, surviving spouse of the Rev. Gideon Eberhart, passed away Saturday, February 1, 2025, in Grafton, Wisconsin. Burial was next to her husband at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Watertown, South Dakota, on Friday, February 14, 2025. A memorial service was

planned for Saturday, June 21, 2025, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Verna M. Buchfink was born March 18, 1926, at Streeter, North Dakota, to Gottlieb and Christina (Iszler) Buchfink. She grew up on the family farm northwest of Streeter and graduated from Streeter High School. She attended the State Normal and Industrial School at Ellendale, North Dakota, 1942-1944 and 1955-1957, studying social science, education, and Home Economics. She taught home economics for 12 years.

On June 8, 1945, Verna married Gideon Eberhart in the Evangelical Church at Streeter. They had two daughters: DeeAnn and Gwendolyn.

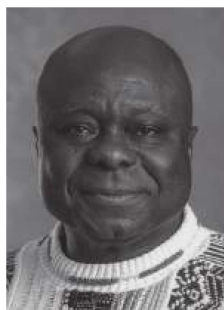
Together, Gideon and Verna served the Evangelical and Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) churches in the North Dakota Conference at Hebron-Heart River-Friedens and Wishek-Ebenezer. In 1949, Gideon entered Evangelical Theological Seminary at Naperville, Illinois.

Following Gideon's graduation from seminary, the family returned to North Dakota. He and Verna served EUB churches in North Dakota at Great Bend, Ellendale-Forbes, Ellendale-Fullerton, and Cavalier. While serving at Aberdeen Faith in South Dakota, the EUB and Methodist denominations merged in 1968. They then served United Methodist churches in South Dakota at Aberdeen Faith and Leola-Frederick before transferring to the North Dakota Conference and serving Napoleon-Braddock. Their final appointment before Gideon's retirement was to Jenkins Methodist Home in Watertown.

Gideon retired in 1987 and died September 24, 1997. On August 12, 2000, Verna married Allen Dean Swan at Watertown. Al died June 19, 2022.

In memory Conference Staff

Christopher Rudolph “Ina” Sylvah 1956-2024



Christopher “Ina” Sylvah, 67, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2024, in New Mexico from a sudden cardiac health incident after completing his mission with the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. A funeral service was held Saturday, July 27, 2024, at Camphor United Methodist Church in St. Paul,

Minnesota.

Christopher was born on August 30, 1956, to Nathaniel and Abigail Sylvah in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa. At school, he was on the debate team and participated in track and field, earning medals in the javelin throw. He worked in finance and was involved in church.

He met Winifred Freeman in Sierra Leone, and they decided to join Winifred’s siblings in Minnesota, while Christopher’s siblings settled in the United Kingdom. They married in December 1991 at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church.

After getting his degree at Century College in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Christopher continued his professional career in finance, working as a manager at

Wells Fargo Bank Corporate until his retirement.

Later in life, Christopher returned to school for a dual bachelor’s degree in project management and computer science at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also was active at Camphor UMC, serving on the board of trustees, as lead communion steward, as a Sunday School teacher, and by becoming a lay reader and a member of the pastoral care team.

Christopher was known as “Ina” by his Salone or Sierra Leone community. He led by example and lived as a Christian.

After his retirement from Wells Fargo, Christopher became the director of Solar Oven Partners, a ministry of the Dakotas Conference. He made several trips to the Dakotas before moving the office closer to home at Elk River United Methodist Church.

His work with Solar Oven Partners took him to the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and Native American communities in Arizona and New Mexico.

Christopher is survived by his wife, Winifred; their children: Irwin and Idella; his sisters: Elsie and Kainde; and his brothers: Nathaniel, Olu Sholay, Sydney, Winston, and Abimbola.

James “Jim” Dustin 1939-2025



James Dustin, 85, died Friday, January 3, 2025, in Fargo, North Dakota. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at First United Methodist Church in Fargo.

James Millard Dustin was born on August 10, 1939, to Arvel and Elna (Petersen) Dustin in Santa Barbara, California. The family lived in Solvang, California, and then Garden City, Utah. His parents divorced, and Jim moved with his mother and brother, Roland, to

Minnesota and then Wisconsin.

At the age of 15, Jim was hired to manage a small dairy farm, where he worked summers throughout high school. He graduated from Medford Senior High in Medford, Wisconsin, in 1957. He attended Humboldt Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the fall, and joined the Marine Corps the following spring.

The Marine Corps took Jim to the West Coast, Hawaii, Japan, and Hong Kong aboard an aircraft carrier. He worked in internal security and operated the ship’s small boats and landing craft.

In 1962, Jim married Sharon Terca, of Presho, South Dakota. They had two daughters and later divorced. In 1967, he married Eileen Sander in Arlington, Minnesota, and they had two children. Jim and Eileen lived in Blaine, Minnesota; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Overland Park, Kansas; West Fargo, North Dakota; and Fargo, North Dakota, finally settling in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Following the Marines, Jim worked in the trucking industry, "driving a desk" until 1995. He worked as a warehouse manager for the Dakotas Conference during the 1997 flood and recovery. Jim also was a much-appreciated 10-10-10 missionary, serving in on-site disaster response at Spirit Lake Nation. He hosted teams of volunteers in construction projects for the tribe and tribal members until his retirement in 2005.

Jim was an active member of the United Methodist Church, serving in leadership at the local, conference, and jurisdictional levels. He also was a certified lay

speaker and was named a fellow in the Society of John Wesley.

Jim loved to sing. He sang in church choirs, two barbershop quartets, and Joy for the Journey Band, and was part of a trio, Sounds of Recovery, from 1997 to 2000. He served as vice president and president of the FM Ambassadors Barbershop Chorus.

Jim is survived by his wife, Eileen; daughter, Bonnie Bransford of Colorado; sons: Paul (Erin) Dustin and Jeffery Dustin, all of Moorhead; brothers: Roland of Arizona, Kevin (Danene), and Matthew (Christian) of Utah; sisters: Louise (Dana) of Montana, Cindy, Karen, Julie (Denzel) of Utah; sisters-in-law: Sylvia (Dan) Hahn and Barbara Dammann; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Shelley; sister, Linda; brother, Hyrum; and in-laws, Ruth and Sidney Sander.



The Celebration of Life in Ministry service was held at Downtown First UMC, in Mitchell, SD on Sunday. During the service, Conference Co-Lay Leader John Srstka lit candles in memory of those we lost this past year.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

Roll of the Dead - Dakotas Conference Clergy

Prior to November 7, 1992, please refer to Conference Archivist, PO Box 460, Mitchell SD, 57301

1992	Don J. Kingensmith	11/7/92	2002	Lyle Miller	5/24/02
1992	Donald Goold	11/25/92	2002	Elmer Sprunk	7/1/02
1993	Henry Vix	4/13/93	2002	Otto Gehring	9/1/02
1993	Stuart A. Parvin	5/4/93	2002	Robert Olson	10/9/02
1993	Walter Erbele	6/2/93	2003	William Meile	4/8/03
1993	Millard Aubey, Jr.	8/4/93	2003	Arthur Wesley, Jr.	4/21/03
1993	Robert Strutz	10/28/93	2003	Ervin Rudolph	5/1/03
1993	Reuben A. Tanquist	11/14/93	2003	David Workman	8/3/03
1994	H. Jack Berg	7/2/94	2003	Ralph Cushing	8/20/03
1994	Walter Elmer	8/20/94	2003	C. Emory Anderson	11/28/03
1994	E. Walter Erdmann	10/18/94	2003	Harry Williams	10/28/03
1995	Grant Carlson	3/2/95	2004	W. Russell Harris	2/4/04
1995	Stanley Caine	5/22/95	2004	Robert H. Wagner	6/30/04
1995	Richard Moberly	10/5/95	2004	Robert Collitt	8/11/04
1995	Robert Wegner	12/21/95	2004	Charles Hunt	10/8/04
1996	Otto Lehner	1/12/96	2005	Royal Marty	2/17/05
1996	Randy Atherton	2/11/96	2005	Ralph F. Dunn	3/20/05
1996	Carolyn Hansum	4/7/96	2005	Ronald H. Hartung	8/19/05
1996	Oliver Brekke	4/30/96	2005	Roger Thomas	10/19/05
1996	H. Howard Miller	6/28/96	2005	J. Carleton Green	10/23/05
1996	Jerry Wickre	11/26/96	2006	Christopher Miller	6/22/06
1997	Richard Teichmann	1/4/97	2006	Jacqueline Moon	8/14/06
1997	John V. Leach	5/19/97	2006	Kenneth Moreland	8/14/06
1997	Gideon Eberhart	9/24/97	2006	Elon Keeler	12/25/06
1998	Charles Horner	6/1/98	2006	Donald Geiman	12/29/06
1998	Peder Ackerman	6/6/98	2007	Richard Stokey	4/16/07
1998	Charles Levi Louderback	6/20/98	2008	Clayton Berry	2/28/08
1998	Wesley Hunter	9/20/98	2008	Norman Pearson	4/2/08
1998	Willis E. Walker	11/22/98	2008	Vernon Morrison	10/10/08
1999	Walter Larson	2/24/99	2008	Joseph Dudley	11/8/08
1999	Ardell Aleson	3/7/99	2009	Kenneth Voas	3/25/09
1999	Edward Parker	7/13/99	2009	Samuel Graf	4/12/09
1999	Darrel Leach	7/25/99	2009	Donald Rahn	8/18/09
1999	Darald Church	10/25/99	2009	Ann Weisenfluh	10/23/09
1999	Frank Traver	11/12/99	2010	Norman Neumann	7/15/10
2000	Henry Hottman	4/17/00	2010	Irvin Hultin	7/15/10
2000	Harvey Sander	7/18/00	2010	Kenneth Hairgrove	7/24/10
2000	Clarence Ketterling	7/21/00	2010	Marv Miller	12/13/10
2000	William Fillingim	8/12/00	2011	James Vos	2/12/11
2000	Arthur Brooks	9/25/00	2011	Henry Goldsack	8/28/11
2000	Francis Tannehill	9/30/00	2012	Bob Vessey	2/20/12
2000	Charles McDowell	11/7/00	2012	Jim Cissell	3/19/12
2000	Earl Lewis	12/16/00	2012	Norm Shawchuck	5/20/12
2001	Kenneth Eastin	1/10/01	2012	Ben Zimmerman	8/24/12
2001	Gerald Hill	2/18/01	2012	Paul Custer	9/8/12
2001	Clarence Palmer	5/16/01	2012	Grant Piehl	9/29/12
2001	Cecil Miller	6/5/01	2013	Orland Sloat	1/5/13
2001	Glenn Hammerlee	6/6/01	2013	Dwayne F. Knight	4/14/13
2001	Kenneth Farr	11/13/01	2013	Edward Ehresman	6/5/13
2001	Clifford Nielsen	12/10/01	2013	Wayne Rager	6/7/13
			2013	Stanley Johnson	6/15/13

2013	George Worner	9/6/13	2022	Randolph Cross	3/10/22
2013	Robert Brown	10/10/13	2022	Charles Sommers	3/21/22
2013	Wesley Hart	10/17/13	2022	Theodore "Ted" Dockter	8/4/22
2013	Donald Klarup	12/25/13	2022	Valentine "Val" Rush	11/6/22
2014	Clarence Stanley	2/24/14	2023	Lyla Siebrecht	1/7/23
2014	Wesley Halbritter	4/16/14	2023	Robert "Bob" Semrad	5/3/23
2014	Russell Tarver	5/2/14	2023	Duane Ewers	8/31/23
2014	Roger Russell	8/10/14	2023	Lee Gale	10/15/23
2014	Alvin Crandall	11/26/14	2023	Roy Caudill	11/1/23
2014	Marvin Eldridge	12/13/14	2024	Richard Unkenholz	1/6/24
2014	Harold Fitch	12/25/14	2024	Anthony Russell "Russ" Massartis	2/10/24
2015	Roland Walkes	1/13/15	2024	Donna Stewart	3/19/24
2015	Carol Iwerks	3/2/15	2024	Lucian "Lou" Prohaska	3/20/24
2015	Don Veglahn	3/10/15	2024	Allan Brockway	6/15/24
2015	Otto Edward "Ed" Kinzler	6/29/15	2024	Rodney "Rod" Gist	6/22/24
2015	Theodor "Ted" Rath	7/7/15	2024	Roger Smith	7/31/24
2015	Robert Nielsen	8/2/15	2024	Penelope "Penny" Ritter	8/19/24
2015	Robert Logan	8/31/15	2024	Linova "Lin" Jennewein	9/17/24
2015	Robert "Bob" Cappel [LLP]	9/8/15	2025	Peter "Pete" Moe	1/3/25
2015	Jeanne Higgins	11/21/15	2025	Wayne McKirdy	1/26/25
2016	Richard "Dick" Salmonson	2/26/16			
2016	James "Jim" Pomeroy	4/8/16		DIACONAL MINISTERS	
2016	Russell Wilson	8/16/16	1994	Virginia Storm Peasley	2/30/94
2016	Wilbur "Ray" Martin	12/10/16	2008	Judy Kerr	3/20/08
2017	Charles Finney	2/27/17	2024	Patricia Unkenholz	4/22/24
2017	Donald Hadrick	8/20/17			
2017	Walter Nelson	10/27/17		DEACONESS	
2017	Ralph Sjursen	12/7/17	1999	Alice Nearhood	10/2/99
2018	Gene Kroger	5/14/18			
2018	Grace E. Huck	8/12/18		MISSIONARIES	
2018	David Knecht	9/11/18	1992	Jessie Ames Pfaff	9/6/92
2018	James Waisanen	11/4/18	2002	Ethelyn Jacoway	11/6/02
2018	Minoru Tsukamoto	12/17/18	2008	Iris Allum	8/13/08
2019	Francis Kinzler	1/8/19	2008	Ruth Elmer	9/7/08
2019	Michael A. Ward	3/14/19	2024	Christopher Rudolph "Ina" Sylvah	7/1/24
2019	Robert Roth	3/16//2019			
2019	Marilyn Nelson	4/7/19			
2019	William Cascini	5/17/19			
2019	Janet Miller	6/2/19			
2020	Raymond John Gibson	2/28/20			
2020	Donald Lagge	3/21/20			
2020	James Persons	5/31/20			
2020	Glenn Lord	6/23/20			
2020	Ken Oswald	7/17/20			
2020	John Bushell	7/26/20			
2020	Norman Winkelman	11/6/20			
2020	Donald Greenough	12/1/20			
2020	Elizabeth Conrad Smart	12/7/20			
2020	Steven Olson	12/21/20			
2021	Raymond Earl Stucke	2/25/21			
2021	Gustav Van Tassel	4/23/21			
2021	Gordon Higgins	6/24/21			
2021	Dale Emery	11/6/21			
2022	Steven Johnson	1/25/22			

Roll of the Dead - Dakotas Conference Clergy Spouses

Prior to November 7, 1992, please refer to Conference Archivist, PO Box 460, Mitchell SD, 57301

1992	Nona (Emmanuel) Hansen	4/26/92	2002	Cordelia (Donald) Goold	2/21/02
1992	Florence (Robert) Bates	7/3/92	2003	Savilla (Vernon) Morrison	5/14/02
1993	Nette (Theodore) Torgerson	8/23/92	2003	Bette (H Jack) Berg	11/11/02
1993	Elsie (Richard) Rowe	10/21/92	2003	Stephen (Gail) Shlanta	5/31/03
1993	Margaret (Roy) Long	2/20/93	2003	Lona (Glenn W) Phillips	10/17/03
1993	Carol (Wesley) Hart	4/15/93	2004	Dorothy (Bee S.) Locher	11/7/03
1993	Effie Mae (J. Wendell) Walton	9/21/93	2004	Elaine (Vincent) Schneider	12/9/03
1994	Rose (Ira) Herzberg	10/7/93	2004	Betty H. (J Ralph) McNeil	2/6/04
1994	Anna L. (John) Madison	11/20/93	2004	Stella (John) Bushell	2/14/04
1994	Blanche (Lewis) Dickinson	1/4/94	2005	Florence (Sumner) Williams	10/26/04
1994	Lota (Christopher) Miller	2/6/94	2005	Carolyn (Roland) Voegeli	10/30/04
1994	Esther (Rudolph) Rieker	3/1/94	2005	Pat (Earl) Lewis	4/5/05
1994	Rhea (Marion) Smith	3/7/94	2005	Margaret (John) McMullen	4/9/05
1994	Rosaline (Charles) Carter	3/23/94	2006	Alice (Robert) Feind	5/5/05
1994	Ester (Reuben A.) Tanquist	5/7/94	2006	Gerald (Linda) Baldock	10/29/05
1994	Edna (John) Leach	8/31/94	2006	Shirley (Kenneth) Farr	5/3/06
1995	Barbara (Ernest) Jensen	10/20/94	2006	Rubye (William) C. Ellis	9/24/06
1995	Delores (Joel) Harris	12/5/94	2007	Wanda (John) Hisel	9/26/06
1995	Elva (Sven Samuelson) Nickel	1/10/95	2007	Lokiel (Elon) Keeler	10/28/06
1995	Elizabeth (William) Kugel	1/17/95	2007	Jane (Tom) Lavery	2/3/07
1996	Lorine (John B.) Cecil	5/14/95	2007	Hazel (Ralph) Dunn	2/18/07
1996	Sylva (Henry) Allison	9/2/95	2007	Verna (Otto) Gehring	3/1/07
1996	Helen Eunice (Charles) McDowell	3/1/96	2007	Tess ("Al") Aleson	3/3/07
1996	Joyce B. (R. Marcus) Walker	8/1/96	2007	Ruth (Darald) Church	3/18/07
1996	Bernice (A.W.) Gugin	9/26/96	2008	Ruth (Walter) Erbele	7/11/07
1996	Myrtle (John) Stuart	10/1/96	2008	Eunice (Millard) Aubey	10/31/07
1997	Sarah (Frank) Rumer	10/29/96	2008	Ida (Ben) Zimmerman	1/14/08
1997	Edna (Stuart) Parvin	11/18/96	2008	Florence (Kenneth) Oswald	1/25/08
1998	Jessie (Everett) Jarman	5/20/97	2008	Mary (Steve) Johnson	2/10/08
1998	Lula (A.L.) Walker	10/9/97	2008	Carolyn (William) Meile	2/26/08
1998	Mable (Harold) Eastburn	3/15/98	2008	Esther (Sterling) Wenzel	3/15/08
1999	Ethel (Harold) Wagar	7/28/98	2008	Cecelia (Francis) Tannehill	3/29/08
1999	Cora (Harold) Strutz	12/19/98	2008	Lillie (James) Torbert	7/7/08
1999	Esther (Thomas) Benoy	7/15/99	2008	Jane (Clarence) Ketterling	10/2/08
1999	Nona (Alvin R.) Crandall	7/17/99	2009	Ruth (Grant) Carlson Snow	11/14/08
2000	Martha (Ronald) Rice	10/3/99	2009	Alice (Ted) Dockter	12/26/08
2000	Bert (Donna) Stewart	11/20/99	2009	Ruth (Royal) Marty	2/9/09
2000	Bertha (Elmer) Sprunk	1/28/00	2009	Jennie (Richard) Stokey	3/15/09
2000	Dorothy (Henry J.) Gernhardt	2/17/00	2009	Donna (Glenn) Hammerlee	9/4/09
2000	Lucille (Thomas) Barnard	3/4/00	2010	Maybelle (Wayne) McKirdy	9/10/09
2000	E. Darlene (Charles) McVay	4/20/00	2010	Donna (Darwin) Kopfmann	11/1/09
2000	Virginia (Robert) Collitt	11/15/00	2010	Luella (Don) Barbalace	1/30/10
2001	Helen (Leonard) Kruckenberg	11/18/00	2010	Jeanette (Emory) Anderson	3/7/10
2001	Anna (Norman) Pearson	12/17/00	2010	Melva (Clarence) Stanley	3/8/10
2001	Marjorie (John) DeVries	2/22/01	2010	Ida (John) Iszler	4/27/10
2001	Ruth (William) Arnold	3/5/01	2010	Alice (William) Kaye	10/6/10
2002	Pauline (Stanley) Caine	8/7/01	2011	Freda (Clarence) Schaeffer	11/25/10
2002	Mildred (Edwin O) Hessel	9/7/01	2011	Nadia (Clayton) Berry	12/1/10
2002	Erma (Garnett H.) Moritz	1/3/02	2011	Grace (Howard) Miller	1/4/11
2002	Carol (Harvey) Sander	1/25/02			
2002	Myrtle L. (Charles) Richardson	2/3/02			

2011	Leona "Betty" (Robert) Nielsen	1/19/11	2020	Dorothy (David) Workman	4/9/20
2011	Arlue (Roger) Thomas	4/27/11	2020	Virginia (Russell) Tarver	5/1/20
2011	Fern (Dwayne) Knight	8/12/11	2020	Velma (Ervin) Rudolph	6/1/20
2011	Pauline (Carleton) Green	12/10/11	2020	Joan (Richard) Teichman	10/2/20
2012	Anita (John) Gibson	12/16/11	2020	Grace (Peter) Moe	1/3/20
2012	Shirley (Henry) Goldsack	12/26/11	2020	Marian (Glen) Gabel	11/12/20
2012	Nancy (Paul) Smith	2/17/12	2021	Yoko (Minoru) Tsukamoto	1/22/20
2012	Lois (Peder) Ackerman	2/21/12	2021	Darlene (Charles) Finney	11/25/20
2012	Mabel (Edward) Ehresman	3/30/12	2021	Vella Kaye (Glenn) Lord	1/27/21
2012	Helen (Robert) Vessey	6/11/12	2021	Judith (John) Katter	2/4/21
2012	Effie (Willis) Walker	7/8/12	2021	Phyllis (Edgar Walter) Erdmann	3/28/21
2012	Viola (Walter) Elmer	7/13/12	2021	Doris (James) Vos	5/4/21
2012	Helen (Henry) Vix	8/30/12	2021	Bernice (Theodor "Ted") Rath	5/22/21
2013	Leila "Tibbie" (Harold) Fitch	10/9/12	2021	Loretta (James) Stein	6/20/21
2013	Naomi (D. James) Farnham	10/10/12	2021	Phyllis (John) Sortland	9/7/21
2013	Anne (Ron) Hartung	1/15/13	2022	Edythe (William) Cascini	10/8/21
2014	Annette "Annie" (Wayne) Tieszen	6/27/13	2022	Ronald (Janis Sue Kana-Mackey) Mackey	10/23/21
2014	Agnes (Edward) Parker	8/14/13	2022	Thelma (Richard) Moberly	3/9/22
2014	Velma (Francis) Kinzler	1/6/14	2022	Harlan (Carolyn) Hansum	3/25/22
2014	Eileen (Samuel) Graf	1/8/14	2022	Doris (Charles) Horner	4/11/22
2014	Vinola (Otto) Lehner	1/21/14	2022	Donna (Anthony Russell) Masarti	4/11/22
2014	Marjorie (Robert) Logan	3/9/14	2022	Lois Jane (David) Knecht	5/26/22
2014	Evelyn (Wesley) Hunter	5/4/14	2022	Frieda (Irvin) Hultin	6/15/22
2014	Betty Jo (Marvin) Eldridge	8/19/14	2022	Evelyn (Boyd) Blumer	7/16/22
2014	Lola (Walter) Schott	8/28/14	2022	Arlene (James) Towler	10/4/22
2014	Sallie (Max) Meier	10/12/14	2022	Beverly (Otto Edward Jr.) Kinzler	10/18/22
2015	Doris (Russell) Wilson	11/13/14	2023	Linnea (George) Worner	11/14/22
2015	Marjorie (Stanley) Johnson	12/8/14	2023	Dan (Jeanine) Kersey-Russell	12/27/22
2015	Wylie (Kathy) Hammond	4/18/15	2023	Harryette (Ralph) Sjursen	2/11/23
2015	Bonnie (Roger Smith) Heckathorn	6/17/15	2023	Doris (Rodney) Gist	2/14/23
2016	Margaret (Wendell) Janetzki	11/30/15	2023	Mary Ann (Wayne) Rager	3/2/23
2016	Margaret "Peg" (Charles) Ritter	12/16/15	2023	Lorraine (Edwin) Werner	4/8/23
2016	Ruth (Gerald) Hill	1/4/16	2023	Amy (Matt) Eitemiller-Morrison	8/5/23
2016	Harlan (Lyla) Siebrecht	9/30/16	2023	Janet (Walter) Nelson	9/27/23
2017	Edna (Harold) Boardman	11/4/16	2024	George (Shelly) Frein	10/4/23
2017	Verlaine (Roland) Walkes	11/8/16	2024	Linda (Richard) Mayer	12/18/24
2017	Geraldine (Frank) Traver	1/13/17	2024	Phyllis (Donald) Klarup	3/18/24
2017	Evelyn (Frank) Whitney	2/23/17	2024	Eileen (Peary) Wilson	4/4/24
2017	Sharleen "Shar" (Royal) Archer	3/13/17	2024	Roger (Judy) Saylor Sr.	4/5/24
2017	James (Donna) McLaird	8/31/17	2024	Patricia (Richard) Unkenholz	4/22/24
2017	Nancy (Don) Veglahn	10/6/17	2024	Bernita (Donald) Geiman	4/27/24
2017	Elizabeth (Kenneth) Eastin	10/7/17	2024	Steve (Julie) Nygard	5/26/24
2018	Evelyn (Clifford) Nielsen	11/8/17	2024	Esther (Jothaya) Samuel	6/23/24
2018	Phyllis (Gerald) Fike	12/13/17	2024	William James "Jim" (Muriel) Oates	8/6/24
2018	Dorothy (Lloyd) Grinager Lindbloom	4/21/18	2024	Enid (Robert) Roth	9/9/24
2018	Marion (Lionel) Muthiah	6/28/18	2024	Carlyle E. (Sheila) Richards	9/15/24
2018	Joy (Paul) Custer	8/22/18	2025	Eldon J (Jacqueline) Moon	10/5/24
2019	Frances (Robert) Wagner	11/9/18	2025	James "Jim" (Connie) Eichinger	10/26/24
2019	Karla (Darrel) Leach Archer	11/12/18	2025	Mary (Charles) Heitzman	1/20/25
2020	Melba (Robert) Brown	4/20/19	2025	Verna (Giedon) Eberhart	2/1/25
2020	Barbara (Kenneth) Voas	9/21/19			
2020	Royce (Elizabeth Jassmann) Massingil	11/17/19			
2020	Barbara (Wesley) Hart	1/25/20		SPOUSE OF LAY SUPPLY	
2020	Joyce (Virgil) Holmes	3/19/20	2008	Otto "Pat" (Elaine) Scott	3/14/08
2020	Murray Smith (Donna Kjonaas)	3/19/20			

Raymond Baker



Rev. Ray Baker has served in many different ministry roles over his more than 30 years of service to the Dakotas Annual Conference. Ray grew up in a very active church in Williston, North Dakota, but it was at Wesley Acres Camp when he first committed to being a Christian. He eventually

went on to work as a counselor at Wesley Acres for seven years. It was during that time that he had the opportunity to work with and develop relationships with clergy from across the conference, many who played a significant role in his call to ministry.

Ray went on to study Criminal Justice with the goal of working with kids in the legal system, inspired by his work with children at church camp. He then went to seminary with the goal of becoming a youth minister or working in camping. “Coming back to North Dakota after seminary, there weren’t any youth ministry or camping

opportunities, so I started with the rural churches outside of Fargo—Casselton and Leonard,” said Ray.

Ray would then be appointed to Arthur, Casselton and Hunter, and Watertown First before being hired as the Director of Camping for the Dakotas Conference. “That was just a tremendous time in my ministry,” said Pastor Ray. “It was very challenging and also very rewarding.”

Ray returned to the local church in 2010, serving at McCabe UMC in Bismarck, Vincent UMC in Minot, and Faith UMC in Fargo, all in North Dakota.

The connectionalism present in the Dakotas Conference has been integral to Ray’s ministry journey and his decision to remain United Methodist. “Just seeing that powerful presence of how everybody doing a little bit can do something on a much larger scale than you could have imagined,” he added. Ray and his wife Sarah will continue living in the Fargo area in retirement.

Richard Bensinger



Richard Bensinger is a third-generation United Methodist minister, following his grandfather and father into ministry. He heard the call to ministry as a teenager but chalked it up to hero worship of his dad. Serving in lay leadership positions in a variety of churches as church council chair, Director of

Religious Education, lay minister, church treasurer, and many more. Finally, in 2020, after attending the United Methodist Church’s Exploration Summit with the New England Conference he started seminar courses with Kairos University.

Pastor Rich has served in four conferences on his ministry journey. In the Oklahoma Conference he served at Church of the Servant United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. In the New England Conference Bensinger served at Londonderry and Arlington Street United Methodist churches in New Hampshire. He served at Howellsville United Methodist at Fort Royal, Cool Spring United Methodist Church in Delaplane and Linden United Methodist Church for the Virginia

Conference.

In 2022, after receiving a phone call from Rev. Steve Trefz, his faculty mentor while he was attending Kairos, Bensinger visited Rapid City First United Methodist Church. He was being called to serve in that community.

Although his time in the Dakotas Conference was short lived, Bensinger is grateful for the community embrace he has felt during his ministry in Rapid City.

“Connectionalism within the Dakotas Conference takes on so many different facets,” he noted. “It’s just been a real positive experience with the connection from the Bishop, the conference staf, the District Superintendent, the local pastors, and the congregation.”

Building and maintaining your relationships is a priority of his ministry.

“It’s all about relationships and that starts with your relationship with God. It flows into the relationships in your family and then into the relationship with your congregation,” he described. “Establishing those relationships and listening to people, really hearing them, and meeting them where they are, there’s no higher calling.”

Dan Freed



Reverend Dan Freed grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, with his parents and five older siblings. There, the family attended church each Sunday at a small Baptist church. Freed's mother was a pastor's kid, and his father attended seminary but never pursued pastoral ministry. During his

teenage years, Freed experienced a moment when his faith went from what he was supposed to do to what he wanted to do.

"I had a car accident when I was 16. I was going in a terrible direction. I still knew and loved God, but I did not indicate that with my life at that point. All changed after that accident," admitted Freed.

After high school, Dan studied human communication at the University of Wyoming. During his time there, he was introduced to the Wesley Foundation, a campus ministry of the University.

"The people were from all kinds of places and backgrounds. Some people were very spiritual, and some never have been in the church," said Freed. "Experiencing that variety of people and being around that group was a lot of fun."

After college, Rev. Freed attended North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He interned at the United Methodist churches in Presho, Kennebec, and Reliance. There, Pastor Dan connected with and decided he wanted to serve the Dakotas Conference.

During his time with the Dakotas Conference, Reverend Freed served in mission work with the Bakken Oil Rush Ministry, helping to dean Dakotas Camps, and making many service trips to places including Mexico, inner cities, the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee, and a Rwanda refugee camp.

"There was an opportunity to be a chaplain at a Rwandan refugee camp. It was about nine months after the genocide, in what was then Zaire, Africa.

The opportunity was a three-week mission working in refugee camps in whatever way you felt led to do that," said Freed. "I went and did that, and it was life-changing. It was just pure connectionalism."

He believes that you should have faith in God's plan and remember that He always works in you.

"It's amazing what the people of God can do when they say yes to God. We have to do the stuff that God is asking us to do, and sometimes we're well equipped for

it, but sometimes we're getting well equipped for the next thing that He's going to ask us to do," said Pastor Dan.

Dan and Sheilah will retire in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, after serving the Dakotas Conference at Burke, Piedmont, Sioux Falls Hilltop, and Dickinson. He serves in extension ministry as a chaplain at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he will continue using his gifts after retirement.

Jan Gross



Gross grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota, and attended South Maple United Methodist Church (now Open Heart United Methodist Church) with his family. His parents made sure to make faith an important part of their family traditions and values.

At his local church, he was able to plug into and develop his call for pastoral ministry.

“One thing was participating in a Disciple Bible Study, led by Rev. Gene Kroger, who was the pastor there at the time,” recalled Jan. “I was also a participant on a mission trip to Haiti. Those two things, along with the lay ministry, really helped me explore my calling.”

Gross attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in religion and philosophy with a minor in social

science. He then continued his education at North American Baptist Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity. During his ministry career, Jan and his wife, Deb, have served United Methodist Churches at Brothersfield, Wakonda, Irene, Viborg, Yankton, Gayville-Volin, Beresford, Hartford, and Dell Rapids.

“When I think about the most fulfilling part of my ministry, it’s seeing the lives that have been changed, knowing I may have played even a small role in that.” said Rev. Jan Gross.

A piece of advice that Gross would like to give current and future clergy is to care for each other and for yourself.

“Care for one another. Care for the people that you serve, love them,” said Pastor Jan.

David Jacobsen



David grew up in Vermillion, South Dakota, and attended First United Methodist Church. Beyond the memories of going to church, wearing his shiny shoes, and attending Sunday school and VBS, he remembers most fondly the faces of the many people in his church family who helped lay the

foundation of his faith and calling.

That calling led him to complete his undergraduate degree in psychology and German at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, before heading to Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. Upon graduation, he was ordained a deacon (what would now be commissioning) and appointed as the associate pastor at First United Methodist Church in Pierre, South Dakota, where he would serve for four years and eventually be ordained an elder.

After serving in Pierre, David’s calling took him back to Vanderbilt for PhD work. He and his wife, Cindy welcomed two children during that time. After completing his doctoral work, he began teaching at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario,

before being appointed to Boston University School of Theology. “I really loved the ministry of working with students as they think about how they want to begin to reflect on what the Gospel means,” said Jacobsen.

Retirement will still provide opportunities to do what he loves as he serves as Professor Emeritus at Boston University, continues to write, supervises PhD students, and engages in preaching as a practice.

Despite spending the majority of his career outside the boundaries of the annual conference, David appreciates the support he has received from the church he grew up in and the Dakotas Conference during his years in extension ministry. “I’ve felt a lot of support through the years, and I do think that connection is such a strong mark of The United Methodist Church,” said David. “Having been in the environment of connectionalism, as lived in the Dakotas Conference, has made an impact on me in the long run, and I really appreciate that.”

Laurie Ann Kidd



Laurie Kidd grew up, in Raytown, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City. She attended a Disciples of Christ Christian Church with her family where they were very involved.

It was while attending William Jewelle College, where she studied vocal music, she realized that faith was an important part of her life.

After college Kidd worked at a music retail store. She then began working as an administrative assistant in the business world while playing piano and organ part-time at her home church in Raytown, Missouri, where she eventually took the position as full-time music, worship, and drama director.

“There were a lot of things we did in worship, like bringing drama into worship because people sometimes receive a message more through drama,,” Kidd notes.

Kidd took a job as the music and worship director at

Sioux Falls First UMC in South Dakota. While she was there, she still felt like God was nudging her, not to move somewhere else, but to do a different kind of ministry.

“As soon as I got there, I was getting this nudge. ‘You’re not there yet,’” Kidd emphasized. “I talked to my co-associate pastors, Emil and Penny Eberhart. Penny helped me discern that I wanted to get my local pastor’s license. (LLP).”

After getting her LLP license, Pastor Laurie was officially appointed at Sioux Falls First UMC where she worked alongside her mentors before receiving a solo appointment to Kimball, South Dakota. During her time in the Dakotas Conference, she has served United Methodist churches in South Dakota at Sioux Falls, Wagner and Tyndall, and Hettinger, North Dakota.

One of the most fulfilling ministries for Kidd is the KWOW program at the United Methodist Church in Hettinger, North Dakota. “It is incredible to see kids grow in their faith,” Kidd exclaimed.

Ronald Olson



Ron Olson grew up, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with a strong faith foundation attending First United Methodist Church with his family,

“We were faithful churchgoers and participated in a lot of this stuff going on in the church. I’m glad for that foundation that my parents gave me,” said Olson.

Both of his parents found their vocation in education. Olson’s father was a driver’s education teacher at

Washington High School in Sioux Falls for the majority of his career, and his mother primarily taught fourth grade, taking a brief break to raise her family. Due to the heavy focus on education in his home life, Olson found it also shaped how he connected with his faith.

He didn’t get serious about his personal faith until his mid-twenties, after marrying his wife, Michelle. Together they started going to Seymour United Methodist Church in Seymour, Wisconsin, where they both connected with the pastor and an older couple that helped them feel connected.

Olson decided to leave his job in sales and attend seminary, along with his wife, at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Ron received a Master of Divinity while Michelle graduated with a Master of Arts in Missions and Evangelism. While at seminary, the couple connected with some of the faculty that had been missionaries and decided that was the path God was calling them to.

After time with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Olson taught English as a second language at West Texas A&M in

Canyon, Texas, as the director of the School of English. Ron and Michelle spent sixteen years (1995 – 2011) in Papua New Guinea doing Bible translation. The Olsons returned to serve the Dakotas Conference at Bowman, North Dakota. In South Dakota, they served at Montrose, Hurley, Viborg, Parker, and Sioux Falls First.

“Just live into the way God has created you,” said Pastor Ron. “Use your strengths. Just preach the Word, preach Jesus.

2025 New Clergy

(photos by J. Lynn Studios)



Ordained 2025

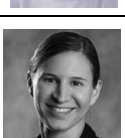
From left to right: Rev. Teresa Person, Rev. Julie Gregg, Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Rev. Bryce Blank, and Rev. Quaya Ackerman

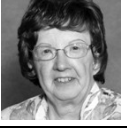


Commissioned 2025

From left to right: Rev. Taryn Ragels, Rev. Taylor Johnson, Rev. Laura Sherman, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Rev. Kara (Togel) Heagel, and Rev. Davis Anderson

Service Records

	ACKERMAN, QUAYA - FE. Licensed 17; Commissioned & PM 21; Elder & FM25. Appts: 17 Arthur; 10/1/21 Rapid City Rapid Valley. BS NDSU; MA Globe University; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	ADEL, JEFF - RE. Commissioned & PM 09; Elder & FM 12. Appts: 08 McCook Lake; 11 Gettysburg/ Onida/ Agar; 1/8/23 Gettysburg/ Onida; 24 Retired.
	ALESON, DARREL - RE. Deacon & PM 72; Elder & FM 75. Appts: 72 School; 74 Holmes/ Pleasant View/ Thompson; 77 Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, KS; 78 Cando/ Churches Ferry; 81 Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville; 84 Transfer to Yellowstone Conf; 88 Transfer to ND Conf; 88 St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck; 92 St. Alexius Medical Center and Driscoll; 08 Underwood (LTFT); 11 Retired. BA Westmar; BS UND; MDiv Iliff.
	ALESON, DENNIS E - RE. Deacon & PM 73; Elder & FM 76. Appts: 73 School; 75 Hettinger Bethany; 77 Chaplain, USAF; 9/1/03 Retired from USAF; 04 Leave of Absence; 09 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Iliff; CAPS Pacific School of Religion.
	ALLEN, JOEL - FE. Commissioned 02; FM 05. Appts: 13 transferred from Kentucky Conf; 13 DWU. BA Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN; MDiv Asbury; PhD Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.
	ANDERSON, DAVIS - PE. Commissioned & PM 25. Appts: 25 Salem Unite. BS DWU; MDiv Perkins School of Theology.
	ANDERSON, JENNIFER - FE. Commissioned & PM 12; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 07 New Rockford/ Kvernes ELCA; 12 Extension North Carolina Conf (Durham, Calvary) (3/4); 17 Extension Minnesota Conf (Burnsville Grace), 19 Extension Minnesota Conf (Roseville/St. Anthony Park, Centennial). BA Jamestown; MDiv Duke.
	ANDERSON, JOHN E - PL. Licensed 20 PL. Appts: 1/1/20 Woonsocket Interim (3/4) DS assignment; 20 Woonsocket (3/4). BA Augustana, PhD Baylor, MTS Duke Divinity.
	ANDERSON, NICOLE - FE. Commissioned & PM 16; Elder & FM 19. Appts: 16 Vermillion/ Gayville- Violin; 17 Vermillion; 20 Extension Minnesota Conf (Hope UMC, Duluth); 23 Extension Lake Poinsett Camp. BA DWU; MDiv Garrett- Evangelical.
	ANDERSON, PEDER O - RE. Deacon & PM 79; Elder & FM 81. Appts: 78 School; 79 Grace City/ Sutton; 83 Tuttle/ Robinson; 86 Hettinger/ Bethany; 8/1/88 Kindred/ Kindred Zion; 91 Sabbatical Leave; 92 Leave of Absence (June-Dec); 12/92 Antelope (1/4); 3/1/01 Fargo Calvary (1/2)/ Antelope (1/4); 7/1/01 Fargo Calvary (1/2); 1/1/02 Fargo Calvary (3/4); 1/1/06 Fargo Calvary; 10 Washburn/ Center/ Turtle Lake; 14 Retired. BS UND; MDiv Asbury.
	ANDREWS, DAVID - RE. Deacon & PM 69; Elder & FM 73. Appts: 69 School; 71 Transfer to SD Conf; 71 Draper/ Murdo; 10/73 Murdo/ Draper/ Vivian; 76 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 79 Transfer to ND Conf; 79 Hazen/ Riverdale Community; 81 Hazen; 86 Fargo Edgewood; 96 Oakes/ Cogswell; 03 Miller/ Greenleaf; 08 Retired. 8/1/10 Wahpeton UMC Interim (3/4); 1/1/13-7/1/13 Lisbon (3/4). BA UND; MDiv Asbury.
	ANDREWS, DONALD - RE. Deacon & PM 68; Elder & FM 70. Appts: 68 School; 70 Hillsboro; 79 Bismarck McCabe; 86 School; 10/87 St James Community Hospital, Butte, MT; 10/88 Trinity Medical Center, Minot; 03 Rugby Emmanuel United UMC/PCUSA (LTFT); 07 Retired; 07-20 Rugby Emmanuel United UMC/ PCUSA (LTFT). BS Minot State; MDiv Saint Paul.

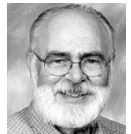
	ARCHER, ROYAL - RE. Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 96; FM 00. Appts: 7/95 Geddes/ Delmont, 00 Aberdeen North Highland; 05 Gregory/ Iona, 14 Gregory; 20 Retired; 20 Winner (1/4) and Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance (1/4); 22-23 Winner (1/4). BA Mid-American Nazarene; MDiv North American Baptist.
	ARNOLD, GAIL - RE. Deacon & PM 91; Elder & FM 93. Appts: 91 New Rockford/ Grace City, 96 DeSmet/ DeSmet UCC; 03 Belle Fourche; 11 Retired; 11-14 Camp Crook/ Buffalo UCC (1/4). BS University of LaVerne; MDiv Saint Paul.
	AVERY, MARTIN - FE. Commissioned & PM 15; Elder & FM 22. Appts: 12 Wessington Springs; 15 Fargo Faith; 17 Leave of Absence (para 353.2a); 2/5/18 Extension to Richland/ Colfax Our Savior's Lutheran, ELCA (para 344.1(d)); 2/3/19 Extension to Canaan Moravian (para 344.1(d)); 12/1/21 Extension Gran Lutheran, Mayville ND (para 344.1(d)). BS USD; MDiv Iliff.
	BADER, DANIEL P - FE. PL 94; Deacon & PM 00; Elder & FM 02. Appts: 94 White Lake/ Underwood; 97 West Ohio Conf; 00 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 04 Valley City Epworth; 12 Pierre First; 18 Extension Minnesota Conf (Stillwater) (para 346.1); 4/1/22 Rapid City Canyon Lake interim (on loan from Stillwater, MN); 22 Southwest District Superintendent. BA DWU; MDiv Methodist Theological School Ohio.
	BAIRD, HOWARD - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 03 Mitchell; 10/1/04 DeSmet; 08 Piedmont; 13 Grand Forks Wesley; 5/4/17 Medical Leave. BA Concordia; MDiv Iliff.
	BAKER, RAYMOND L - RE. Deacon & PM 87; Elder & FM 90. Appts: 87 School; 88 Casselton/ Leonard; 92 Arthur/ Casselton/ Hunter; 95 Watertown First; 96 Director of Camping & Youth Ministries; 04 NW Superintendent; 10 Bismarck McCabe; 13 Minot Vincent; 17 Fargo Faith (1/1/22 – 3/31/22 Short-Term Leave); 9/1/24 Fargo Faith (3/4) & Hillsboro (1/4); 25 Retired; 9/1/25 Hillsboro (1/4). BS UND; MDiv Saint Paul.
	BALDOCK, LINDA - RE. License 93 (Iowa); Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 99. Appts: 96 School; 97 Pembina/ Joliette/ Humboldt; 06 Milnor/ Wyndmere/ Sheldon; 08 Rapid Valley/Knollwood Heights; 10 White River/ Mission; 17 Retired; 17-18 White River/ Mission (3/4). BA Moorhead State; MDiv Saint Paul.
	BALLARD, KENNETH - RL; Licensed 06; Transfer to Dakotas Conf 06. Appts: 8/15/06 Edgeley/ Kulm; 08 Edgeley/ Kulm/ Nortonville; 12 Sundance, WY; 15 Webster/ Bristol-Butler; 19 Eureka; 21 Retired. Colorado School of Trades; Course of Study Saint Paul.
	BALL-KILBOURNE, DEBRA G - RE. Deacon & PM 76 (Iowa Conf) Elder & FM 79 (Baltimore Conf). Appts: 83 Transfer to ND Conf; 83 Washburn-Center-Riverdale Community; 85 Western District Superintendent (ND Conf); 87 Jamestown First; 91-2/92 Maternity Leave (Para. 426.1); 92-97 Tennessee Conf; 97 West Fargo; 00 Director of Mission Engagement; 03 Northeast District Superintendent; 09 Bishop's Assistant for Disaster Relief; 10 Minot Faith/ Des Lacs; 16 Retired; 1/20-21 Detroit Lakes (Minnesota Conf) (LTFT). BA Buena Vista; MCE Garrett-Evangelical; MDiv Garrett- Evangelical.
	BALL-KILBOURNE, GARY L - RE. Deacon & PM 76 (Baltimore Conf); Elder & FM 79 (Baltimore Conf). Appts: 76 School; 78 Harpers Ferry Parish (WV); 80 School; 83 Transfer to ND Conf; 83 Washburn/ Center/ Riverdale Community; 85 Center; 87 Jamestown First; 91 General Board of Discipleship; 97 Fargo First; 04 Jamestown Saint Paul; 10 Minot Vincent; 13 Retired; 13- 15 Martin/ Drake (LTFT); 1/20-21 Detroit Lakes (Minnesota Conf) (LTFT). BA McDaniel; MDiv Garrett- Evangelical; MA Vanderbilt; PhD Vanderbilt.
	BANWART, JUDY - RE. Commissioned & PM 06; Elder & FM 09. Appts: 04 Hettinger; 12 Langdon; 16 Retired. BA Univ of Iowa; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	BARTEL, ANDREW J - FE. Licensed 06; Commissioned & PM 09; Elder & FM 12. Appts: 8/15/06 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg; 09 Mitchell First; 9/20/10 Extension Wesley Acres Camp Director; 12 Milbank Central; 15 Extension Alaska Conf (Anchorage, St John). BS University of Alaska-Anchorage; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.

	BASS, GERALD - RE. Licensed 01; Commissioned & PM 04; Elder & FM 07. Appts: 9/15/01 Grand Forks Wesley; 03 West Fargo; 05 Grand Forks Wesley; 13 Retired; 7/1/13 Extension Minnesota Conf (LTFT); 9/15/14 St Thomas UMC, Grafton Federated UMC/PC-USA, Minto Knox PCUSA; 16-17 St Thomas (1/4); 17-18 Grand Forks Wesley, less than full-time; 20-22 St Thomas (1/4). BSEd; MEd UND; EdD UND; MDiv North American Baptist.
	BATES, WILLIAM L, JR - RE. Deacon & PM 70; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 70 School; 73 Fairmount/ Bethany/ Rosholt; 76 Grand Forks Zion; 86 Eastern District Superintendent (ND Conf); 91 Fargo First; 00 Minot Vincent; 05 Sioux Falls First; 12 Retired; 11/1/12 – 22 Ben Clare (LTFT). BA UND; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical; DDiv DWU.
	BEHRENS, HAZEL - RE. Commissioned 07; Elder & FM 10. Appts: 99 Brothersfield; 00 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg/ Brothersfield; 04 no appointment; 05 Brothersfield; 06 Elgin (Bethesda)/ Zoar/ Ebenezer UCC; 09 Elgin (Bethesda)/ Ebenezer UCC; 13 Streeter/ Medina/ Tappen; 18 Retired.
	BENSINGER, RICHARD – RL. LLP Transfer from Virginia Conference 24. Appts: 1/1/24 Rapid City First; 25 Retired.
	BERKENPAS, DARLIS A - RE. Deacon & PM 84; Elder & FM 87. Appts: 84 School; 85 Yankton/ Gayville/ Volin Associate; 89 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 95 Sioux Falls Asbury; 07 Spearfish; 7/1/11 Sabbatical; 11/1/11 Retired. BA Morningside College; MDiv Vanderbilt.
	BERNARD, MARY ANN - RE. 22 Readmitted from HL to FE. Appts: 80 School; 82 Elgin-Zoar- Ebenezer (UCC); 12/83 Minot Vincent; 85 Transfer to Iowa Conf; 91 Transfer to ND Conf; 91 Center for Vision and Policy, University of New England; 92 Ellendale United/ Guelph, 96 Westminster Presbyterian Sioux Falls; 98 Honorable Location; 20 Wahpeton Evergreen; 23 Retired. BS UND; MDiv Garrett.
	BIRKELAND, DAVID - RA. Licensed 96; AM 02. Appts: 96 Rock Lake/ Rolla/ Clyde; 00 Bowbells/ Donnybrook/ Kenmare; 08 Devils Lake; 13 Hazen/ Beulah; 16 Cresbard/ Tolstoy; 18 Retired; 20-11/1/22 Extension Walnut Grove, MN (1/4). AA Williston; BS UND; Briercrest; Course of Study Saint Paul.
	BLACKBURN, ROBERT - FL. Licensed 21. Appts: 21 Langdon.
	BLAIR, NEIL - RE. Orders recognized 09; FM 11. Appts: 11 Extension Foundation for Evangelism; 12 Transition Leave; 2/1/13 Extension GBHEM Executive Director of Institutional Advancement; 16 President, St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO; 23 Retired.
	BLANK, BRYCE - FE. Commissioned & PM 22; Elder & FM 25. Appt: 22 Watertown First Associate; 25 Valley City Epworth. BA DWU; MDiv Perkins School of Theology.
	BLUMER, BOYD ARDELL - RE. Deacon & PM 51; Elder & FM 56. Appts: 56 Goodrich/ Chaseley; 60 Clear Lake EUB-Meth; 67 Clear Lake/ Gary; 71 Aberdeen Faith; 76 Aberdeen Faith/ Bath; 77 Sioux Falls First; 80 Hartford; 84 Sturgis; 8/1/89 Northern District Superintendent (SD Conf); 93 Central District Superintendent (SD Conf); 95 Mission-Tree of Life Ministry; 97 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Garrett; DMin McCormick.
	BOCKWOLDT, STANTON - FE. Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 00. Appts: 96 School; 98 Drayton- Glasston; 01 Woonsocket; 02 Streeter/ Tappan/ Medina; 04 Wessington Springs; 08 Extension Illinois Conf (New Lenox, Peace Lutheran); 15 Extension Wisconsin Conf (Mosinee); 17 Extension Wisconsin Conf (Shullburg Centenary); 22 Extension Wisconsin Conf (Burlington English Settlement). BA DWU; MDiv Candler.

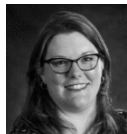
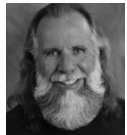
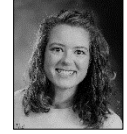
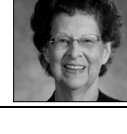
	BOHN, TIANA - PL. Licensed 21. Appt: 21 Milnor (1/4). AA North Dakota State College of Science; BS Dickinson State University.
	BORMAN, LAURA - RE. FL 01; Commissioned 03; Elder & FM 07. Appts: 01 Sioux Falls Wesley; 16 Retired. MDiv North American Baptist Seminary.
	BOYD, DICK WILLARD - RE. Deacon & PM 76; Elder & FM 80. Appts: 76 School; 79 Conde/ Andover; 3/1/82 Rapid City South Maple, 89 Milbank Central; 97 Jamestown First; 06 Sioux Falls First; 12 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.
	BRENNAN, MICHELLE - RD. Deacon & PM 03; Deacon & FM 06. Appts: 03 Minot Vincent. 10/1/08 Jamestown First; 12/31/21 Retired. BS Minot State Univ; Deacon Studies Garrett- Evangelical.
	BRITT, JOHN - FL. Licensed 12. Appts: 12 Rapid City First; 16 Winner ; 20 Piedmont. BS University of Connecticut, MS Central Connecticut State University; Course of Study completed.
	BROSCHAT, LORI - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 97-99 Intern at Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville; 03 New Rockford/ Grace City; 10/1/06 New Rockford/ Grace City/ Kvernes ELCA; 07 Cavalier Trinity/ Cavalier First; 13 Devils Lake; 6/1/21 Medical Leave. AS Minot State; BA UND; MDiv Asbury.
	BUDD, PAUL E - RE. Licensed 80; Deacon & PM 84; Elder & FM 87. Appts: 80 Bowdle/ Tolstoy; 82 School; 85 John Knox Village; 24 Retired; 24 Extension in retirement to John Knox Village, Lee's Summit MO (LTFT).. BA Open Bible College; MDiv Saint Paul.
	BURNS, JERI - RE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 03 Chaplain Avera McKennan, Sioux Falls; 06 Chaplain Rapid City Regional Hospital; 09 Chaplain Avera Sacred Heart, Yankton; 12/09 - 6/10 Leave of Absence; 10 Extension Promise Regional Medical Center; 13 Pierre Southeast; 15 Leave of Absence; 16 Retired. BS Univ of Omaha; MBA USD; MDiv North American Baptist.
	BUSH, TARA – PL. Licensed 23. Appt: 22 Ethan (1/2) as lay supply; 6/1/23 Ethan (1/2) as LLP; 25 Ethan (1/2) & Alexandria (1/2). BS SDSU.
	CARLSON, ANNIE - PE. Licensed 21; Commissioned & PM 24. Appts: 21 Washburn/ Center lay supply; 9/1/21 Washburn/ Center (3/4) LLP; 6/1/22 Washburn/ Center (fulltime); 24 Washburn (1/2), Bismarck Legacy (1/2) (Pastor of Discipleship). BS NDSU; MDiv Kairos University.
	CERTA-WERNER, THANAEL - FE. Commissioned & PM 22; Elder & FM 25. Appt: 22 Cavalier Trinity; 23 Burke/ Herrick; 11/1/23 Burke/ Herrick/ Gregory (Abundance Parish). BA DWU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	CHESNEY, KATHY - FE. Licensed 08; Commissioned & PM 10; Elder & FM 16. Appts: 08 Philip/ Interior. BME Olivet College; MS SDSU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.

	CHRISTENSEN, JASON - FL. Licensed 18. Appt: 18 White River/ Mission; 22 Lead Trinity. BS NSU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	CLOUGH, BENNETT - FL. Licensed 19; Transfer from North Georgia Methodist Conf. 25. Appt: 25 Faulkton.
	COATES, CINDY H. – PE. Deacon & PM 24; Transfer to Elder Track PE 25. Appt: Sioux Falls Wesley (1/2)/ EXT Ground Works Connect (1/2); 25 Rapid City First (1/2) & Extension Ground Works Connect (1/2). MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	COATES, J EDWIN - RE. Trial & Deacon 61; Elder & FM 66. Appts: 58 Student Supply Piedmont/ Caputa; 61 Mission & School; 61 Stockland, IL; 66 Presho/ Vivian; 71 Timber Lake; 72 Timber Lake (UMC-ALC)/ Isabel UCC; 79 Winner; 88 Mitchell; 96 Redfield/ Ashton; 05 Retired; 2/1/06-6/30/06 Newcastle First WY (LTFT) (Rocky Mountain Conf); 07 Custer/ Fall River Parish; 09-11 Prairieview (Custer & Fall River churches merged). BS Eastern IL; BD Evangelical Theological Seminary; DD DWU.
	COATES, R DUANE - FE. Commissioned & PE 05. Elder & FM 09. Appts: 05 School; 06 Brookings; 10 Wagner/ Tyndall; 14 Sioux Falls Southern Hills; 16 Hettinger; 22 Valley City Epworth; 25 Rapid City First. BS SDSU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	CRAIG, RICHARD - FL. Licensed 04. Appts: 03 Velva; 04 Linton/ Moffit; 06 Linton/ Sterling/ Moffit; 08 Cando/ Rock Lake/ Rolla; 22 Minot Faith/ Des Lacs. Course of Study completed.
	CRIPPEN, DONALD C - RE. Deacon & PM 76 (Missouri East); Elder & FM 78. Appts: 76 Transfer to ND Conf; 76 Marion/ Dickey; 78 Minot North Hill/ Des Lacs; 80 Chaplain, U.S. Army; 7/16/00 Jamestown Saint Paul. 04 Retired; 08 Returned to active service, 08 Huron First; 12 Retired. BA Northwest Bible; MDiv Midwestern Baptist; Med Vanderbilt.
	CULVER, KERMIT LLOYD - RE. Deacon & PM 79; Elder & FM 82. Appts: 79 School; 81 Stickney; 84 Rapid City First; 88 DWU University; 96 Bismarck First; 10 Bismarck Legacy (formerly Bismarck First); 16 Sakakawea District Superintendent (17 name change to Northwest District); 20 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.
	DIEHL, DOUGLAS E - RE. Deacon & PM 76; Elder & FM 79. Appts: 76 School; 78 Bismarck First; 80 Transfer to SD Conf; 3/80 Rapid City First; 9/83 Britton/ Langford/ Langford Presbyterian-Pierpont Community; 91 Transfer to ND Conf; 91 Grand Forks Zion; 98 Northwest District Superintendent; 01 Rapid City First; 13 Medical Leave; 14 Retired; 14-15 Coordinator of Missional Leadership Development (LTFT). BA University of Mary; MDiv Asbury.
	DINGER, DON – PE. Licensed 07; Commissioned & PM 23. Appts: 7/1/16 Bismarck Legacy (Associate) (1/4); 1/1/2019 Bismarck Legacy (1/2); 7/1/2019 Bismarck Legacy (1/4)/ Bismarck Calvary (3/4); 2/27/20 Bismarck Legacy (3/4); 8/1/22 Steele/ Tuttle; 23 Steele. BA Trinity Bible College; MDiv Kairos University.
	DORFMAN, TIFF - FL. Licensed 21. Appt: 21 Extension (para 344.1.d) Luther Manor & Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls; 2/27/24 Extension (para 344.1.d) Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls (1/2). BS USD.
	DUCKER, KRISTA -PD. Licensed 16; Commissioned & PM 23; Transfer Elder to Deacon Track PD 25. Appts: 8/1/16-2/10/17 Sioux Falls Southern Hills (3/4); 2/11/17 no appointment; 18 White/ Sterling (1/4); 20 Brookings First Associate (3/4); 22 Ben Clare (1/4); 23 Ben Clare (1/4) and Extension Avera Chaplain (1/2); 25 Extension Avera Chaplain (LTFT). BA University of Durham, UK; MATR University of Durham, UK; MDiv Kairos University.

	DUNHAM, BRANDON - FL. Licensed 18. Appt: 18 Groton/ Conde; 23 Harrisburg.
	EARL, JENENE - FE. 04 Transfer N Alabama Conf; Licensed 04; Commissioned & PM 09; Elder & FM 12. Appts: 04 Highmore/ Harrold/ Blunt; 11 Sturgis. BS Lee College; MDiv Asbury.
	EBERHART, EMIL H - RE. Licensed 62; Elder & FM 68. Appts: 65 School; 66 Student Intern Bismarck First; 68 Intern at Elgin, IL State Hosp; 69 Tripp County; 72 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 75 Sioux Falls Minister at Large, Asbury & Sunnycrest/ Ellis; 76 Dell Rapids/ Garretson; 78 Chaplain, SD State Penitentiary; 11/15/80 Aberdeen Faith; 87 Brookings; 95 Sabbatical Leave; 96 Groton/ Conde; 97 Groton/ Conde/ Andover; 99 Sioux Falls First; 02 McCook Lake; 03 Sioux Falls Hilltop; 05 Retired; 10/06-6/07 Canistota United; 4/08-6/08 Aberdeen North Highland (1/2); 7/08-9/08 Flandreau/ Egan (1/2); 4/10- 6/10 Hartford; 10/10-6/11 Mitchell First (1/2). BA Westmar; MDiv Evangelical; DMin McCormick.
	EBERHART, PENELOPE V - RE. Deacon & PM 76; Elder & FM 78. Appts: 76 Dell Rapids/ Garretson; 81 Bath/ Barnard UCC (1/2); 82 Aberdeen North Highland; 87 Brookings; 95 Central District Superintendent; 99 Sioux Falls First; 02 Sioux Falls Hilltop; 05 Retired. 4/08-6/08 Aberdeen North Highland (1/2); BA Westmar; MRE Evangelical; MDiv North American Baptist.
	EBERHART, REBECCA - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 07. Appts: 00 Mitchell First; 03 Tennessee Conf (para 337.1); 04 Extension Programs for Theological Exploration of Vocation; 07 Vanderbilt Divinity School; 10 Garrett-Evangelical. BA Centre College; MDiv Vanderbilt.
	EBERHART, TIMOTHY - FE. Commissioned & PM 00; Elder & FM 03. Appts: 96-97 Doland/ Frankfort (FL); 00 DWU Campus Ministry; 03 School; 12 Garrett-Evangelical. BA St Olaf; MDiv Vanderbilt; PhD Vanderbilt.
	EHRMANTRAUT, MARK - FE. Licensed 08; Commissioned & PM 12; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 08 Aberdeen North Highland; 13 Beresford; 16 Bismarck McCabe (Discipleship); 1/1/18 Bismarck McCabe (Executive); 19 Leave of Absence; 11/1/21 Minot Vincent; 9/16/24 Extension The God's Child Project (Community Engagement & Donor Developer); 25 Bismarck Calvary & Center (1/2) & Extension 344.1a) New Ministries (1/2); . BS NDSU; MS Miami Univ (Ohio); EdS Miami Univ (Ohio); MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	EICHINGER, CONNIE K - PL. Licensed 12. Appt: 11/1/12 Faith/ Marcus Presbyterian (1/2). Course of Study completed.
	EIDEM, DEANN HARDY - FE. Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 00. Appts: 96 Scotland/ Tyndall; 98 Wagner/ Tyndall; 01 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 03 Family Leave; 12 Rapid City Canyon Lake (1/2); 3/1/20 Rapid City Canyon Lake (1/4); 9/1/20 Family Leave; 10/1/20 Rapid City Canyon Lake Lead Pastor Interim; 7/1/21 Rapid City Canyon Lake Lead Pastor; 4/1/22 Rapid City Canyon Lake (1/2); 6/1/22 Voluntary Leave of Absence (para 353.2.a); 23 Extension Stillwater Hospice (1/2); 3/9/25 Extension Stillwater Hospice (fulltime). BA Augustana; MDiv Saint Paul.
	ELIASON, STEPHANIE - PE. Licensed 21; Commissioned & PM 24. Appts: 21 Alexandria (1/4); 22 Rapid City Canyon Lake (Associate). BA Luther College; MDiv Kairos University.
	ELLINGSON, MARK S - RE. Deacon & PM 81; Elder & FM 86. Appts: 81 School; 82 Bowbells/ Coteau/ Kenmare/ Donnybrook; 84 Holmes/ Thompson; 08 Holmes; 9/7/10 Extension Hospice of the Red River Valley (3/4)/ Holmes (1/4); 7/1/11 Extension Hospice of the Red River Valley; 1/3/12 Extension Altru Health Systems; 6/1/15 Extension Manager of Pastoral Services Altru Health System, Grand Forks; 8/31/20 Extension LifeSource; 23 Retired; 23 – 12/31/23 Extension Life Source. BS Moorhead State; MDiv Asbury.

	ELMER, DONALD - RE. Deacon & PM 63; Elder & FM 70. Appts: 63 School; 67 Peace Corps; 69 School; 70 Northwest Community Organization Chicago; 75 Metropolitan Area Housing Alliance Chicago; 77 Washington Innercity Self-Help DC; 81 Metro Organizations for People, Denver; 85 United Campus Ministries, Denver; 87 Center for Community Change, San Francisco; 99 Leave of Absence; 00 Center for Community Change, San Francisco/ Seattle; 08 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	ENNEN, RITA – PL. Licensed 23. Appt: 23 Dickinson (1/2). MS University of North Texas.
	ERICKSON, JOHN T "Jack" - RE. Trial & Deacon 66; Elder & FM 69. Appts: 66 School; 69 Gayville/ Volin/ Irene/ Wakonda; 72 Sioux Falls First; 73 Milbank Parkview/ Corona; 79 Deadwood; 85 Groton/ Columbia UCC; 88 Murdo/ Draper; 91 Britton/ Langford/ Langford PC/ Pierpont Community; 95 Fargo Faith; 00 Milnor/ Wyndmere/ Lidgerwood; 05 Milnor/ Wyndmere/ Sheldon. 06 Retired; 08 – 11/1/23 Aberdeen Faith (LTFT). BA DWU; MDiv Methodist Theological School Ohio.
	FELBERG, TIA - PL. Licensed 20. Appt: 10/1/20 Iroquois/ Esmond/ De Smet (3/4). BS Northern State University.
	FIKE, GERALD - RE. On trial 62; Deacon & PM 63; Elder & FM 66. Appts: 61 Rock Lake/ Hansboro/ Clyde; 62 School; 65 Grace City/ Juanita/Sutton; 67 Drayton/ Bowmont; 73 McClusky/ Turtle Lake; 78 Turtle Lake/ Underwood; 83 Bismarck Calvary; 87 Elgin/ Zoar; 92 Cavalier Trinity/ Cavalier First/ Neche. 98 Retired. BA Cascade College; BD Asbury.
	FISHER, RICHARD W - RE. Deacon & PM 62; Elder & FM 64. Appts: 64 Parker; 12/67 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 72 Sioux Falls Asbury; 9/15/80 Western District Superintendent (SD Conf); 86 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 9/1/89 Conf Council Director; 99 Director of Leadership Development; 01 Retired. BA Hamline; MDiv Drew; DD Dakota Wesleyan.
	FLEMING, VERONICA - FL. Licensed 17. Appts: 17 North Prairie Parish – Mohall/ Sherwood/ Bowbells; 19 Kenmare ReNew/ Bowbells/ Sherwood; 6/1/22 Arthur.
	FLOWERS, MIKE - RL Licensed 11. Appts: 11 Extension Children of the Harvest/ Spirit Lake; 14 Extension Associate Director of Missional Impact/ Spirit Lake; 15 Extension Children of the Harvest/ Spirit Lake; 6/1/21 Extension Spirit Lake (1/2) and Devils Lake (1/2); 6/1/23 Retired.
	FORBES, BRUCE D - RE. Deacon & PM 71; Elder & FM 78. Appts: 71 School; 76 MN Hist Soc & DD Candidate; 77 Macalester College, Saint Paul; 78 Asst Prof. Religious Studies, Morningside College; 88 Interim Macalester College; 89 Interim Hamline Univ; 90 Morningside College; 18 Retired. BA Morningside; MDiv Perkins; PhD Princeton.
	FOSSUM, RICHARD N - RE. Deacon & PM 83; Elder & FM 87. Appts: 83 School; 85 Kulm/ Jud; 87 West Fargo; 97 Bismarck McCabe; 05 Minot Vincent; 10 Bismarck McCabe; 14 Retired; 1/1/16 – 6/30/18 Extension Minnesota Conf (Interim Brunswick, Duluth, Anoka). BA UND; MDiv Saint Paul.
	FREED, DAN S - RE. Deacon & PM 90; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 90 Burke Larger Parish; 94 Piedmont; 05 Sioux Falls Hilltop; 11 Dickinson; 14 Personal Leave; 2/15/19 Extension (para 344.1.d) Chaplain Avera Heart Hospital; 12/31/24 Retired; continue as RE in Extension as Chaplain at Avera Heart Hospital. BS Wyoming; MDiv North Park.
	GALBREATH, ALLISON – PE. Commissioned & PM 24. Appts: 24 Miller/ Highmore/ Harrold. BS University of Jamestown; MDiv Wesley Theological Seminary.

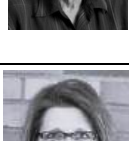
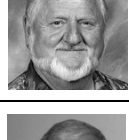
	GALL, MELISSA - FD. Deacon & PM 16; Elder & FM 19. Appts: 16 Milbank Central; 3/12/18 Transitional Leave of Absence; 8/1/18 Primary to Milbank School District, Secondary to Milbank Parkview; 4/5/23 Primary to Milbank School District, Secondary to Watertown First. MA Southwest Minnesota State, Basic Graduate Theological Studies Garrett-ETS.
	GELLHAUS, DENNIS R - RE. Deacon & PM 80; Elder & FM 83. Appts: 80 School; 82 Conde/ Andover; 84 Huron First; 89 Sabbatical Leave; 90 Extension (para 426.1) Rocky Mountain Conf; 93 Leave of Absence; 96 Gellhaus Carehaus; 15 Retired. BS Northern State; MDiv Saint Paul.
	GRAN, WILLIAM M - RE. Deacon & PM 72; Elder & FM 75. Appts: 70 Student Supply Artesian/ Farwell; 72 School & Student Supply Napoleon, MO; 74 Tripp County Larger Parish; 76 United Parish Colome/ Wewela UCC/ Millboro UCC/ Ideal UPC; 77 Mitchell First; 83 Clear Lake/ Gary; 86 Hartford; 94 Sioux Falls Wesley; 01 Extension Bryan LGH Medical Center; 04 Extension Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society; 1/1/16 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Saint Paul.
	GRAY, BRUCE C - RE. Deacon & PM 62 (Genesse Conf); Transferred to SD Conf 64; Elder & FM 64. Appts: 64 Tulare; 65 Aberdeen Wesley Foundation; 67 School; 70 Univ of Albany; 79 Clear Lake/ Gary; 82 Exec Director SD Association of Christian Churches; 91 Webster/ Bristol-Butler; 96 Madison; 98 Retired. BA Buffalo; EoD State University of New York; MDiv Colgate-Rochester.
	GREGG, BRIAN - PL. Licensed 19. Appts: 1/15/19 Garretson United Parish (1/4) as SY; 4/15/19 Garretson United Parish (1/4) as PL. BA Berkeley, MDiv Fuller; PhD Notre Dame.
	GREGG, JULIE - FE. Licensed 19, Commissioned & PM 21; Elder & FM 25. Appt: 4/15/19-7/1/2019 Garretson United Parish (1/4) as SY; 19 Garretson United Parish as PL (1/4); 9/15/21 Garretson United Parish (1/4) & Extension Ministry Spiritual Direction (1/2) (para 344.1.d)); 1/1/22 Garretson United Parish (1/2) & Extension Ministry Spiritual Direction (1/2) (para 344.1.d)). BA Emory, MA Trinity Evangelical, MDiv Fuller, Sioux Falls Seminary Certificate Spiritual Direction.
	GRINAGER, ERIC S - RE. Deacon & PM 76; Elder & FM 80. Appts: 76 School; 77 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 78 School; 79 Yankton/ Gayville/ Volin; 82 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 86 Flandreau/ Egan; 92 Lead; 99 Watertown First; 09 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 18 Retired. BS DWU; MDiv Saint Paul.
	GRINAGER, HOWARD L - RE. Deacon & PM 81; Elder & FM 84. Appts: 81 School; 83 Mt Vernon/ Plankinton; 92 Yankton/ Gayville/ Volin; 96 Southeast District Superintendent; 00 Pierre First; 12 Retired; 10/15/15-6/30/16 Alexandria/ Ethan Interim; 2/7/17-6/30/17 Sioux Falls Southern Hills Interim; 12/10/17-7/1/18 Alexandria/ Ethan Interim (3/4); 4/8/19-2/1/20 Brookings First Interim (1/2); 2/12/24 – 6/30/24 Sioux Falls Wesley (1/4) Interim. BA DWU; MNS USD; MDiv Boston.
	GRONSETH, MARK – RE. FD 7/03 Transfer to Dakotas Conf from Kansas West Conf; FE 13. Appts: 03 St Dysmas Lutheran; 09 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg; 13 Fairmount/ Breckenridge, MN; 12/31/23 Retired; 1/1/24-7/1/24 Fairmount/ Breckenridge, MN in retirement. BA Concordia (Moorhead).
	GROSS, JAN - RE. Commissioned & PM 04; Elder & FM 07. Appts: 10/16/00 Brothersfield & Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg; 04 Yankton/ Gayville-Volin; 05 Beresford Zion; 10 Hartford; 19 Dell Rapids; 1/1/22 Dell Rapids (3/4); 25 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv North American Baptist.
	HAFNER, REBECCA – FL. Licensed 23. Appt: 23 Edgeley Wesley/ Jud (3/4); 24 Edgeley Wesley/ Jud/ Ellendale United. BSEd Dickinson State University.
	HAGGAR, EDWARD THOMAS, JR - RE. Deacon & PM 87; Elder & FM 89. Appts: 84 Student Supply Ellis/ Brothersfield; 86 Geddes; 91 Belle Fourche; 99 Rapid City South Maple; 05 Aberdeen First; 14 Retired. BS Northern State; MDiv North American Baptist.

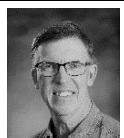
	HAGGIN, LEONARD K - RE. Deacon & PM 67; Elder & FM 69. Appts: 63 Student Supply Mt Vernon; 66 School; 69 Aberdeen First; 70 Plankinton/ Mt Vernon; 73 Redfield/ Ashton; 75 Redfield; 82 Watertown First; 84 Brookings; 87 Pierre First, 96 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Saint Paul; DMin United Saint Paul MN.
	HALL, MINA - RE. Commissioned & PM 05; Elder & FM 08. Appts: 04 Tree of Life; 05 West Fargo; 08 West Fargo (3/4); 11/15/12 Personal Leave; 10/1/18 Retired. BS Winona State; MS SDSU; MDiv. North America Baptist.
	HALLENBECK ORR, JENNIFER - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 03 Alexandria/ Ethan; 05 Alexandria/ Ethan/ DWU; 06 Pierre First; 11 Wahpeton Evergreen; 14 Bismarck McCabe; 1/1/18 Bismarck McCabe (Worship) (3/4); 10/1/23 Transitional Leave; 10/4/23 Extension 344.1 d) Chaplain at Hospice of the Red River Valley (name change to HIA Hospice on 6/9/25) (3/4). BA Augustana; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	HANSON, MARGARET "PEGGY" - FE. PL 11; Commissioned & PM 13; Elder & FM 16. Appts: 11 Pierre First; 17 Lead Trinity; 22 Madison. MDiv Illif.
	HARWOOD, RANDALL - PL. Licensed 14. Appts: 15 Casselton (1/2); 11/1/21 Casselton & Arthur Interim (1/2); 6/1/22 Casselton (1/2). BS NDSU.
	HASTINGS, KIMBERLY - FL. Licensed 20. Appts: 20 Howard Beach; 22 Salem Unite; 25 Watertown First (1/2) & Clark (1/2). BS BHSU, MDiv Kairos University.
	HAZARD, BRIAN W - RE. Deacon & PM 89, Elder & FM 92. Appts: 89 Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville, MT; 92 Lisbon; 96 Page/ Hope/ Finley; 02 Minnesota Conf (para 337.1); 06 School; 11 Extension Buffalo/ Tower City Presbyterian; 13 Extension Minnesota Conf (LTFT); 18 Retired. BA Bemidji State; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	HAZEN, RICK E - RE. Deacon & PM 92; Elder & FM 95. Appts: 92 School; 93 Wagner/ Delmont; 98 Langdon; 06 Geddes; 11 Murdo/ Draper; 17 Retired. BA Mt Marty College; MA USD; MDiv Methodist Theological School Ohio.
	HEAGEL, KARA – PD. Deacon & PM 25. Appts: 25 Extension 344.1d) Severena Park, Maryland. BS SDSMT; MDiv Wesley Theological Seminary.
	HEETLAND, DAVID L - RE. Deacon & PM 71; Elder & FM 76. Appts: 71 School; 75 Stickney; 76 Flandreau/ Egan; 77 DWU; 83 Garrett-Evangelical; 20 Retired. BA USD; MDiv Iliff; ThD Iliff.
	HISEL, JOHN - RE. LP 97 Elder (Transfer North American Baptist Conf) & PM 98; FM 00. Appts: 97 Wishek/ Lehr/ Napoleon; 98 Beresford Zion; 05 Webster/ Bristol-Butler; 12 Retired; 22 – 12/29/23 Doland Ministry Team Leader (1/4). BA Sioux Falls; MDiv North American Baptist; DMin North American Baptist.
	HOLLAND, MARK - RE. Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 85; FM 87. Appts: 85 Highmore; 89 Howard/Roswell; 92 Canton; 97 Milbank Central; 2/1/04 Transfer to Nebraska Conf; 7/1/12 Transfer to Dakotas Conf; 12 Huron First; 17 Retired. BA Mid-America Nazarene; MDiv Nazarene.
	HOOK, F EVE - RE. Deacon & PM 72; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 72 Jamestown First; 75 Bismarck McCabe; 79 Casselton/ Absaraka; 83 Casselton/ Leonard; 84 Cavalier Trinity/ Hamilton; 91 Arthur/ Hunter/ Erie; 91 Disability Leave; 07 Retired. MRE Garrett-Evangelical; BD Garrett-Evangelical.

	HUBER, D WAYNE - FL. Licensed 05. Appts: 10/14/01 Tripp; 11/18/01 Tripp/ Delmont; 02 Tripp; 03 Tripp/ Mt Vernon; 10 Mt Vernon; 11 Geddes; 22 Plankinton/ White Lake. Course of Study completed Saint Paul.
	IVERSON, JUSTIN - FE. Commissioned & PM 14; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 14 Webster/ Bristol- Butler; 15 Arthur; 17 Extension Illinois Great Rivers Conf (Bloomington, Wesley UMC) (para 346.1); 21 Transitional Leave (para 353.2.c); 8/30/21 Appointed to Attend School (CPE Residency at Barnes- Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO); 8/1/22 Extension Illinois Great Rivers Conf (Mascoutah Bethel UMC) (para 346.1); 9/30/24 Extension Illinois Great Rivers Conf (Mascoutah Bethel UMC) (para 346.1) (1/2) & 344.1.d) St. Louis University Hospital Chaplain (1/2); 1/1/25 Extension 344.1.d) St. Louis University Hospital Chaplain . BA NE Wesleyan; MDiv Asbury.
	IRVINE, JESSE - PL. Licensed 22. Appt: 21 Park River Federated/ Fordville PCUSA (LTFT) as lay supply; 2/1/22 Park River Federated/ Fordville PCUSA (1/2) as LLP; 11/1/23 Park River Federated/ Fordville PCUSA (1/2) & St.Thomas (1/4).
	JACOBSEN, DAVID SCHNASA - RE. Deacon & PM 85; Elder & FM 88. Appts: 85 School; 86 Pierre First; 90 School; 96 School/ New Johnsonville (TN); 96 Lutheran Seminary, Ontario, Canada; 8/1/11 Boston Univ School of Theology; 25 Retired. BA Concordia; MDiv Vanderbilt; PhA Vanderbilt.
	JACOWAY, JOHN A - RE. Deacon & PM 60; Elder & FM 62. Appts: 59 Student Supply Kennebec; 60 Denver Camerron Co Asst; 60 School; 62 Wall/ Wasta; 1/66 Mitchell; 69 Rapid City Rapid Valley/ Caputa; 75 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 82 Flandreau/ Egan; 86 Sioux Falls Wesley; 91 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 96 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	JASSMANN MASSINGILL, M ELIZABETH - RE. Commissioned & PM 04; Elder & FM 10. Appts: 01 Edgemont/ Pringle; 05 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chasley; 10 Selby/ Mobridge; 17 Retired. BA USD; MDiv Perkins.
	JENNY, SUSAN - PL. Licensed 08 (Transfer Indiana Conf). Appt: 14 Colton/Chester (3/4). Course of Study completed.
	JOHNSEN, MARK - FE, Commissioned & PM 08; Elder & FM 15. Appts: 08 Student; 10 Personal Leave; 12 Miller; 15 Prairie View; 19 Rapid City Rapid Valley; 21 Extension UCC, Brookings (para 344.1.d). MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	JOHNSON, ANDREA – PE. Transferred from another denomination 22; Commissioned & PM 23. Appt: 23 Aberdeen North Highland. BA USD; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	JOHNSON, CAMERON - RE. Deacon & PM 60; Elder & FM 62. Appts: 54 Rugby/ Pleasant Lake; 58 School; 61 Williston/ Grenora; 67 Jamestown First; 75 Western District Superintendent (ND Conf); 80 Fargo First; 87 Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; 89 Green Valley AZ (426.1) Desert Southwest Conf; 94 Retired. PhB UND; STM Wesley.
	JOHNSON, GARY - RL. PL 06. Appts: 06 Drayton/ St Thomas; 11 Retired; 12 Drayton/ Pembina/ Humboldt MN (LTFT); 17 No appointment; 19 Drayton/ Pembina/ Humboldt, MN (Upper Valley Parish) (1/2); 11/1/23 – 12/31/24 Drayton/ Pembina/ Humboldt, MN (Upper Valley Parish) (1/4).
	JOHNSON, RONALD - RE. Deacon & PM 75; Elder & FM 78. Appts: 97 Transfer from Iowa Conf; 97 Canton; 10 Yankton; 20 Retired. BA Northwestern; MDiv Dubuque.

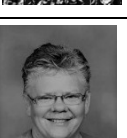
	JOHNSON, TAYLOR – PE. Licensed 15; Commissioned & PM 25. Appts: 11/15/15 Sioux Falls First (3/4); 21 Certified Candidate; 25 Extension 346.1 Minnesota Conference. MDiv Kairos University.
	JOHNSON, TERI - FE. Deacon & PM 89; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 89 School; 90 Pierre First; 92 Mitchell; 95 Brookings (Associate); 01 Brookings (Sr Pastor); 13 Extension Minnesota Conf (Minneapolis, Hennepin Avenue); 8/15/14 Leave of Absence; 20 Vermillion (1/2) and Extension SDSU (1/2); 21 Extension SDSU; 7/15/24 White /Sterling(1/4)/ Extension SDSU (3/4). BS SDSU; MDiv Iliff; DMin North American Baptist.
	KANA-MACKEY, J SUE - RE. Deacon & PM 78; Elder & FM 80. Appts: 78 School; 79 Starkweather/ Edmore/ Hampden; 83 Edmore; 85 Edmore/ Lakota UCC/ Michigan UCC; 94 Edmore/ Lakota UCC/ Michigan ELCA/ Sarnia United ELCA; 12/31/09 Retired. BA UND; MDiv Asbury.
	KATTELMANN, BRADLEY D - FE. Commissioned & PM 05; Elder & FM 08. Appts: 05 Wall/ Wasta; 08 Extension (Chaplain, US Army) Ft. Benning, GA, 13 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK; 15 Ft. Benning, GA; 17 Scott AFB, IL; 7/21/19 Ft. Carson, CO. BA Creighton; MDiv Iliff.
	KATTER, JOHN - RE. (AOG) Orders recognized 00; Elder & FM 04. Appts: 00 Olivet/ Tripp; 01 Olivet/ Scotland; 03 Milbank Central. 06 Retired. BA U of Minnesota; BA North Central; MDiv Fuller; DMin Midwestern Baptist.
	KEEHNER, GEORGE – PL. Licensed 24. Appts: 23 Rapid City Rapid Valley (1/4) Grief Share Ministry; 11/1/23 Prairie View (1/2) as CLM, 7/1/24 Prairie View (1/2) as LLP. BA Florida Institute of Technology.
	KELSEY, ELIZABETH V - RE. Presbyterian Orders recognized 77; Elder & FM 78. Appts: 77 Flandreau/ Egan; 78 Brookings; 80 Bottineau/ Gardena; 83 Extension Ministry; 85 Uniting Church in Australia; 87 Miller/ Greenleaf; 89 Transfer to Kansas East Conf; 04 Transfer to Dakotas Conf; 04 Huron Counseling Center; 14 Retired. BS SDSU; MA University of Wisconsin; MDiv San Francisco Theological Seminary.
	KERSEY-RUSSELL, JEANINE - FE. FL 95 Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 99. Appts: 95 Bismarck McCabe; 97 Turtle Lake/ Underwood/ Velva; 03 Hazen/ Beulah; 06 School (CPE Residency at Iowa Methodist Hospital Des Moines); 07 Larimore/ Arvilla-PC-USA/ Emerado PC-USA, 08 Chaplain Home Health Care & Hospice, Good Samaritan, Bismarck; 14 Leave of Absence; 18 Extension ND State Penitentiary (para 344.1d) (1/2); 1/1/20 Extension ND State Penitentiary; 1/1/24 Transitional Leave; 1/1/25 Extension ND Youth Correctional Center, Mandan ND. BA Jamestown; MDiv Dubuque.
	KIDD, LAURIE - RL. Licensed 05. Appts: 05 Sioux Falls First; 11 Kimball Protestant Parish; 14 Wagner/ Tyndall; 22 Hettinger; 25 Retired; 25 Sioux Falls Wesley (1/2) as RL. BS William Jewell College; Course of Study Saint Paul.
	KIERAS, PEGGY - RE. Deacon & PM 69; Elder & FM 71. Appts: 69 School; 71 Worcester Memorial Hospital, Worcester, MA; 12/89 University of Mass Medical Center; 10/1/01 New England Conf (LTFT) (para 337.1); 1/1/02 Director of CPE St Vincent Hospital, Worcester, MA (LTFT); 12 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Andover-Newton.
	KISTLER, GENIE (Butler) - RE. PM 77 & Deacon 78 (Rocky Mountain Conf); Elder & FM 83. Appts: 77 School; 80 Neche/ Cavalier First; 81 Transfer to ND Conf; 86 Lisbon; 92 Langdon; 98 Pierre First; 06 Hartford. 3/21/10 Retired. BA Southwestern; MDiv Iliff.
	KJONAAS DONNA T - RE. Deacon & PM 88; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 90 Sioux Falls First; 92 Transferred to SD Conf; 97 Harrisburg; 03 Leave of Absence; 05 Fargo Friendship (para 338.3); 06 Leave of Absence, 08 Flandreau/ Egan; 09 Retired. BA NDSU; MA Wisconsin; MA Northern State; MDiv United.

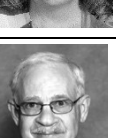
	KLOSTER, KEVIN W - FE. Deacon & PM 91; Elder & FM 94. Appts: 91 School; 92 Bottineau United Parish; 96 Dickinson; 00 Brandon; 08 Extension Desert SW Conf; 10 Fargo Faith; 15 Prairie Hills District Superintendent (17 name change to Southwest District); 18 Rapid City Canyon Lake and Southwest District Superintendent; 9/1/19 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 10/1/20 Medical Leave. BA NDSU; MDiv United Saint Paul.
	KNOCK, RODNEY - PE. Licensed 19, Commissioned & PM 21. Appts: 19 Plankinton/ White Lake; 22 Sioux Falls Hilltop. BS SDSU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	KOR, HENRY K - RE. Deacon & PM 71; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 67 Student Supply Fulton/ Farmer; 70 School & Student Supply Wellington, MO; 73 Clinical Pastoral Ed, Rochester Meth Hosp; 74 Harrisburg/ Rowena/ Ben Clare; 1/15/81 Sioux Falls Asbury; 90 Southern District Superintendent (SD Conf); 94 Southeast District Superintendent, 96 Mitchell; 09 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Saint Paul.
	KROGER, GREGORY S - RE. LP 87; Deacon & PM 88; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 87 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg & School; 91 Aberdeen North Highland/ Church of All Nations; 92 Rapid City First; 99 Lead/ Deadwood; 02 Sioux Falls First; 06 Glacial Lakes Superintendent; 10 Director of Ministries; 14 Rapid City First; 19 Pierre First; 22 Retired. BS Oral Roberts; MDiv North American Baptist.
	KROGER, KARL - FE. Commissioned & PM 10; Elder & FM 15. Appts: 10 Pierre Southeast; 13 Piedmont Grace; 20 Bismarck McCabe. BA DWU; MDiv Candler.
	KRUEGER, AUTUMN - FE. Commissioned & PM 17, Elder & FM 21. Appt: 17 Extension to Alaska Conference (Anchorage, Anchor Park). BA DWU; MDiv Emory.
	KUPER, DONNA - PL. Licensed 18. Appts: 18 Aurora (1/4). BS NAU; MBA NAU.
	LABOUNTY, SETH - FE. Commissioned & PM 15, Elder & FM 21. Appts: 15 Extension Wisconsin Conference (LTFT); 17 Pierre First (Pastor of Discipleship); 19 Hartford. BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.
	LABOUNTY, VALERIE HUMMEL - FE. Commissioned & PM 17, Elder & FM 21. Appts: 17 Pierre Southeast; 19 Montrose. BA DWU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	LAFHEY, AMBER - PD. Licensed 20; Deacon & PM 23. Appts: 1/1/20 Stickney (1/2) Interim; 20 Flandreau; 22 No Appointment; 8/15/22 Alexandria (1/4); 23 Alexandria (1/2); 25 Extension Faculty Mentor, Kairos University (1/4). BA Bellevue University; MDiv Kairos University.
	LARSON, KRIS - RL. Licensed 97. Appts: 96-97 Iroquois Parish; 00 Iroquois; 01 Iroquois/ Esmond/ Carpenter; 10 Iroquois/ Esmond/ Doland; 16 Iroquois/ Esmond/ DeSmet; 20 Retired; 20 Lake Preston (1/2). Course of Study Saint Paul.
	LATHROP, JEFF - FE. Licensed 12; Commissioned & PM 19; Elder & FM 22. Appts: 8/1/12 Plankinton/ White Lake; 16 Huron First Associate; 18 Grand Forks Wesley; 22 Pierre First. BA Jamestown College; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	LAUDERMITH, IVA - RE. Deacon & PM 98. Elder & FM 01. Appts: 95 School; 97 Kansas East; 98 School; 99 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chaseley; 04 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 07 White River/ Mission; 10 Milbank Parkview/ Big Stone; 12 Parker/ Hurley; 17 Retired. BS USD; MDiv Saint Paul.

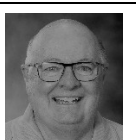
	LAVERY, THOMAS - RE. Deacon & PM 95 (West Ohio); Elder & FM 97 (West Ohio). Appts: 95 Todd/ Mellette Larger Parish; 98 Transfer to Dakotas Conf; 99 Bottineau United; 08 Extension Greater New Jersey Conf; 13 Retired. BS Texas Tech; MS Air Force Institute; MDiv United, Dayton.
	LEHRKAMP, KORI ANN - FE. Licensed 8/1/11; Commissioned & PM 14; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 11 Highmore/ Harold/ Blunt; 16 Edgemont/ Pringle and Extension Box Elder The Bridge (new churchstart); 8/1/17 Extension Box Elder The Bridge (new church start); 18 The Bridge (1/2); 2/1/19 Extension Rapid City Regional Hospital (1/2); 19 Prairie View; 23 Wahpeton Evergreen. Associate Degree Huron Univ; BS SDSU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	LINT, MARY-LEE - RE. Deacon & PM 89; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 89 School; 90 New Salem/ Wilton PC; 98 Onida/ Agar; 03 Olivet/ Scotland; 06 Wagner/ Tyndall; 08 Howard; 15 Retired. BME Westminster Choir College; MSM Northwestern/ Garrett; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	LINT, PAUL - FE. Commissioned & PM 04; Elder & FM 07. Appts: 03 McCook Lake; 06 Plankinton/ White Lake; 10 Vermillion/ USD Campus; 12 Hettinger; 5/10/16 Extension Wesley Acres Camp Co- Director; 1/1/22 – 6/30/22 Valley City Epworth Interim; 22 Extension Wesley Acres Camp Co-Director; 24 Spearfish. BA UND; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	LINT, PHILLIP - RE. Deacon & PM 66; Elder & FM 69. Appts: 66 School; 68Velva/ Granville UCC/ Deering UCC; 71 Bismarck McCabe; 75 Center-Special Ministries to Impacted Communities; 77 Edgeley; 78 Edgeley/ Kulm; 79 Edgeley/ Nortonville; 12/80 Oakes/ Cogswell; 85 Washburn/ Riverdale Community; 90 Washburn/ Center; 98 Southeast Pierre/ Blunt; 01 Highmore/ Harrold/ Blunt; 03 Wagner/ Tyndall; 06 Retired; 07-08 Winner. BS Jamestown; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical; DMin McCormick.
	LUFT, LISA – PL. Licensed 25. Appts: 4/1/25 Extension Minot Area Regional Care Coordinator (1/2); 25 Extension Minot Area Regional Care Coordinator (1/4) & Velva (1/4). BS Minot State University; MS University of Phoenix.
	LOUKS, JORDAN - FE. Commissioned & PM 18; Elder & FM 22. Appts: 18 Alexandria/ Ethan; 8/1/20 Ethan (1/2); 21 Sioux Falls First Associate; 25 Fargo Faith. BS BHSU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	LUNDBERG, CLAY - FE. PL Licensed; Commissioned & PM 13; Elder & FM 16. Appts: 12 Brookings (LTFT); 13 Brookings (Associate); 15 Burke/ Herrick/ Jamison, NE; 17 Burke/ Herrick; 20 Canton; 25 Grand Forks Zion. BA Univ of Sioux Falls; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	LUTZ, RICHARD - RE. PM 60; Elder & FM 65. Appts: 65 Tuttle/ Robinson; 68 Fargo Edgewood; 73 Veterans Administration Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK; 03 Retired. BA Westmar; BD Evangelical.
	MACK, DAVID E - RE. Deacon & PM 69; Elder & FM 71. Appts: 67 Lane; 69 Yates Center, KS; 70 Toronto/ Turkey Creek, KS; 71 Presho/ Vivian; Oct 73 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 75 Tulare/ Tulare UCC; 78 Alexandria/ Fulton; 80 Parker/ Hurley; 86 Transfer to ND Conf; 86 Grand Forks Zion; 91 Eastern District Superintendent (ND Conf); 94 Northeast District Superintendent; 96 Pierre First; 00 Retired; 01-06 Arkansas Conference; 06-14 Bland Chapel UMC. BA DWU; MDiv Saint Paul.
	MACK, DEBORAH A - RE. Deacon & PM 88; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 87 Garretson & School; 89 Alexandria/ Fulton; 92 Gayville/ Volin/ Yankton; 99 Selby/ Mobridge; 05 Rapid City South Maple; 07 Tulare United; 09 Britton; 11 Retired; 16-17 Britton/ Claremont/ Hecla (3/4). BS Northern State; MDiv North American Baptist.
	MADDOX, RANDY - RE. Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 87; FM 89. Appts: 87 Sioux Falls College; 98 Seattle Pacific University; 05 Duke Divinity School; 18 Retired. BA Northwest Nazarene College; MDiv Nazarene; PhD Emory.

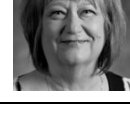
	MANNING, NANCY - RE. Commissioned & PM 07; Elder & FM 10. Appts: 06 Brothersfield; 07 Parker/ Hurley; 09 Claremont/ Hecla; 11 Britton/ Claremont/ Hecla; 4/1/14 Salem United UMC, PC- USA/ Montrose; 16 Montrose; 17 Retired; 17-18 Montrose (3/4). BA Univ of Sioux Falls; MDiv North American Baptist.
	MATTHEWS, SHELLEY - FE. Deacon & PM 87; Elder & FM 89. Appts: 87 Larimore/ Arvilla Presb/ Emerado Presb; 90 School; 97 Tufts University; 98 Furman University; 8/1/11 Brite Divinity School. BA UND; MDiv Boston; ThD Harvard.
	MAYER, RICHARD M - RE. Elder & PM (Orders recognized) 92; FM 94. Appts: 92 Sioux Falls College; 02 Retired. BA/BTh Aurora University; MDiv Garrett; PhD Northwestern.
	McCASKELL, SHARLA - FL. Licensed 04. Appts: 04 Rapid City First; 11 Rapid City Knollwood Heights. BS Northern State; Course of Study completed Saint Paul.
	MCDONALD, JENNIFER - FE. Licensed 18; Commissioned & PM 19; Elder & FM 22. Appts: 18 Minot Vincent; 20 Jamestown St Paul. BA Earlham College; MA Prescott College; MDiv Asbury.
	McKEEHAN, FRANK J - RE. Deacon & PM 92; Elder & FM 95. Appts: 89 Southern Pacific Conf (La Mirada UMC); 91 Missouri East Conf (Jonesburg/ Pendleton/ Zion UMC); 93 Transferred to Dakotas Conf; 93 Pembina/ Joliette/ Humboldt; 96 Sturgis; 02 Dell Rapids; 10 Clear Lake/ Gary; 18 Retired; 18 Clear Lake/ Gary (3/4); 19-20 Clear Lake/ Gary (1/4). BS Truman State, MDiv Saint Paul.
	McKIRDY, SCOTT D - FE. Deacon & PM 89; Elder & FM 92. Appts: 89 School; 90 Wessington Springs/ Lane; 95 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 00 Dickinson; 11 Spearfish; 22 Rapid City Canyon Lake. BA Jamestown; MDiv Iliff.
	McKNIGHT, JOHN E, JR - RE. Deacon & PM 83; Elder & FM 86. Appts: 83 School; 84 Leola/ Frederick; 87 Colton/ Chester; 91 Rapid City Knollwood Heights/ Rapid Valley; 96 Bowbells/ Donnybrook/ Kenmare; 00 Flandreau/ Egan; 06 Parker/ Hurley; 07 Rapid City South Maple; 17 Retired; 11/2/17-7/1/18 Kimball United Interim (3/4); 20 Pringle Interim (1/4). BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	McLAIRD, DONNA J - RE. Deacon 77; PM 85; Elder & FM 90. Appts: 77 Plankinton/ Mt Vernon; 77- 81 Ethan; 84 Tyndall; 85 Tyndall/ Ethan; 95 Hitchcock/ Broadland; 96 Plankinton/ Mt Vernon; 99 Colton/ Chester; 8/01/04 Retired. BA DWU; MRel Garrett-Evangelical; Boston School of Theology; MDiv San Francisco.
	McMANUS, SARA - FE. Commissioned & PM 12; Elder & FM 15. Appts: 12 Sioux Falls First; 15 West Fargo Flame of Faith; 24 Watertown First (Senior Pastor). BA Simpson College; MDiv Vanderbilt.
	MEIER, DWIGHT L - RE. Deacon & PM 63; Elder & FM 65. Appts: 62 Grace City/ Juanita/ Sutton; 65 Enderlin/ Sheldon/ Leonard; 67 Enderlin/ Sheldon; 70 Grafton Federated/ Minto Presb; 79 Fargo Calvary; 84 Grand Forks Wesley; 87 Western District Superintendent (ND Conf); 93 Fargo Friendship; 97 Northeast District Superintendent; 02 Retired; 02 Interim Assistant to the Bishop; 04- 05 Bismarck McCabe. BA Taylor; MDiv Asbury.
	MEIER, MARK W - RE. Deacon & PM 70; Elder & FM 73. Appts: 68 School; 68 Crystal/ Hensal/ Hoople; 69 School; 72 Rugby/ Bantry/ Pleasant Lake; 75 Jamestown First; 79 Transfer to Louisiana Conf; 87 Transfer to ND Conf; 87 Fargo Faith; 4/89 Chaplain, ND State Penitentiary; 3/91 Mandan Good Shepherd; 6/91 WellSpring Counseling Group, Denver, CO. 10 Retired; 10 WellSpring Counseling Group, Denver, CO. BA Taylor; MDiv Asbury; DMin McCormick.

	MEIER, MAX E - RE. Deacon & PM 55; Elder & FM 59. Appts: 53 Grassy Butte; 56 School; 59 Chaplain, US Army; 81 Mercy Hospital, Des Moines; 96 Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines; 99 Retired. BA Taylor; MDiv Garrett.
	MERSCH, PATRICIA - RE. Deacon & PM 02; Elder & FM 04. Appts: 99 Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville; 02 Burke/ Herrick/ Jamison, NE; 04 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chaseley; 05 Grand Forks Altru Chaplain; 09 Altru Chaplain (Full) & Drayton/ Pembina/ Joliette/ Humboldt (LTFT); 09 Mohall/ Sherwood Interim; 10 Mohall/ Sherwood; 14 Retired. BS USD; MDiv North American Baptist.
	MILLER, THETA - FE. Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 99. Appts: 96 School; 97 Missouri West Conf (para 337.1); 03 Family Leave, 08 Fargo United Campus Ministry; 10/1/12 Transitional Leave; 12/1/12 West Fargo Flame of Faith (LTFT); 7/1/13 Family Leave; 8/1/13 Clergy Assistant to District Superintendent; 15 Brookings First (Outreach); 3/6/19 Family Leave of Absence; 12/1/20 Extension (Clarkville, TN) (para 344.1.d); 22 Extension Kentucky Conf (Liberty UMC/ Centertown/ UMC) (para 346.1); 5/23/23 Extension Kansas Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (para 344.1.d). BA Tennessee; MDiv Saint Paul.
	MINNICH KJESBO, JORDAN – PL. Licensed 22. Appts: 8/1/21 Vermillion (1/2) as lay supply; 22 Vermillion (1/2) as LLP. Associate of Applied Science, Institute for Production and Recording; MA (Bible and Theology) Sioux Falls Seminary.
	MOORE, CHARLES - FL. Licensed 15. Appts: 8/1/15 Madison (3/4); 17 Sioux Falls Sunnycrest. MDiv Kairos University.
	MOORLACH, ROBERT - FE. Transfer from Minnesota Conf 21. Appts: 21 Oakes UMC/ Oakes PCUSA; 23 Groton/ Conde.
	MORRISON, MATTHEW - FE. Licensed 13; Commissioned & PM 20; Elder & FM 23. Appts: 13 Embrace (LTFT); 15 Mitchell Fusion; 17 Sioux Falls Asbury (Associate). BS USD; MM Univ. of Northern Colorado.
	MOTTA, DAVID F - RE. Deacon & PM 83; Elder & FM 86. Appts: 83 School; 84 Stickney; 91 Aberdeen First; 96 Fargo Calvary; 21 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Trinity.
	MUTHIAH, LIONEL P A - RE. Deacon & PM 65 (Tennessee); Elder & FM 67. Appts: 66 Transfer to ND Conf; 66 Hope/ Finley/ Page; 68 Medan, Sumatra; 72 Sibul, Sarawak; 77 Transfer to SD Conf; 77 Clark/ Garden City; 79 Extension General Board of Global Ministries; 9/80 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 82 Transfer to ND Conf; 82 New Rockford/ Cathay/ Sheyenne; 86 Linton; 91 Cavalier Trinity/ Hamilton; 92 Retired. BS George Peabody; MDiv Vanderbilt.
	MUTZENBERGER, KRIS - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 03 Britton (LTFT); 04 Britton; 9/1/05 Britton (LTFT); 09 Madison (LTFT); 11 Madison; 13 Sioux Falls Sunnycrest (3/4); 14 Sioux Falls Sunnycrest; 17 Fargo First; 20 Northeast District Superintendent. BA DWU; MDiv United of Dayton.
	MUTZENBERGER, RYAN - FE. Commissioned & PM 03; Elder & FM 06. Appts: 03 Claremont/ Hecla; 09 Madison; 13 Sioux Falls Sunnycrest; 17 Fargo First (Lead Pastor). BA DWU; MDiv United of Dayton.
	NELSON, CLIFFORD A - RE. Deacon & PM 77; Elder & FM 81. Appts: 77 School; 79 Fairmount/ Bethany/ Rosholt; 1/83 West Fargo; 87 Minot Faith/ Des Lacs; 99 Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville; 03 Grand Forks Zion; 09 Chaplain Trinity Hospital, Minot; 17 Retired; 6/1/20 Extension Minnesota Conf. (Cedar UMC, Ham Lake) (1/2). BS UND; MDiv Asbury.

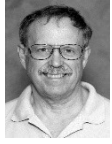
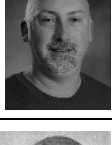
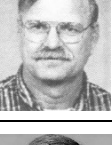
	NELSON, KEITH F - FE. Deacon & PM 85; Elder & FM 88. Appts: 85 School; 86 Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove, IL; 89 Onida/ Agar; 93 Devils Lake; 02 Sturgis; 08 Brandon; 10 Sakakawea District Superintendent; 16 Mitchell First. BA U of Sioux Falls; MDiv Northern Baptist Theological.
	NELSON, MORRIS E - RE. Deacon & PM 87; Elder & FM 90. Appts: 87 Brothersfield & School; 88 Gregory Larger Parish (Gregory-Iona); 92 Flandreau/ Egan; 00 Murdo/ Draper; 03 Hot Springs Federated; 11 Retired; 14-15 Prairie View (LTFT). BS USD; MDiv North American Baptist.
	NELSON, SARA - FE. Commissioned & PE 10; Elder & FM 13. Appts: 06 Brothersfield & School; 10 Watertown First (Associate); 14 Watertown First (Sr Pastor); 20 Sioux Falls First (Sr Pastor). BA University of Sioux Falls; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	NYGAARD, JULIE S - RE. Licensed to preach 94; Deacon & PM 96; Elder & FM 98. Appts: 94 Valley City Epworth/ Salem; Summer of 95 Valley City/ Salem; 96 New Rockford/ Grace City; 01 Webster/ Bristol; 05 Cresbard/ Rockham/ Miranda; 06 Cresbard/ Rockham; 09 Cresbard/ Tolstoy; 16 Retired. AA Jackson Community College; BA Spring Arbor; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	NYMANN, CHERYL - FL. Licensed 22. Appt: 22 Murdo/ Draper/ White River. BA University of Minnesota.
	OATES, MURIEL - RA. FL 95. AM 00. Appts: 95 Faith; 03 Retired. BS Black Hills State; MA SDSU.
	O'CONNELL, SUSAN - RE. Commissioned & PM 02; Elder & FM 05. Appts: 10/16/00 Sioux Falls Hilltop; 01 Sioux Falls Hilltop (LTFT) & Ben Clare/ Rowena (LTFT); 02 Geddes/ Delmont; 06 Gettysburg/ Onida/ Agar; 09 Flandreau/ Egan; 13 Retired. BA Western Michigan; MDiv North American Baptist.
	OLSON, RON - RE. Commissioned & PM 11; Elder & FM 14. Appts: 11 Bowman; 18 Montrose (3/4); 19 Hurley (3/4); 1/2/23 Hurley (3/4) & supervising Viborg; 23 Hurley/ Parker (3/4); 25 Retired; 25 Hurley/ Parker (1/2). MDiv Asbury.
	OSTERLOH, JENNIFER "JEN" T. - FE. Commissioned & PM 12; Elder & FM 15. Appts: 12 Clark/ Garden City; 14 Wahpeton Evergreen; 20 Watertown First, Senior Pastor; 24 Extension Conference Office, Regional Strategist; 1/1/25 Brookings First. BA Simpson College; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	PATRICK, JAMES D - RE. Transfer from Illinois Great Rivers Conf 9/16/00. Appts: 00 Rapid City Knollwood Heights/ Rapid Valley; 08 Retired. BS Texas Wesleyan; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	PEASE, EDWARD - RE. Trial & Deacon 68; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 68 School; 74 Psychiatry Resident, Independence, IA; 77 U of Nebraska College of Medicine; 80 Psychologies U of Nebraska Hosp, Omaha; 86 Physician & Psychiatrist, Omaha VA Hosp; 06 Retired.
	PEDERSON, KENRAD - RE. Deacon & PM 75; Elder & FM 78. Appts: 75 School; 77 Pembina/ Joliette/ Humboldt; 82 Arthur/ Hunter/ Erie; 84 Bismarck First; 85 Turtle Lake/ Underwood; 91 Bowbells/ Donnybrook/ Kenmare; 96 Hartford; 06 Jamestown First; 13 Eureka; 15 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Wesley.
	PEIRCE, RUSSELL M - RE. Trial 51; Deacon 53; FM 54; Elder 55. Appts: 51 School; 52 Student Supply Laird, CO; 54 Northville/ Mellette; 57 Wall/ Wasta; 62 Hot Springs; 64 Plankinton; 67 Gettysburg; 71 Gettysburg/ Tolstoy; 73 Rapid City South Maple; 78 Philip/ Philip UP/ Interior UP; 86 Clear Lake/ Gary; 90 Scotland/ Tripp; 94 Retired. BA DWU; ThM Iliff.

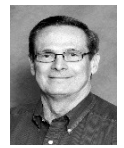
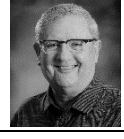
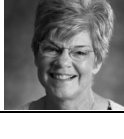
	PERRY, E. STEPHEN - RE. Deacon & PM 81; Elder & FM 83. Appts: 81 Wessington Springs/ Lane; 86 Milbank Parkview; 91 Vermillion; 99 Sabbatical Leave; 00 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 05 Redfield/ Ashton; 10 Redfield/ Frankfort; 14 Retired. BA Northwestern Univ; PhD Univ of Cambridge; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	PERSON, TERESA - FE. Licensed 20; Commissioned & PM 22; Elder & FM 25. Appt: 20 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 24 Huron Riverview. BME SDSU; MDiv Kairos University.
	PETERSEN, CALVIN L - RE. Deacon & PM 60; Elder & FM 61. Appts: 63 Transferred to SD CROP; 67 Director, Lake Poinsett Camp; 69 School; 74 Deadwood; 1/79 Leave of Absence; 79 Vermillion; 91 Sioux Falls Wesley; 94 Beresford Zion; 98 Retired. BA Bethel; MA USIU; MDiv Southern Baptist.
	PHILLIPS, MARK P - RE Deacon & PM 85; Elder & FM 88. Appts: 82 Rum Creek UMC (OH); 85 School; 86 Aberdeen First; 91 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg; 95 Mandan Good Shepherd/ Mandan Rural; 97 Mandan First/ Mandan Good Shepherd/ Mandan Rural; 99 Mandan/ Mandan Rural; 03 Mandan; 04 Milbank Central; 12 Lead-Deadwood Trinity; 17 Murdo/ Draper; 22 Retired. BA Westmar; MALA/MDiv Methodist Theological School in Ohio.
	PHILLIPS, RANDALL E - RE. Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 96; FM 99. Appts: 94 McLaughlin; 95 Cando/ Starkweather/ Egeland; 00 Minot Faith/ Des Lacs; 9/02 School (CPE); 03 Erie, PA; 8/1/05 – 12/26/22 Mayo Clinic Hospital, Rochester, MN (para 344.1b); 1/4/23 Retired. BA Anderson; MA Nebraska; MDiv Princeton.
	PITTENGER, RICHARD D, JR - RE. Deacon & PM 83; Elder & FM 86. Appts: 81 School; 83 Potter, NE; 83 Transfer from Nebraska Conf; 84 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 88 Harrisburg; 94 Minot Vincent; 00 Fargo Faith; 4/06 Leave of Absence; 4/08 Avera Sacred Heart (LTFT); 3/09 Avera Sacred Heart (FT); 11 Vermillion & Gayville-Volin; 16 Milnor/ Wyndmere/ Sheldon (3/4); 21 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	PLUEDDEMAN, PAUL – FL. Licensed 25. Appt.: 25 Hettinger. Licensing School 2024.
	PROUTY-COLE, SANDEE - PD. Commissioned as Deacon & PM 22. Appt: 22 Watertown First (3/4); 12/20/22 Transitional Leave; 8/15/23 Attend School & The Sanctuary; 5/12/25 Transitional Leave; 25 Extension Avera @ Home, Milbank. BS SDSU; BGTS & Spiritual Formation Certificate Garrett-Evangelical.
	RAE, GARY W - RE. Deacon & PM 71; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 73 Rockham/ Miranda; 77 Belle Fourche/ Harding; 83 Faulkton/ Seneca; 93 Winner; 94 Sioux Falls Hilltop; 03 Harrisburg; 11 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	RAGELS, TARYN – PE. Commissioned & PM 25. Appt: 20 Mitchell Fusion (3/4); 10/15/23 Mitchell Fusion (3/4) & Extension DWU Campus Ministry (1/4); 1/1/25 Mitchell Fusion (1/2) & Extension DWU Campus Ministry (12). BA SDSU; MDiv Indiana Wesleyan University.
	REICH, ELDON H - RE. Deacon & PM 69; Elder & FM 71. Appts: 71 Onida/ Agar; 75 Watertown 9th Ave/ Kellerton; 78 Watertown Ninth Ave; 86 Aberdeen First; 14 Retired; 20-22 Doland Ministry Team Leader (1/4). BA Westmar; MDiv Asbury.
	RHODES, WARREN A - RE. Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 85; FM 87. Appts: 84 Mohall/ Sherwood/ Lansford/ Maxbass; 88 Park River Federated/ Fordville Presbyterian; 99 Clark/ Garden City; 10 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chaseley; 16 Retired; 16 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chaseley (3/4); 1/1/24 McClusky/ Goodrich/ Chaseley (1/2); 24 Goodrich/ Chaseley (1/2). BS Dickinson; MDiv Bangor.

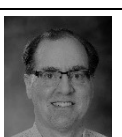
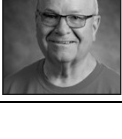
	RICHARDS, LEISA - FE. Deacon & PM 91; Elder & FM 93. Appts: 93 Hitchcock/ Broadland; 99 Vermillion; 7/1/01 Transfer from Yellowstone Conf; 01 Dakota Plains Legal Services; 03 Dakota Plains Legal Services & Hebron UMC; 05 Legal Director Resources, Inc Albuquerque, NM; Leisa Richards Law, PC, Albuquerque, NM; 6/1/22 Extension 344.1.d) East River Legal Services, Aberdeen, SD. BA Carleton; JD USD; MDiv Harvard.
	RICHARDS, MATTHEW - FE. FL 07; Commissioned & PM 08; Elder & FM 12. Appts: 03 Artesian/ Roswell; 07 White/ Aurora/ Sterling/ SDSU Campus Ministry; 10 Groton/ Conde; 15 Miller; 1/30/18 Medical Leave; 2/15/20 Extension Avera Home Chaplain, Mitchell Congregational UCC. BS DWU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	RICHARDS, SHEILA B - RE. LP 91; Deacon & PM 95; Elder & FM 98. Appts: 91 Eureka; 92 Aberdeen North Highland/ Church of All Nations; 94 Aberdeen North Highland; 00 Southeast District Superintendent. 06 Retired. BS Northern State; MDiv North American Baptist.
	RICKE, KATIE - FE. Commissioned & PM 14; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 14 Mitchell First; 16 Beresford Zion; 20 Yankton First. BA U of Sioux Falls; MA Gordon-Conwell; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	RINEARSON, RICHARD - RE. PM 78; FM 81. Appts: 80 Todd/ Mellette; 83 Iona; 84 School; 87 Columbia Pastoral Counseling Center, Vancouver, WA; 1/14/90 Miller/ Greenleaf; 93 Hands Together; 5/15/94 Leave of Absence; 95 Huron First; 98 School; 08 Glenfair Evangelical Church of America, Portland; 10 Transfer to Indiana Conf; 14 Dickinson; 16 Transfer to the Dakotas Conf same appointment, Dickinson; 19 Retired. BA Augustana; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical; DMin Chicago.
	ROOZEN, PETER KIP - FE. Deacon & PM 83; Elder & FM 87. Appts: 83 Kennebec/ Presho/ Reliance; 84 School; 85 Doland/ Frankfort; 90 Clear Lake/ Gary; 95 Spearfish; 07 Sioux Falls Asbury. BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	RUEDEBUSCH, ROBERT B - RE. Deacon & PM 80; Elder & FM 83. Appts: 80 School; 82 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 89 Canton; 92 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 09 Prairie Hills District Superintendent; 12 Sioux Falls First; 20 Southwest District Superintendent; 22 Retired; 1/7/23-11/30/23 Rapid City First Interim. BME DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	SALMONSON, ROBERT - FE. Licensed 11; Commissioned & PM 13; Elder & FM 17. Appts: 08 Student & Deer Park Grace, MO; 11 Mt Vernon; 13 Flandreau/ Egan; 15 Flandreau/ Supervising Egan; 16 Alexandria/ Ethan; 12/10/17 Leave of Absence; 19 Holmes/ Sharon Lutheran/ Beaver Creek Lutheran; 22 Clark/ Garden City; 8/16/23 Clark; 25 Canton. BA DWU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	SAMUEL, SUNANDKUMAR D - RE. Deacon & PM 85; Elder & FM 87. Appts: 85 Mellette/ Mansfield PC/ Brentford UCC; 88 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 91 Colton/ Chester; 99 Salem United UMC/PC-USA/ Montrose; 04 Clear Lake/ Gary; 10 Beresford Zion; 13 Retired. BA Karnataka University; MDiv North American Baptist.
	SAMUELSON, RYDEL - FL. Licensed 23. Appt: 23 Wagner/ Tyndall. BA Valley City State; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	SAPP, MARLIN - RL. Licensed 07. Appts: 07 Stickney; 13 Mt Vernon/ Stickney; 14 Linton/ Sterling; 23 Retired; 23 Linton/ Sterling (3/4). NDSCS, Course of Study Garrett-Evangelical.
	SAYLER, GLEN E -RE. Licensed to Preach 90; Elder (Orders recognized) & PM 92; FM 95. Appts: 90 Marion/ Dickey; 92 Marion/ Dickey/ Jud; 94 Hazen/ Beulah; 98 Medical Leave; 22 Retired. BA Northwest Bible; MDiv Church of God.

	SAYLER, JUDY - PL. Licensed 14. Appts: 14 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg (LTFT); 16 Wakonda/ Irene (3/4).
	SCANSON, ARTHUR H - RE. Deacon & PM 67; Elder & FM 70. Appts: 63 Douglas/ Banner/ Makoti; 65 Lansford/ Maxbass/ Grenora; 67 School; 69 Bowman/ Mound UP; 75 Minot Vincent; 81 Dickinson; 86 Bismarck McCabe; 90 Central District Superintendent (ND Conf); 94 Northwest District Superintendent; 98 Bismarck McCabe; 10 Retired. BS Minot State; MDiv Asbury.
	SCHOMBERG, JOHN – FL. Licensed 22. Appt: 22 Beresford Zion. BA Bemidji State University.
	SCHOTT, WALTER J - RE. PM 54; Elder & FM 60. Appts: 56 School; 60 Lidgerwood EUB Spokane; 61 Holmes/ Pleasant View; 66 Mandan Good Shepherd/ Center; 75 Mandan Good Shepherd; 85 Leave of Absence; 86 Mandan Rural; 95 Retired. BA Cascade; MDiv Western Evangelical.
	SCHWENN, DEVERN E - RE. Deacon & PM 65; Elder & FM 67. Appts: 60 School; 64 Hettinger/ Bethany/ Lemmon, SD; 72 Enderlin/ Sheldon; 75 Bismarck First; 83 Transferred to SD Conf; 6/15/83 Milbank Central; 89 Rapid City First; 95 Jamestown Saint Paul; 00 Retired. BA Asbury; MDiv Asbury; DMin North American Baptist.
	SEMRAD, JEANNE GAARD - RE. Deacon & PM 86; Elder & FM 90. Appts: 86 Garretson; 87 School; 11/15/87 Hazel/ Henry/ Kellerton and Big Stone City/ Revillo; 90 Hazel/ Henry/ Kellerton and Big Stone City; 91 Milbank Parkview and Big Stone City; 98 Madison; 4/1/01 Incapacity Leave. 10 Retired. BA SDSU; MEd SDSU; MDiv North American Baptist.
	SHELDON, MARY ANN - RE. Elder (Orders recognized NACCC) & PM 96; FM 98. Appts: 96 Ellendale-Guelph; 9/1/02 Minot Faith/ Des Lacs, 08 Miller/ Greenleaf; 12 Retired. BS Northern State; MDiv Andover Newton; DMin Wesley Theological Seminary.
	SHLANTA PEASLEY, GAIL L - RE. Deacon & PM 86; Elder & FM 89. Appts: 86 Sioux Falls Asbury; 92 Leave of Absence; 93 Family Leave; 97 Retired. BA Carleton; MDiv North American Baptist.
	SHERMAN, LAURA – PE. Commissioned & PM 25. Appt: 25 Dell Rapids. BA USF; MDiv Duke University.
	SIMMONS, ROBERT L - RE. Deacon & PM 64; Elder & FM 66 (IA). Appts: 2/66 Pierre/ Blunt; 70 Howard/ Roswell; 73 Transferred to IA Conf; 82 Transferred to SD Conf; 82 Custer State Hospital; 87 Gettysburg; 6/15/91 AK Missionary Conf (para 426.1); 95 Arthur/ Casselton/ Hunter; 97 Gregory/ Iona. 04 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Boston School of Theology.
	SLOTT, MICHELE - FE. Licensed 18, Commissioned & PM 21; Elder & FM 24. Appts: 8/1/18 Rapid City First; 20 Rapid City First (3/4) & Rapid City Open Heart (1/4); 22 Rapid City Open Heart. BS SDSU; MDiv Kairos University.
	SORENSEN, RAENELLE - RL. Licensed 08. Appts: 08 Larimore Yoked Parish (3/4); 18 Retired; 18 Larimore Yoked Parish (3/4); 10/1/2020 Larimore/ Arvilla (1/2).

	SORTLAND, JEANNE - FE. Licensed 15; Commissioned & PM 19; Elder & FM 22. Appt: 18 Wimbledon/ Kensal (1/2).
	SPAHR, RANDALL G - RE. Deacon & PM 80; Elder & FM 83. Appts: 80 School; 82 Geddes; 86 Parker/ Hurley; 93 Wahpeton Evergreen; 06 Extension Hospice of Red River Valley; 20 Retired. BS SDSU; MDiv Asbury.
	SPURRELL, MARILYN - RE. Deacon & PM 74; Elder & FM 79. Appts: 74 School; 77 Plymouth Pk, TX; 78 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 83 Piedmont; 88 Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas; 95 Sioux Falls First; 97 Brookings; 01 Madison; 09 Three Rivers Superintendent; 10 Eastern Sunrise Superintendent (District name change); 8/1/13 Eastern Sunrise Co-Superintendent/ Fargo First; 15 Fargo First; 3/1/17 Retired; 2/1/22 – 6/30/22 Faulkton Interim; 1/15/24 – 6/30/24 White/ Sterling (1/4) Interim. BS SDSU; MTh Perkins; DMin Garrett-Evangelical.
	STANGOHR, DIANE – PL. Licensed 22. Appts: 7/1/22 Howard Beach as CLM; 12/1/22 Howard Beach as LLP. LPN SE Area VoTech.
	STEIN, K JAMES - RE. PM 51; Elder & FM 56. Appts: 52 Kidder; 53 Casselton/ Chaffee; 53 School; 56 Patterson Christ, NJ; 60 Professor Evangelical Theological Seminary; 72 Dean ETS; 73 President ETS; 74 Dean Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; 77 Professor GETS; 95 Retired. BA Westmar; BD Evangelical; STM Union in New York; PhD Union; DD Westmar.
	STOLL, SHAWN – OL. Licensed 23. Appt: 22 Faulkton as lay supply; 23 Faulkton as LLP; 25 Local Pastors on Loan (Status OL ¶ 318.4) to MN Conference (Faribault Fourth Avenue UMC (3/4) and Hope UMC (1/4). MA Trinity Bible College.
	STOLP, GERALD A - RE. LP 88; Deacon & PM 90; Elder & FM 94. Appts: 88 Brothersfield; 89 Sioux Falls Hilltop & School; 92 Ben Clare/ Rowena/ Sioux Falls Hilltop; 96 Arlington/ Lake Preston; 04 Aberdeen First; 05 Salem United UMC, PC-USA/ Montrose; 13 Retired. BA U of Sioux Falls; MDiv North American Baptist.
	SYKES, RICHARD - RE. Deacon & PM 71; Elder & FM 74. Appts: 94 Transferred from Nebraska Conf; 94 Wimbledon/ Kensal; 98 Murdo/ Draper; 1/15/00 Leave of Absence; 00 Retired. BA Rutgers; MDiv Eastern Baptist.
	THOMPSON, JANICE - FE. Licensed 15; Commissioned & PM 17; Elder & FM 24. Appts: 15 Howard Beach; 20 Beresford Zion; 22 Flandreau; 25 Transitional Leave. BS SDSU; MS SDSU; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	THRALL, CORY – FL Licensed 14. Appts: 14 Bismarck Legacy (Washburn/ Center/ Turtle Lake); 16 Bismarck Legacy (Washburn/ Center/ Turtle Lake and Hazen/ Beulah); 7/1/21-8/31/21 No Appointment; 9/1/21 Washburn/ Center (1/4); 10/1/21 Washburn/ Center (1/4) & Extension Bismarck Mission (new church start) (1/2); 6/1/22 Extension Bismarck Mission (new church start) (1/2); 8/1/22 Extension Bismarck Mission (new church start) (1/2) & Bismarck Legacy (1/4); 24 Bismarck Legacy (Senior Pastor). BS Ministry Central College.
	TIESZEN, WAYNE L - RE. Deacon & PM 75; Elder & FM 79 (Nebraska Conf). Appts: 84 Transferred to SD Conf; 84 Murdo/ Draper; 88 Groton/ Columbia UCC; 90 Kimball/ Kimball PC/ Kimball ELCA; 94 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 10/1/99 Claremont/ Hecla; 03 Retired. BA Huron College; MDiv Iliff.
	TKACH, ROD - RE. Deacon & PM 81; Elder & FM 86. Appts: 81 Salem/ Dazey/ Leal; 82 School; 83 Elgin/ Zoar/ Ebenezer; 86 Bowman; 93 School; 98 Washburn/ Center; 01 Grand Forks Wesley; 03 Williston/ Grenora; 12/18/05 Williston; 12 Sabbatical; 13 Personal Leave; 14 Extension Holston Conf.; 4/1/21 Transitional Leave; 21 Retired. BS Jamestown; MDiv Asbury; PhD Southern.

	TOEPKE-FLOYD, MARTIN C - FE. Deacon & PM 91; Elder & FM 93. Appts: 87 Ione, CA; 90 Cleveland/ Medina; 91 Linton; 92 Linton/ Sterling/ Moffit; 93 Wishek Nursing Home; 01 Wishek; 08 Napoleon/ Wishek/ Lehr; 12 Napoleon/ Lehr; 14 Redfield/ Frankfort; 20 Jamestown First. BS Univ of Redlands; MDiv Pacific School of Religion.
	TOWLER, JAMES G - RE. Trial & Deacon 51 (MN Conf); Elder & FM 55. Appts: 64 Transferred to ND Conf, Fargo First; 68 Bowbells/ Coteau/ Kenmare; 71 Arthur/ Hunter/ Erie; 76 Langdon/ Hannah; 82 Transferred to SD Conf, Miller/ Greenleaf; 87 Timber Lake/ Timber Lake ALC (ELCA)/ Isabel UCC/ Timber Lake ABC; 92 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 94 Retired. BA Mankato State; MDiv Drew; DMin.
	TRAPP, DEAN A - RE. Deacon & PM 85; Elder & FM 88. Appts: 85 School; 86 Conde/ Andover; 90 Groton/ Columbia UCC; 95 Groton/ Conde; 96 Yankton/ Gayville-Volin; 05 Yankton; 10 Sioux Falls Sunnycrest; 13 Huron Riverview/ Virgil and supervising Carpenter; 9/1/19 Voluntary Leave of Absence; 23 Retired. BA Westmar; MDiv Saint Paul.
	TRENT, JUSTIN – FL. Licensed 24. Appts: 7/15/23 Wall/ Wasta as CLM; 24 Wall/ Wasta as LLP.
	TREFZ, REBECCA - FE. Commissioned & PM 05; Elder & FM 08. Appts: 05 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 10 Brandon Celebration; 14 Director of Ministries; 9/19 interim Southwest District Superintendent and Director of Ministries; 20 Southeast District Superintendent and Director of Ministries; 24 Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications & Supervising Alpena/ Virgil. BA Simpson; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	TREFZ, STEVE - FE. Commissioned & PM 05; Elder & FM 08. Appts: 05 Piedmont; 08 Family Leave; 14 Conf Equipper of Lay Servant Ministries (LTFT); 5/1/16 Extension DWU & Sioux Falls Seminary; 17 Mitchell Fusion (1/4)/ Extension Garrett-Evangelical (1/4)/ Extension Sioux Falls Seminary (1/2); 20 Extension Sioux Falls Seminary (now Kairos University). BS SDSU; MDiv & DMin Garrett-Evangelical.
	TURNER, MARK - RL. Licensed 06. Appts: 06 Burke/ Herrick/ Jamison, NE; 15 Marion/Dickey/ Jud; 22 Retired; 22 Bowbells/ Kenmare Renew/ Sherwood (1/2). BA Iowa State; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	UDEHN, KATHLEEN ‘KIPPY’ - RL. Licensed 16. Appts: 9/1/15 DeSmet; 8/1/16 Hitchcock; 7/7/17 no appointment; 9/1/17-7/1/22 Highmore/ Harrold/ Blunt (3/4), 11/19/23 Retired.
	VANDERLIP, DON - PL. Licensed 16. Appts: 8/1/16 Flandreau (3/4); 17 Sioux Falls Southern Hills / Flandreau (3/4). BA USF; MDiv Sioux Falls Seminary.
	VAN ESSEN, ALBARTUS “BERT” L - RE. Deacon & PM 74; Elder & FM 77. Appts: 74 School; 76 Murdo/ Draper; 82 Beresford/ Zion; 88 Winner; 93 Gettysburg; 03 Medical Leave; 09 Parker/ Hurley; 12 Sabbatical; 10/1/12 Retired. BS Westmar; MDiv Iliff.
	VAN METER, WILLIAM ERIC - FE. FE Transfer from Arkansas Conf 16. Appt: 16 Extension Ministries/ Chaplain DWU; 1/7/23 Transitional Leave; 6/1/23 Extension 344.1a) Dakotas Conference Office (3/4); 23 Extension Dakotas Conference Office/ Conference Online Faith Community (new church start) (1/2) & Sioux Falls Wesley (1/2); 1/1/24 Extension Kentucky Conference, Loucon Camp Director.
	VETTER, BRANDON - FE. Commissioned & PM 05; Elder & FM 09. Appts: 05 School; 06 DWU Campus Ministry; 14 Mitchell Fusion; 15 Bismarck Legacy (Associate); 16 Bismarck Legacy (Sr Pastor); 24 Southeast District Superintendent. BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.

	VOELTZ, TRAVIS - FL. Licensed 19. Appts: 18 Ashley/ Edgeley/ Lehr (Luke 10 Team) as SY; 19 Edgeley (Luke 10 Team) (1/4) as LLP; 21 Edgeley (1/4); 3/1/22 Edgeley (1/4) & Jamestown First (3/4); 23 Jamestown First (Pastor of Discipleship).
	VONDERGEEST, CRAIG - FE. LP 92; Deacon & PM 94; Elder & FM 99. Appts: 92 Williston/ Grenora/ Bainville; 93 School; 00 Alexandria/ Ethan/ Fulton; 03 Grand Forks Wesley; 05 Extension Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC; 11/1/17 Extension Presbyterian College and Lupo Memorial (1/2), Clinton, SC. BA Concordia; MDiv Princeton; PhD Union.
	VORE, JEFF - RL. Licensed 11. Appts: 11 McCook Lake ARK UMC (LTFT); 14 North Sioux City Ark (1/2); 18 North Sioux City Ark (1/4); 11/1/19 Retired; 8/1/21 Gayville-Volin (1/4). BS Ohio State.
	VORLAGE, TIMOTHY - RE. Deacon & PM 99; Elder & FM 02. Appts: 98 Britton; 03 Cando/ Starkweather/ Egeland PC-USA/ Rock Lake/ Rolla; 06 Langdon; 12 Hitchcock/ Broadland; 2/1/16 Broadland (1/4); 22 Retired. AS Gavilon CC; BS Univ of NY, Regents College; MDiv United Theological Seminary.
	WAISANEN, CORI - RE. Deacon & PM 91; Elder & FM 94. Appts: 91 School; 8/1/92 Pierre Southeast-Blunt; 98 Wessington Springs; 00 School; 06 Flandreau/ Egan; 08 Linton/ Sterling/ Moffit; 12 Linton/ Sterling; 14 Retired. BA Trinity Bible College; MDiv Asbury; DMin. Asbury.
	WALTERS, GARY - FE. Commissioned & PM 00; Elder & FM 04. Appts: 00 White River/ Mission; 03 Gettysburg/ Onida/ Agar; 06 Bismarck McCabe; 10 RC Knollwood Heights/ Rapid Valley; 11 Rapid Valley; 19 Extension Kirk Funeral Home, Rapid City (para 344.1d). BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.
	WALTERS, LAURA - FD. Commissioned 00; Deacon & FM 04. Appts: 00 White River/ Mission (LTFT); 03 Gettysburg/ Onida/ Agar (LTFT); 06 Transitional Leave; 9/1/06 Bismarck McCabe (LTFT); 10 Family Leave; 1/1/15 Rapid Valley (1/4); 19 Extension New Underwood School District. BA DWU; MDiv Asbury.
	WATT, DONALD A - RE. Transfer from Arkansas Conf 04. Appts: 04 Vice President for Academic Affairs DWU; 09 Gettysburg/ Onida/ Agar; 11 Retired. BS Mount Union College; MA, PhD U of Pennsylvania; MDiv Pacific School of Religion.
	WENZEL, WARREN - RE. PM 64; Elder & FM 70. Appts: 65 School; 12/68 Williston Faith; 69 Williston First/ Grenora; 73 Mohall/ Sherwood/ Tolley; 75 Bowman; 82 Harvey/ Martin/ Chaseley; 89 Fairmount/ Bethany/ Rosholt; 01 Retired; 01-04 Linton/ Moffit/ Braddock; 20 Langdon Interim (1/4); 10/1/20 - 21 Langdon Interim (1/2). BA Westmar; MDiv Evangelical.
	WHETSEL, TERESA - PE. Licensed 13; Commissioned & PM 22. Appts: 13 Arlington/ Lake Preston/ Lake Preston UCC; 18 Miller; 24 West Fargo Flame of Faith. MDiv Kairos University.
	WHIPKEY, BARRY - RL. Licensed 04. Appts: 04 Larimore/ Arvilla PC-USA/ Emerado PC-USA; 07 Huron Riverview/ Virgil; 13 Madison; 19 Rapid City First; 23 Retired.
	WHITMER, LOU - RA. FL Licensed 07; Commissioned & AM 17. Appts: 07 Kimball/ Kimball PC- USA/ Kimball ELCA; 11 Mitchell; 13 Aberdeen North Highland; 23 Retired; 23 Bismarck McCabe (3/4).
	WICKS, BRENDA - PL. Licensed 19. Appt: 19 Carpenter (1/4); 1/1/24 Carpenter & Extension Regional Care Coordinator (1/4); 1/1/25 Regional Care Coordinator (1/4). Mitchell Technical Institute Certificate.

	WIGEN, A. JULIAN - RE. Trial & Deacon 64; Elder & FM 67. Appts: 63 School; 67 Tioga/ Columbus; 70 Enderlin/ Sheldon; 72 Transferred to SD Conf, Rapid City Knollwood Heights; 79 Milbank Parkview; 85 Redfield/ Ashton; 89 Redfield/ Ashton/ Rockham/ Miranda; 9/1/89 Rapid City Canyon Lake; 92 Executive Director UM Foundation (SD Conf); 03 Retired. PhB ND; MDiv Garrett; DMin McCormick.
	WILLPRECHT, JOSHUA - PL. Licensed 2021. Appt: 6/1/21 Brandon Celebration (1/4). BS SDSU.
	WILSON, PEARY A - RE. Deacon 67; Elder & FM 70. Appts: 70 Alexandria/ Fulton; 73 Supernumerary; 76 Canistota United Church; 84 Brookings; 87 Yankton/ Gayville-Volin; 92 Transfer to ND Conf; 92 Bismarck McCabe; 98 Southwest District Superintendent; 04 Lead/ Deadwood; 06 Retired; 11 Edgemont/ Pringle (LTFT); 13-14 Rapid City First (LTFT); 9/1/17 Edgemont/ Pringle (1/2); 10/1/19 - 20 Pringle (1/4). BA DWU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	WINCKLER, JOEL - FE. Deacon & PM 93; Elder & FM 96. Appts: 92 Cleveland/ Jamestown St Paul's; 93 School; 94 Harrisburg; 97 Aberdeen First; 01 Bismarck Calvary/ Sterling; 06 Bismarck Calvary; 10 Fargo Calvary; 16 Jamestown St Paul's; 20 Northwest District Superintendent; 25 Northwest District Superintendent (1/2) & Mandan (1/2). BA Asbury; MDiv Asbury.
	WU, DAVID - RE. Deacon & PM 69; Elder & FM 71. Appts: 68 St Thomas/ Glasston/ Hamilton; 70 School; 71 Linton; 76 Extension General Board of Global Ministries, World Division, Singapore; 96 General Board of Global Ministries, New York; 05 Retired. BA Barrington; MDiv Asbury; ThD Union.
	YI, CHANG - FE. Commissioned & PM 08; Elder & FM 11. Appts: 06 Alexandria/ Ethan; 12 Grand Forks Zion; 25 Minot Vincent. BS Ulsan Univ; MDiv. Wesley Theological Seminary.
	ZACHRISON, DAYNE - FE. Commissioned & PM 02; Elder & FM 05. Appts: 97 Nebraska Conference (Ceresco/Valparaiso (1/2 time); 01 Yankton/ Gayville-Volin; 04 Watertown First; 10 Clark/ Garden City; 12 Valley City Epworth; 1/1/22 Medical Leave; 23 Devils Lake First (3/4). BA Jamestown; MDiv Saint Paul.
	ZECK, RICHARD W - FE. Deacon & PM 88; Elder & FM 91. Appts: 88 School; 89 Yankton/ Gayville-Volin; 92 McCook Lake; 02 Fargo First; 13 Brookings First; 15 Extension Minnesota Conf (Brooklyn Center); 23 Medical Leave. BS SDSU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	ZERFACE, PEGGY - RE. Deacon & PM 87; Elder & FM 90. Appts: 87 School; 88 Marion/ Dickey; 90 Bismarck McCabe; 95 Clear Lake/ Gary; 01 Drayton/ Crystal/ St Thomas; 5/7/06 Fargo Faith; 10 Lisbon/ Enderlin/ Lisbon First PC-USA; 01/01/13 Retired; 1/1/13-14 Fargo First (LTFT). BS Valley City State; MDiv Saint Paul.
	ZIEBARTH, STEVEN J - RE. Deacon & PM 80; Elder & FM 82. Appts: 79 School; 81 Gregory/ Iona; 88 Mitchell; 92 School of Mines Campus Ministry; 96 Sioux Falls Southern Hills; 10 Canton; 20 Retired. BS Dakota State University; MDiv Iliff.

HONORABLE LOCATION

	ATKINS, AMY – HL. Appts: 10 Plankinton/ White Lake; 12 Milbank Parkview/ Big Stone City/ Ortonville, MN; 7/15/14 Fargo First; 11/1/16 Medical Leave; 7/21/17 Leave of Absence (para 353.2a); 22 Honorable Location. BA DWU; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	BRINKMAN, ELMER – HL. Appts: 72 Leola/ Frederick; 74 Watertown First; 77 Honorable Location; 81 Florence/ Summit; 94 Honorable Location; 19 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Iliff.
	GESCHWINDER, ANNE A – HL. Appts: 78 Yankton (intern); 79 Wakonda/ Irene/ Viborg; 80 Special Appt; 81 Leave of Absence; 8/15/82 Alexandria/ Fulton & Artesian/ Farwell; 10/16/83 School; 86 Honorable Location; 87 Retired. BA UND; MDiv Garrett Evangelical.
	HAIDLE, STANLEY J – HL. Appts: 74 School; 75 Onida/ Agar; 78 Huron First; 9/1/83 DWU; 95 Leave of Absence; 02 Honorable Location; 19 Retired.
	JARMAN, JOHN – HL. Appts: 68 Sterling/ Moffit/ Driscoll/ Braddock; 69 School; 70 Transferred to SD Conf; 70 Rapid City First; 75 United Methodist Higher Ed Vermillion; 77 USD; 78 Honorable Location; 11 Retired.
	KIMBLE, PERRY – HL. Appts: 81 Lisbon/Milnor; 83 Lisbon; 86 Fairmount/ Bethany/ Rosholt (MN); 89 Wimbledon/ Kensal; 11/1/91 Leave of Absence; 96 Honorable Location; 21 Retired. BA Western Illinois Univ; MDiv. Dubuque Theological Seminary.
	KROGMAN, TRAVIS - HL. Appts: 11/15/14 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance (3/4); 15 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance; 1/11/19 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance (3/4); 20 Personal Leave of Absence; 22 Honorable Location. BA USD; MDiv Saint Paul.
	RENAUD, LINDA – HL. Appts: 80 Todd-Mellette Larger Parish; 83 Garrett Evangelical; 87 Leave of Absence; 91 Honorable Location; 01 Huron First; 1/1/02 Huron First (LTFT); 9/1/05 Leave of Absence; 10 Honorable Location; 9/1/18 Retired. BA Morningside; MDiv Garrett-Evangelical.
	RICE, DANIEL – HL. Appts: 68 Brookings; 10/19/70 Northern State College Campus Minister; 9/73 DWU Campus Minister and Assoc Prof Religion & Philosophy; 11/76 Lutheran Social Services, Aberdeen; 77 Leave of Absence; 78 Honorable Location; 18 Retired. BA DWU; BD Yale.
	RICKENBACH, JOEL – HL. Appts: 69 Ethan/ Tripp; 70 White Lake/ Underwood & Dunlap; 74 Honorable Location; 18 Retired. BA DWU; MDiv Hartford Seminary.
	WHALEY, RUSSELL – HL. Appts: 96 School; 99 Kindred Calvary/ Kindred Zion; 02 Page/ Hope/ Finley; 04 Edgeley/ Kulm; 06 Pembina/ Joliet/ Humboldt; 09 Grand Forks Zion; 4/1/12 Personal Leave; 14 Honorable Location. BS USD; MDiv Perkins.

OTHERS SERVING DAKOTAS CHURCHES

Other Than Full Members, Associate Members, Provisional Members, Licensed Local Pastors and Retired Members. This includes Certified Lay Ministers (CLM), associate members of another annual conference (OA), elders of another conference or other Methodist denomination (OE), full members of another denomination (OF), other local pastors (OL), retired member of another annual conference (OR), and lay supply (SY). *As of July 1, 2023.*

BELZER, CHUCK (OL-UCC) Appt: 11/15/21 Lisbon/ Enderlin (1/2).

BERTELSON, JERRY (supplied by PCUSA) Appt: 8/1/19 Canistota United.

BOTTGER, JERRY (CLM) Appt: 23 Mission pulpit supply (1/4).

COOK, DAVID (supplied by PCUSA) Appt: 19 Hot Springs Federated.

DILL, ROBIN (OF PCUSA) Appt: 6/6/2016 Grafton Federated/ Minto (3/4).

FERRIS, BEATA (CLM) Appt: 20 Presho/ Kennebec/ Reliance (1/4) as Administrative Leader as SY; 10/1/21 No Assignment; 22 Pierre First, Blunt, Lyman County as CLM (3/4); 1/1/23 Pierre First (3/4).

ISAKSON COOK, LAURA (OF Evangelical Covenant) Appt: 24 Gettysburg/ Onida (Wheatland Parish).

JENNYS, DAVID (OF-UCC) Appt: 25 Flandreau.

JUNKER, DAREN (OF AB) Appt: 1/31/03 Elkton/ Elkton UCC. Bonnie; Dana, Michael, Daniel, David.

KENKEL, ADDY (CLM) Appt: 6/1/21 Brandon Celebration (3/4) as lay supply; 4/4/24 Brandon Celebration as CLM (3/4).

KLEIN, SHANDON (OE) Appt: 24 Fairmount/ Breckenridge, MN (supplied by MN Conference, member of Texas Conf.).

LAIBLE, LAURA (CLM) Appt.: 25 Howard Beach (1/4).

LOEWEN, RICK (OF CCCC) Appt: 17 Carrington Federated.

LOSING, DARRELL (SY) Appt: 10/1/16 Cleveland (1/4).

MADSEN, JANET (CLM) Appt: 10/1/14 Wheatland Parish (Agar/ Gettysburg / Onida); 1/8/23 Gettysburg/ Onida.

MCDOWELL, TIMOTHY (SY) Appt: 5/1/23 Cando/ Rolla/ Rock Lake.

MULLOY, PATRICK (OE) Appt: 25 Ben Clare.

PECK, DONALD J (SY) Appt: 95 Leola/ Frederick/ Barnard UCC. BS Franklin Univ. Deirdre; Daniel, David, Douglas, Diana.

SIEFKEN, LOREN/PAT (SY) Appt: 11 Bath.

SNETHEN, RON (OF Nazarene) Appt: 92 Colome (1/4). Jeanne.

WAGNER, VAL (SY) Appt: 20 Luke 10 Team at Edgeley (LTFT).

Deaconesses

REYNOLDS, JEANNINE - Deaconess 96. Positions: 96-98 Social Worker, Virginia Conference; 98-02 Church and Community Worker, UM Cooperative Mins. of Madison County, FL; 02 Church & Community Worker; UM Pierre Area Community Ministry (UMPACM); 06 Retired. BA in Social Work, University of Kentucky.

2024 Jubilee Clergy

Jubilee is the biblical concept that every 50 years, property owners should set at liberty their debts and property and refrain from oppressing others. It is a concept that begins with 50 years of service and ends with a celebration. So, every year, we honor our conference clergy who have served 50 years in ministry.



Cheryl Finney from the Commission on Archives and History, presenting Kenrad Pederson with his Jubilee Award.

(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

Kenrad Pederson

At the 1975 North Dakota Annual Conference at Epworth UMC in Valley City, North Dakota, three young men were ordained Deacon by Bishop A, James Armstrong: Steve Johnson, Bruce Ough, and Kenrad Pederson. After I, Kenrad, retired in 2015, Mary and I moved from Eureka, South Dakota, to Monroe, Wisconsin. While there, we were active in the local UMC Church. My first Sunday there, I introduced myself to the pastor and told him that at least for one year I only wanted to sit in the pew. Exactly one year later he informed me that the year was up!

Before we had lived there a month, I received an e-mail from the new DS asking if I remembered him-- Scott Carlson! He told me any time I wanted he could connect me to a part time or a full time appointment. I quickly told him, "No!" That was the first of many encounters with a United Methodist from the Dakotas over the ten years since!

While we lived in Monroe for over six years, we saw that Stanton Bockwolft was appointed pastor of the UMC 32 miles west of Monroe.

My pastoral participation at Monroe UMC was limited to preaching less than 10 Sundays, substituting as teacher of an adult class twice, and narrating two cantatas.

When we became grandparents in 2021 we left Wisconsin and moved to Zionsville, Indiana, where we attend the local UMC. The Senior Pastor there roomed all three years at Duke Seminary with Cody Schuler! We see Kent Millard at worship from time to time as he lives in Zionsville also. When Steve Johnson died, his son Chris asked me to preach at Steve's memorial service which was held at Epworth UMC in Valley City. I was honored to do so sharing officiating duties with Paul Lint who was interim pastor there.

I am amazed that it's 50 years since being ordained, but all it took to reach this honor was to keep breathing. Shalom!

2024 Jubilee Clergy

Wayne Tieszen

Here is a brief summary of my retirement years: I retired in 2003 and found myself busier than I expected to be.

For the first three years, my wife Annie and I did some traveling around the US, and I spent about a year preparing our retirement home. I also did some fill-in for Annie as she was a pastor for those years at the Presbyterian Church in Britton.

The next six years I became a caregiver for Annie as she went through her last years with what the neurologist said was probable Alzheimer's.

Since then I have found myself doing a lot of pastoring with people who didn't have a pastor or providing some mentoring to younger caregivers.



Ronald Johnson

Since my retirement in July 2020, my wife Marsha and I have been living in Sioux Falls. I have been serving as a spiritual advisor and liaison for clergy at the Keystone Treatment Center for drugs and alcohol in Canton, South Dakota. I am truly thankful to be walking along side these hurting people. I am also a part of the ministry team that serves the Gayville/Volin United Methodist Church.. I do pulpit supply in some other churches in South Dakota and Northwest Iowa. I serve on the Southeast District Committee on ministry. I serve on the board of directors for the Sunnycrest Retirement Village in Sioux Falls. Our grandchildren keep us on the road attending their various activities. I see myself as not being retired but repurposed in how I can continue to serve God and our church. God has been so good and faithful these past fifty years of ministry. He has introduced me to some wonderful and caring people on this journey. I have been blessed to serve in the Dakotas Annual Conference and the Iowa Annual Conference.



2023 Jubilee Clergy

(Not previously published)

Dennis Aleson

Following seminary graduation in 1975 I served the Hettinger-Bethany parish in North Dakota for two years before moving into Extension Ministries in 1977 as a USAF chaplain . After 10 duty locations I retired from the AF chaplaincy in August of 2003, making CO Springs our permanent home (where I had served two assignments, one of which was the USAF Academy). Retirement status in the Dakotas Conference took place in 2007 --- or when Annual Conference was in Rapid City, SD.



Whichever retirement you consider, I served a number of interim ministry locations in both Colorado and North Dakota. In CO I served a year each at LaJunta and Ordway UMC parishes.

I also served two other shorter interim stints at Tri-Lakes UMC and Stratmoor Hills UMC in the CO Springs area, plus occasional pulpit supply in UMC churches in the area. In North Dakota I served First UMC in Bismarck and Faith UMC in Minot while their respective pastors were on sabbaticals or leave. (Side note:my late father, Rev. A. R. Aleson,had previously served as a co-pastor at Bismarck First and was the founding pastor of Minot Faith in the late 40's). Going back to CO, for two years I conducted an early morning liturgical/traditional worship service for the large Sunrise UMC in CO Springs.

After that it was my wife's desire (with my full concurrence) that we become involved with the 3,000 member First Presbyterian Church of CO Springs, a part of ECO (Evangelical Covenant Order of Presby-terians). They had departed PCUSA several years earlier over the same issues that are leading to the current split in the UMC . Geographically living in CO, "ground zero" of UMC issues, it was the right choice for us. I now sing in a 90-voice choir at "First Pres" that ministers to 1,000 worshipers in two services every Sunday.....One other ministry in recent years was doing many weddings in the famous USAF Academy Cadet Chapel before it closed for a 4-5 year total renovation----so many wedding requests prior to it's renovation closure led to mobilizing several retired AF chaplains like myself. Both my spouse and I have also done volunteer ministry with several Christian helping agencies in CO Springs.

Spouse Carol and I enjoy a rich and fulfilling life in CO Springs, simply enjoying Colorado and traveling quite a bit, especially to FL where four of our six grandchildren live, the other two living right here in CO Springs. We celebrated 51 years of marriage in December of 2022.

X. RULES AND POLICIES

Structure and Rules of Order

DEFINITIONS

All ¶ refer to current edition of The Book of Discipline (or The Discipline or BOD).

Section 1: Mission of the Annual Conference

1.1. Name. Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

1.1.1 Our Doctrinal Heritage. “United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God’s coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.”

“Our heritage in doctrine and our present theological task focus upon a renewed grasp of the sovereignty of God and of God’s love in Christ amid the continuing crises of human existence.”

“Our forebearers in the faith reaffirmed the ancient Christian message as found in the apostolic witness even as they applied it anew in their own circumstances. Their preaching and teaching were grounded in Scripture, informed by Christian tradition, enlivened in experience, and tested by reason.”

“Their labors inspire and inform our attempts to convey the saving gospel to our world with its needs and aspirations.” (¶102) For more, see ¶102.

1.1.2 Our Doctrinal History. “The pioneers in the traditions that flowed together into The United Methodist Church understood themselves as standing in the central stream of Christian spirituality and doctrine, loyal heirs of the authentic Christian tradition. In John Wesley’s words, theirs was ‘the old religion, the religion of the Bible, the religion . . . of the whole church in the purest ages.’ Their gospel was grounded in the biblical message of God’s self-giving love revealed in Jesus Christ.”

“Wesley’s portrayal of the spiritual pilgrimage in terms of ‘the scripture way of salvation’ provided their model for experiential Christianity. They assumed and insisted upon the integrity of basic Christian truth and emphasized its practical application in the lives of believers.”

“This perspective is apparent in the Wesleyan understanding of ‘catholic spirit.’ While it is true that United Methodists are fixed upon certain religious affirmations, grounded in the gospel and confirmed in their experience, they also recognize the right of Christians to disagree on matters such as forms of worship, structures of church government, modes of baptism, or theological explorations. They believe such differences do not break the bond of fellowship that ties Christians together in Jesus Christ. Wesley’s familiar dictum was, ‘As to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.’” (¶103) For more, see ¶103.

1.1.3 Our Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task. See ¶104 for our doctrinal standards. “Theology is our effort to reflect upon God’s gracious action in our lives. In response to the love of Christ, we desire to be drawn into a deeper relationship with ‘faith’s pioneer and perfecter.’ Our theological explorations seek to give expression to the mysterious reality of God’s presence, peace, and power in the world. By so doing, we attempt to articulate more clearly our understanding of the divine-human encounter and are thereby more fully prepared to participate in God’s work in the world.”

“The theological task, though related to the Church’s doctrinal expressions, serves a different function. Our doctrinal affirmations assist us in the discernment of Christian truth in ever-changing contexts. Our theological task includes the testing, renewal, elaboration, and application of our doctrinal perspective in carrying out our calling ‘to spread scriptural holiness over these lands.’”

“While the Church considers its doctrinal affirmations a central feature of its identity and restricts official changes to a constitutional process, the Church encourages serious reflection across the theological spectrum.”

“As United Methodists, we are called to identify the needs both of individuals and of society and to address those needs out of the resources of Christian faith in a way that is clear, convincing, and effective. Theology serves the Church by interpreting the world’s needs and challenges to the Church and by interpreting the gospel to the world.”

“The nature of our theological task” is both “critical and constructive,” “individual and communal,” “contextual and incarnational,” and “essentially practical.” Our sources and criteria are “scripture,” “tradition,” “reason,” and “experience.” “Doctrine arises out of the life of the Church—its faith, its worship, its discipline, its conflicts, its challenges from the world it would serve.”

“Evangelism, nurture, and mission require a constant effort to integrate authentic experience, rational thought, and purposeful action with theological integrity. A convincing witness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can contribute to the renewal of our faith, bring persons to that faith, and strengthen the Church as an agent of healing and reconciliation.” (§105) For more on our theological task, see §105

1.1.4 The Ministry of All Christians. “The heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. The forms of this ministry are diverse in locale, in interest, and in denominational accent, yet always catholic in spirit and outreach.” (§126) For more, see §120-143.

1.1.5 Our Social Principles. We commit to learning and to teaching our Social Principles. “The Social Principles are not church law. Instead, they represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions.” (Preface) They speak to the community of all creation, the economic community, the social community, the political community and our social creed. For more, see §160-164.

1.1.6 Foundational Scriptures. Every Dakotas United Methodist will live out The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37- 40), The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), The Great Requirement (Micah 6:8) and The Great Proclamation (Luke 4:18-19).

1.2. Core Values. Through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we, the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church, are a community saved by grace through faith, centered in Christ, grounded in Scripture, and connected with one another in the Wesleyan tradition of doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God.

1.2.1. Christ-Centered: Theological Values. Putting fear aside, trusting God through faith, and following the divine mandate to love God and neighbor, we, the Body of Christ, covenant to commit our lives to make disciples of Christ, employing all the means of grace available to us as revealed through Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.

1.2.2. Wesley’s Three Simple Rules: Relational Values. John Wesley’s three simple rules describe for us the foundation of our Christian life together. By intentionally examining our personal and corporate lives, we strive to do no harm. Therefore, we choose to relate to one another in a spirit of inclusiveness, integrity, intimacy, and accountability. Committed to doing good, we engage in mission, service, and social action, acknowledging that if we err we do so on the side of grace. We stay in love with God through spiritual development, including regular reading of Scripture, cultivating a life of prayer, tithing, and worshiping God in public and private settings.

1.2.3. Connection: Structural Values. Connected to God and each other through Christ, the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church gathers the gifts and strengths of the local churches to fulfill more effectively our mission and ministry. By sharing leadership and resources, and providing mutual support and accountability, we do ministry better when we do it together.

1.3. Purpose. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” (§601 of The Book of Discipline)

1.3.1. R.E.A.C.H. Function. We live out our purpose, as defined by §601, by working to resource, equip, align, connect and herald what it means to be Christ-followers in the Wesleyan tradition.

1.4. The Local Church. “The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ’s own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.” (§201) For more, see §202.

1.5. Dakotas Platform for Ministry. Connected to God and each other through Christ, the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of equipping the local church for mission and ministry in the world. By sharing leadership resources and providing mutual support and accountability, we do ministry better when we do it together. The Dakotas Annual Conference provides links between the local church and conference for developing missional leaders, equipping missional congregations, extending missional impact, and generating missional resources.

Section 2: Conference Officers

2.1. President. The President shall be the Bishop of the Dakotas Area of The United Methodist Church

2.2. Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications. The Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and

Communications is appointed by the Bishop and carries out the duties defined in Section 4.3.2 and duties assigned by the Bishop.

2.3. Conference Secretary. The Secretary shall be nominated by the Cabinet and elected by the Annual Conference at its first session following the General Conference. If needed, “the bishop after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the Annual Conference” (§603.7 of The Book of Discipline).

2.4. Conference Co-Lay Leaders. The Conference Co-Lay Leaders shall be nominated and elected by the lay members of the Annual Conference at its first session following the General Conference according to procedures outlined in these rules.

2.5. Conference Statistician. The Statistician shall be nominated by the Cabinet and elected by the Annual Conference at its first session following the General Conference. If needed, “the bishop after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the Annual Conference.” (§603.7 of the The Book of Discipline)

2.6. Conference Chancellor(s). The Chancellor(s) shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference at its first session following the General Conference. If needed, “the bishop shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference.” (§603.8 of The Book of Discipline)

Section 3: Conference Structure

3.1. Flexibility in Conference Structure. “The Annual Conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose (§601), with the exception of the mandated provisions of §§611, 635, 636, 637, 639, 640, 647, and 648. In so doing it shall provide for the connectional relationship of the local church, district, and conference with the general agencies.” (§610)

"The Annual Conference shall provide for the functions and General Conference connections with all general agencies provided by The Discipline as follows: a) There shall be clear connections between the General Conference agencies, annual conference program and administrative entities, and the local congregations. These connections shall be identified in the business questions of the annual conference each year. b) There shall be clear checks and balances regarding program functions and financial/administrative functions within the Annual Conference. These structural matters will be defined and approved by the annual conference session. Annual conferences may fund their ministries in ways that reflect conference priorities and structures, as approved by the annual conference in the budgeting process. All disciplinary references to 'equivalent structures' shall be defined by §610.1." (§610 of The Book of Discipline)

Nothing in these Structure and Rules shall be construed to contravene any provision of The Discipline relating to the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry (§635), the Administrative Review Committee (§636), the Committees on Investigation (§2703), the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (§639), the Board of Trustees (§2512), the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (§§611-619), or the Committee on Episcopacy (§637).

3.2. Developing Missional Leaders Link: “The local church provides the most significant area through which discipleship occurs.” (§201 of The Book of Discipline) A vital and viable local church is dependent upon the strength of its lay and clergy leadership.

3.2.1. Functions. The Developing Missional Leaders Link shall equip the local church by working with its leadership to provide encouragement, assessment, training, and resources by:

- a) identifying, recruiting, training, and developing current and emerging leaders of the local church.
- b) giving intentional attention to the ministries involved in disciple-making, including, but not limited to, witness ministries, Christian education, evangelism, worship, stewardship, spiritual formation, justice ministries, and local and global missions.
- c) giving intentional attention to ministries to and with various categories of persons, including, but not limited to, youth, young adults, older adults, women, men, persons with disabilities, Native Americans, persons of color, persons in small membership churches, persons victimized by crime, imprisoned persons, survivors of disasters, and other often overlooked or excluded persons.
- d) caring for the recruitment of pastors, staff, and lay leadership, including, but not limited to, conference extension ministers, campus ministers, conference missionaries, and conference evangelists.
- e) providing a camping ministry for the Annual Conference.
- f) providing generational ministries for all ages and genders, including through young adult and campus ministry.
- g) caring for the credentialing of clergy through the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- h) promoting and providing for professional growth.
- i) holding clergy, staff, and lay leadership accountable.

- j) establishing procedures for managing clergy medical leave as specified in ¶652 of The Discipline.
- k) promoting Safe and Sacred Spaces policies.
- l) caring for the functions of a board of discipleship specified in ¶630 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Board of Discipleship and the conference, district, and local church.
- m) caring for the functions of a board of laity specified in ¶631 of The Discipline.
- n) caring for the functions of a board of higher education and campus ministry as specified in ¶634 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the conference, district, and local church
- o) caring for the functions of a commission on the small membership church as specified in ¶645 of The Discipline.
- p) caring for the functions of a commission on religion and race as specified in ¶643 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Commission on Religion and Race and the conference, district, and local church.
- q) caring for the functions of a commission on the status and role of women as specified in ¶644 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the conference, district, and local church.
- r) caring for the functions of a council on youth ministry as specified in ¶649 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the Division on Ministries with Young People of the General Board of Discipleship and the conference, district, and local church.
- s) caring for the functions of young-adult ministry as specified ¶650 of The Discipline.

3.2.2. Membership. The Developing Missional Leaders Link shall have 12 members, who include one representative from each of the standing committees relating to this Link; in addition, the conference co-lay leaders, persons serving as members of any general agency related to the functions of this Link shall be voting members. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Executive Director of Ministries, the Director of Leadership Development, the Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry and a District Superintendent.

3.2.3. Standing Committees of the Developing Missional Leaders Link:

- a) Board of Ordained Ministry. There shall be a Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as provided in ¶635 of The Book of Discipline. The Board shall relate to the Developing Missional Leaders Link but shall report to and be amenable directly to the Annual Conference. The Board shall be constituted as prescribed in ¶635.1 of The Discipline and consist of between 20 and 25 total members.

3.3. Equipping Missional Congregations Link: Equipping Missional Congregations builds capacity by starting new congregations in strategic missional settings and providing resources/training for existing congregations seeking to re-invent or re-vision their mission and ministry and become fruitful.

3.3.1 Functions. The Equipping Missional Congregations Link accomplishes this through:

- a) encouraging local churches to do ministry and be vital congregations.
- b) helping local churches with needs assessments to determine viability and direction using the viable church criteria in Section 1.4
- c) resourcing local churches through people, programs, and financial support.
- d) developing strategies for reaching new people.
- e) starting new faith communities.

3.3.2. Membership. The Equipping Missional Congregations Link shall have 12 members, who include one representative from each of the standing committees relating to this Link; in addition, persons serving as members of any general agency related to the functions of this Link shall be voting members. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Bishop, the Executive Director of Ministries, Area Director of New Church Development and each District Superintendent.

3.4. Extending Missional Impact Link: When it is more effective to use resources across church and conference boundaries, or when the scope or costs of ministries exceed the ability of an individual church, we can do ministry better when we do it together. Our combined efforts increase our ability to fulfill the overall mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

3.4.1. Functions. The Extending Missional Impact Link enhances the church by providing avenues for congregations to more effectively utilize our “connection” to have a greater impact on transforming their communities and the world. These include:

- a) developing strategic ministry initiatives beyond the local church.
- b) developing cooperative ministries.
- c) transforming lives through service and mission.
- d) sharing information and promoting connectional opportunities.
- e) providing places to gather beyond the local church.
- f) promoting Christian unity and interreligious concerns.
- g) developing ministries with Native Americans in the Dakotas.
- h) monitoring inclusiveness of gender and race.
- i) caring for the functions of a board of church and society specified in ¶629 of The Discipline, and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Board of Church and Society and the conference, district, and local church.
- j) caring for the functions and connectional relationships of a committee on ethnic local church concerns specified in ¶632 of The Discipline.
- k) caring for the functions of a board of global ministries as specified in ¶633 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Board of Global Ministries and the conference, district, and local church.
- l) caring for the functions of Christian unity and interreligious relationships as specified in ¶642 of The Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the Council of Bishops’ Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships and the conference, district, and local church.
- m) caring for the functions of a commission on communications as specified in ¶646 of The Discipline.
- n) caring for the functions of a committee on disability concerns as specified in ¶653 of The Discipline.
- o) caring for the functions of a committee on Native American ministry as specified in ¶654 of The Discipline.

3.4.2. Membership. The Extending Missional Impact Link shall have 12 members, who include one representative from each of the standing committees relating to this Link; in addition to these 12 members, the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, the UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action, the UMW Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation and persons serving as members of any general agency related to the functions of this Link shall be voting members. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Executive Director of Ministries, a District Superintendent and other members of agencies as specified in ¶642.2 of The Discipline.

3.4.3. Standing Committees of the Extending Missional Impact Link:

- a) United Methodist Women. There shall be a Conference United Methodist Women, auxiliary to the jurisdictional and national organizations of United Methodist Women, as provided in ¶647 of The Book of Discipline. It shall relate to the Extending Missional Impact Link.
- b) United Methodist Men. There shall be a Conference United Methodist Men, auxiliary to the jurisdictional committee of United Methodist Men and to the General Commission on United Methodist Men, as provided in ¶648 of The Book of Discipline. It shall relate to the Extending Missional Impact Link.

3.5. Generating Missional Resources Link. God has entrusted the Annual Conference with resources for the purpose of equipping the local church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Therefore, our task is to ensure the generation of and the wise stewardship of resources to fulfill this function. This Link provides constructs to generate and administer the resources necessary to create and sustain our conference ministries including, but not limited to, leadership development, congregational vitality, and missional impact initiatives. The Link shall function as a task force at the call of the Bishop.

3.5.1. Membership. Because of the role of this group in addressing resource and stewardship challenges of the annual conference, membership will be determined at the time of the call based on the items being addressed by the task force. The Generating Missional Resources Link shall have twelve members, who include one representative from each of the standing committees relating to this Link. In addition, persons serving as members of any general agency related to the function of this Link shall be voting members. Because of the task force nature of this link, members may serve on other conference links/committees. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Executive Director of Financial and Administrative Services, the Executive Director of Ministries, the Executive Director of the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, and a District Superintendent.

3.5.2. Standing Committees of the Generating Missional Resources Link

- a) Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA). There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration as provided in ¶611-619 of The Discipline. CCFA shall relate to the Common Table, but shall report to and be amenable directly to the Annual Conference. The Council shall be constituted as specified in ¶612.2 of The Discipline and shall consist of between 12 and 15 elected voting members, plus ex officio members as specified in ¶612.2c. For purposes of this structure, the Common Table shall serve the functions of the Council on Ministries; and the Executive Director of Ministries shall serve the functions of the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- b) Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. There shall be a Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, auxiliary to the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, as provided in ¶639 of The Discipline. The board shall relate to the Generating Missional Resources Link, but as provided in ¶614.1d The Book of Discipline, shall consult directly with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration as to the annual amount necessary to fund the conference pension and benefit programs. The Board shall be constituted as specified in ¶639.2, and shall consist of between 12 and 15 members.
- c) Board of Trustees. There shall be a Conference Board of Trustees as provided in ¶640 and ¶2512 of The Discipline. The Board shall relate to the Generating Missional Resources Link but shall report to and be amenable directly to the Annual Conference. The Board shall be constituted as specified in ¶2512 of The Discipline.
- d) Human Resources Committee (HRC). There shall be a Human Resources Committee, which shall develop and implement personnel policies and procedures pertaining to standards of employment, evaluation, compensation, housing, benefits, vacation, sick leave, and all other matters of effectiveness and morale. HRC shall care for the functions of a Commission on Equitable Compensation specified in ¶625 of The Book of Discipline, by forming a subcommittee of HRC for equitable compensation which shall include equal lay and clergy members plus one district superintendent named by the cabinet. Its membership shall be constituted as provided in ¶625. The Human Resources Committee shall be made up of the Executive Director of Ministries, a representative from each Link, a representative from the Common Table, and two lay and two clergy at-large members, with preference given to those possessing expertise or experience in human-resource management. No member of the staff of the annual conference or any of its agencies, nor an immediate family member of such staff, shall serve as a member of the committee. The committee may consult as necessary with representatives of other agencies. The Bishop and the Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall be ex officio members without vote.

3.6. The Common Table. Discerning and keeping accountability to the vision.

3.6.1. Functions. The Common Table guides and holds accountable the work of the agencies of the Annual Conference as they fulfill the purpose of the Annual Conference:

- a) along with the Bishop and Executive Director of Ministries, to be the keeper of the vision of the Annual Conference for the continual process of transformation and renewal.
- b) in concert with the Bishop and the Extended Cabinet, to administer the Annual Conference's ministries, resources, and business within the context of The Discipline and the actions taken by Annual Conference and following the core values and purpose of the Annual Conference.
- c) to recommend to the Annual Conference visions, goals, priorities, and overall strategies.
- d) to ensure that actions and proposals of Annual Conference agencies are consistent with the Annual Conference's purpose and core values.
- e) to elect persons, upon nomination by the Committee of Nominations, to fill interim vacancies until the next session of the Annual Conference, according to Rule 6.5 except as otherwise provided by The Book of Discipline.
- f) to determine by the first session immediately following the General Conference, the method for the lay members of Annual Conference to nominate and elect the Conference Lay Leaders and District Lay Leaders according to Rule 6.9 and 6.10.
- g) to be amenable to the Annual Conference.

3.6.2. Membership. The Common Table shall have nine members: a representative of the cabinet; one of the conference co-lay leaders; a representative from CCFA; three laypersons and three clergy persons to be nominated by the Bishop in consultation with the Committee on Nominations — one of whom shall be named the chair—who do not serve on any link or standing committee related to one of the links; ex officio without vote — the Bishop and the Executive Director of Ministries.

3.7. Other Standing Committees

3.7.1. Commission on Archives and History. There shall be a Conference Commission on Archives and History with responsibilities, membership, and connections as provided in ¶641 of The Discipline. In addition, any member of a general agency relating to the functions of the commission shall be an ex-officio member with vote.

3.7.2. Administrative Review Committee. There shall be a Conference Administrative Review Committee as provided in ¶636 of The Discipline. Its membership shall be nominated and elected according to the provisions of ¶636 of The Discipline. “Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for discontinuance of provisional membership (¶327.6), involuntary leave of absence (¶354), involuntary retirement (¶357.3), or administrative location (¶359) are properly followed. Additionally, if in the event of unresolved issues related to medical leave (¶356.4) a fair process (¶361.2) occurs, the administrative review committee shall ensure that fair process was followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change in conference relationship shall be reviewed by administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the clergy session of members in full connection with the annual conference prior to any action of the annual conference. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review of the process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (¶361.2) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action.” (¶636)

3.7.3. Committee on Nominations. There shall be a Conference Committee on Nominations entrusted with the task of nominating persons for election by the Annual Conference to serve on the Developing Missional Leaders Link, the Equipping Missional Congregations Link, the Extending Missional Impact Link, the Generating Missional Resources Link and the Standing Committees, except where otherwise provided by The Discipline. Further, except as otherwise provided in The Discipline and these conference rules, the Committee on Nominations shall nominate to the Common Table, for their elections, persons to fill interim vacancies on links and conference agencies, according to Rule 6.5. The Committee on Nominations shall have 12 members, three from each district to be nominated by the respective district lay leader and district superintendent and elected by the Annual Conference. No member of the Committee on Nominations shall serve on the Common Table, a Link, or Standing Committee. Ex-officio members without vote shall be one of the Conference Co-Lay Leaders, the Conference Secretary, the Director of Leadership Development and the Executive Director of Ministries.

3.7.4. Committee on Records, Rules, and Procedures. Each year, the Executive Director of Ministries shall recruit and work with a Committee on Records, Rules, and Procedures, as provided in Conference Rule 4.3.2h. The purpose of this group shall be: a.) To recommend interpretations of conference standing rules to the presiding officer during Annual Conference sessions and to the Bishop and/or Executive Director of Ministries ad interim. b.) To review and recommend action on proposed new structure, rules or changes in existing structure and/or rules.

3.7.5. Committee on Episcopacy. There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy as provided in ¶¶637-638 of The Discipline. It shall report to and be amenable directly to the Annual Conference. It shall be constituted as prescribed in ¶637 and consist of between 7 and 17 total members. “No member of the staff of the Annual Conference or any of its agencies, nor an immediate family member of such staff, shall serve as a member of the committee, except that a member of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy or the conference lay leader shall not be disqualified from membership as a result of this provision.” (¶637.1)

3.7.6. Non-Permanent Standing Committees. The Common Table may recommend to the Annual Conference additional standing committees on the basis of (1) direct fulfillment of the purpose of the Annual Conference, and (2) demonstration of widespread involvement by persons within local churches of the Annual Conference. Standing committees established under these criteria will be reviewed at least once each quadrennium by the Common Table for recommendation to the Annual Conference for renewal. Recommendations to the Annual Conference shall include size and make-up of membership, as well as budget. The Conference Council of Youth Ministries shall be a non-permanent standing committee — relating to the Developing Missional Leaders Link.

3.8. Non-Standing Committees

3.8.1. Each Link may establish such non-standing committees, working groups, and task forces as it deems necessary to fulfill the functions entrusted to it. Recruitment of persons to serve on these bodies is the responsibility of the Link.

3.8.2. The establishing Link is responsible to review at least annually the purpose, results, and membership of each of its non-standing committees.

Section 4: Staffing

4.1 District Superintendents. The Annual Conference shall have four districts with the district lines and a number of superintendents serving the conference as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the appointive cabinet. (§415-417)

4.2 Hiring of Staff. The Bishop and the Human Resources Committee shall work together to set up the process for the selection of all staff positions, excluding Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications and the Executive Director of Finance and Administration. Any additional staffing for program and missional priorities may occur in consultation with Human Resources, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Common Table, and Extended Cabinet.

4.3 Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications

4.3.1. This position shall be selected and supervised by the Bishop in consultation with the Human Resources Committee.

4.3.2. Responsibilities:

- a) under the direction of the Bishop, to provide oversight of the annual conference, including supervision and evaluation of the conference program staff, but excluding the Executive Director of Finance and Administration and conference superintendents.
- b) to resource conference teams as needed
- c) to review and authorize communication of information disseminated on behalf of the Annual Conference. d) to serve as a non-voting member of the appointive cabinet.
- d) to undertake other duties as assigned by the bishop.
- e) to serve as the connectional team between the annual conference, general boards and agencies, and the local church.
- f) to recruit and work with a Sessions Committee to ensure the organization and logistics of planning the annual conference session
- g) to recruit and work with a Committee on Records, Rules, and Procedures
- h) to recruit and work with a Committee on Resolutions and General Conference Petitions.
- i) to recruit and work with a Journal Editorial Committee
- j) To attend to the responsibilities in paragraphs §608 & §609 and the functions of §646.

4.4. Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services

4.4.1 The Treasurer/Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall be nominated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and elected by the Annual Conference as provided for in The Discipline.

4.4.2 Responsibilities

- a) to carry out functions as specified in the latest Discipline.
- b) to manage the conference office with the exception of personnel services.
- c) to relate to the Generating Missional Resources Link through attending meetings, helping with research, and providing information and resources.

4.5. Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries

4.5.1 Responsibilities:

- a) to care for the program, leadership development, promotion, and administration relating to camp and retreat ministries.

4.6. Evaluation of Conference Staff. Evaluation of all conference staff shall be done in accordance with policies established by the Human Resources Committee.

Section 5: District Agencies

5.1. District Committee on Ordained Ministry. There shall in each district be a District Committee on Ordained Ministry with functions as specified in §666 of The Discipline. The Committee shall be constituted as specified in that paragraph and shall consist of a total of seven clergy in full connection (including the chairperson and conference superintendent) and three professing members of local churches.

5.2. Committee on District Superintendency. There shall in each district be a Committee on District Superintendency with functions as specified in §669 of The Discipline. The committee shall be constituted of 11 members as specified in that paragraph.

5.3. District Board of Church Location and Building. There shall in each district be at least one District Board of Church Location and Building with functions as specified in §§2518-2520. More than one board may be elected in a district for geographic reasons at the discretion of the conference superintendent. Each board shall be constituted as specified in §2519, and consist of six to nine members.

Section 6: Standing Rules

6.1. Terms. Terms for newly elected officers and members of conference and district boards and agencies shall begin on the day following the close of the regular annual conference session. Unless otherwise specified in The Book of Discipline, or in this Structure and Rules, nominees shall be placed in four classes, with one-fourth of an agency's members (excluding ex-officio members) being elected annually.

6.2. Tenure. Persons nominated and elected to chair or to serve as a member of any conference or district agency shall serve no more than 12 consecutive years on that agency, except in the instance where the person was appointed or elected to complete half or less of an unfinished term. If a person has served 12 consecutive years on an agency, she/he shall not be elected to that agency for a period of four years. Ex-officio members of agencies shall not be subject to this tenure rule.

6.3. Limitations. No person shall serve on more than one agency of the Annual Conference with the exception of ex-officio members. The Administrative Review Committee, Committee on Episcopacy, Sessions Committee, Rules, Records and Procedures Committee, Disaster Response, Task Force for Missional Appointments, Editorial Revisions Committee, Committee on Resolutions and General Conference Petitions, Generating Missional Resources Link or a district agency shall not be counted towards this limit.

6.4. Contact Information. Complete mailing addresses and phone numbers shall be submitted to the Conference Office for every person nominated for service on a Dakotas Conference board or committee, including district boards and committees. No nominations will be accepted or printed in the Conference Journal that is not accompanied by an address and phone number.

6.5. Vacancies. Should any vacancy occur during the year in any Conference office or agency, the Common Table shall elect persons upon nomination by the Committee on Nominations, unless otherwise provided for in The Discipline to fill the vacancies until the next session of the Annual Conference.

6.6. Unexcused Absences. If an elected member of a conference agency is absent from two consecutive meetings of that agency without a reason acceptable to that agency, that person shall cease to be a member thereof. In that case, the person shall be so notified, as well as the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, and that place shall be filled in accordance with Conference Rule number 6.5.

6.7. General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Elections

6.7.1. All provisions of The Discipline regarding elections, eligible voters, and eligible persons to be delegates or alternates of General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be carefully followed.

6.7.2. A general ballot will be taken early in the Annual Conference session in the full year preceding General Conference for lay and clergy delegates without nominations. Laity may distribute information about interested lay candidates in advance of the Annual Conference in which elections are held so study can be done ahead of time in preparation for voting. The Conference Co-Lay Leader will take responsibility for this task.

6.7.3. After the first ballot, candidates receiving five votes or more shall be introduced on the Annual Conference floor. After each subsequent ballot, candidates not previously introduced but receiving five votes or more shall be likewise introduced.

6.7.4. Balloting will continue until there is an election by simple majority of valid ballots. Ballots must have the exact number of names as there are positions being elected on that round of balloting to be considered valid.

6.7.5. When the election of either the lay or clergy delegates to General Conference has taken place, balloting for the remainder of Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall proceed in the same manner. Lay and clergy delegates to Jurisdictional Conference shall serve as the reserve delegates to General Conference in the order in which they are elected.

6.7.6. Balloting for Jurisdictional Conference delegates will proceed at intervals until sufficient delegates and reserve delegates are elected. The Conference shall elect as many reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference as it elects delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, or three lay reserve delegates and three clergy reserve delegates, whichever is greater.

6.7.7. The counting of ballots shall be undertaken by a team of tellers as directed by the Annual Conference Secretary.

6.7.8. When all elections are completed, the Annual Conference Secretary shall send certification of election to the General Conference Secretary.

6.7.9. After the close of the General Conference delegate election and before leaving the site of Annual Conference, the General Conference delegation shall meet to choose a chair of the delegation and to choose their legislative committee assignments.

6.7.10. CCFA shall provide funds for travel and per diem for reserve delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference to attend their respective sessions at a rate equal to that provided to the full delegates.

6.7.11. In the case of a special session of the General Conference being called, the next regular session of the Annual Conference shall hold a new election for lay and clergy delegates and alternates, as permitted in ¶14 of the Constitution. However, if no regular session of the Annual Conference will be held prior to the special session of the General Conference, the delegates and alternates elected to the preceding General Conference, or their lawful successors, shall serve at the special session; unless the Bishop with the concurrence of three-fourths of the district superintendents calls a special session of the Annual Conference for the purpose of a new election in accordance with ¶603.5 of The Discipline.

6.8. Jurisdictional Nominating Pool. The provisions governing the election of persons by the Annual Conference for submission to the Jurisdictional Nominating Pool are found in ¶705.1 of The Discipline. Election to the pool shall take place at the Annual Conference preceding Jurisdictional Conference. Nominations shall first be made by a committee composed of the Bishop and the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation, with opportunity for additional nominations from the floor of Annual Conference. If more than five persons have been nominated to any of the categories listed in The Discipline, there shall be a ballot cast in that category, with the five persons receiving the most votes being elected in that category.

6.9. Conference Co-Lay Leaders. The Conference Co-Lay Leaders shall be elected at the Laity Session of the Annual Conference immediately following the General Conference for a quadrennial term, and each may succeed himself/herself once, except according to Rule 6.2 in instances where the person was elected to complete half or less of an unfinished term. In such cases, the Conference Co-Lay Leaders may succeed themselves twice. In the year of the election, the Common Table shall determine the method for the lay members of Annual Conference to nominate and elect the Conference Co-Lay Leaders.

6.10. District Co-Lay Leaders. In the same year as the Conference Co-Lay Leaders are elected, the Common Table shall determine the method for the lay members in each district to nominate and elect District Co-Lay Leaders. District Co-Lay Leaders serve a quadrennial term and may succeed themselves once, except according to Rule 6.2 in instances where a person was elected to complete half or less of an unfinished term.

6.11. Lay Members of Annual Conference and Lay Equalization In accordance with section VI of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, ¶32, Article I, of The Discipline, the lay membership of Annual Conference shall be elected as follows:

A. According to The Book of Discipline, the lay membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge. Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment. Each charge in the Dakotas Conference shall pay expenses for lay members it elects.

Lay members by virtue of office: The Dakotas Conference shall pay Annual Conference allowed per diem, Annual Conference allowed mileage, and registration fee:

“The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.” (Paragraph 32, Article I)

-Diaconal ministers

-Active deaconesses

-Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference

-Conference Co-Lay Leaders -District Co-Lay Leaders

-Conference president of United Methodist Women

-Conference president of United Methodist Men

-Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries

-Conference secretary of Global Ministries

-President or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization

-President of the conference youth organization

-Chair of the Annual Conference college student organization

-One young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) from each district*

-One young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district*

*To be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.” (§32, Article I) *The Conference Council of Youth Ministries is asked to designate one youth from each district in order to fulfill the younger portion of this requirement.*

B. In addition to those specified by The Discipline, the Dakotas Conference also includes the following persons as lay members of Annual Conference by virtue of office, if the person holding such office is a layperson and a member of a United Methodist Church. The Dakotas Conference shall pay Annual Conference allowed per diem, Annual Conference allowed mileage, and registration fee:

- Lay members of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration
- Lay members of the Common Table
- Commissioned missionaries serving within the bounds of the Dakotas Conference
- Dakotas Conference Missionaries who meet the criteria of training and ministry and are approved by the Dakotas Board of Global Ministries or equivalent structure
- General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates if not otherwise elected from a local charge or by virtue of office
- Campus ministers who are United Methodist lay persons and are serving a formally organized college or university campus ministry group
- A student representative from each formally organized college or university campus ministry group (as selected by each campus ministry group)

Any of these positions held by a Dakotas Conference United Methodist professing lay person:

- Conference representative to general boards or agencies
- Staff members of general boards or agencies
- Chairs of Conference Boards/Agencies who are lay
- Conference Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services
- Conference Secretary
- Conference Historian
- Dakotas United Methodist Foundation Director
- Director of Leadership Development
- Director of Communications
- Conference Statistician
- Conference Journal Editor
- Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry
- Area Director of New Church Development
- Conference Executive Director of Ministries
- Conference Chancellors
- One young adult member to be selected per district by the District Superintendents in consultation with the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries and Dakotas United Methodist Student Movement.
- One youth member to be selected per district by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Conference Council on Youth Ministries
- Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) under assignment

The maximum projected number of additional lay members needed for equalization shall be determined annually by the Conference Secretary, based on the clergy members and the pastoral charges listed in the Business of the Annual Conference reported in the most recent Journal. The members needed for equalization shall then be allocated to those pastoral charges. Under this formula certain pastoral charges, beginning with the pastoral charge with the largest reported membership and proceeding in descending order of membership, shall be entitled to elect additional lay members in keeping with this formula until equalization is reached (those lay persons attend Annual Conference at pastoral charge expense). The formula is as follows: The total number of lay members needed for equalization divided by the number of charges in the conference to get the average members per charge. That average is then divided into the membership of each charge. That resulting quotient, rounded to the nearest whole number, is the maximum number of lay equalization members a charge is eligible to elect. Lay members elected in this section are in addition to the members elected under the provisions of section 6.11.a. and b. (by virtue of office)

C. If a charge requests not to have an additional lay equalization member, the charge may request this exemption by September 1 of each year, but still must follow section 6.11.a. When a charge declines to elect an additional equalization member, the next smaller charge, by membership, shall be given opportunity to elect an additional lay member.

6.12. Financial Year. January 1 to December 31.

6.13. Budget Process. By October 1 of each year, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall establish the budget-creation process to be followed in presenting a budget to the next Annual Conference session. This process shall adhere to the provisions of ¶614 of The Discipline, except that wherever the term council on ministries is used in The Discipline, it will be understood to mean the Common Table.

6.14. Conference Journal

6.14.1 Reports for Publication in the Journal. All reports, resolutions, memoirs, etc. not included in the pre-conference reports and intended for publication in the Conference Journal shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary before final adjournment of the Conference session.

6.15. Editorial Revision Authority. Conference Secretary together with the Journal Editorial Committee shall have authority to make editorial changes in the proceedings, rules, and reports of the Annual Conference and its constituent bodies for the purposes of accuracy, clarifying grammar, and intent of meaning.

6.16. Definitions of and Changes to the Structure, Rules, and Policies

6.16.1. Mission, Staffing, and Structure. The description of the mission, boards, councils, committees, officers, and staffing configuration of the Annual Conference, as found in Sections 1 through 5 of these Structure and Rules, may be modified by a simple majority vote of the Annual Conference.

6.16.2. Standing Rules and Rules of Order. The method by which conference affairs are governed on an ongoing basis requires a two-thirds majority vote for approval, binding indefinitely unless suspended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. Standing rules concern the conference's administrative work. Rules of order concern the parliamentary procedure of the conference meeting in annual or special session.

6.16.3. Policy. An action of Annual Conference concerning only one subject and expressly intended to continue in force indefinitely until amended, repealed, or superseded may be adopted, amended, repealed, or superseded by a simple majority of the Annual Conference.

6.16.4. Ex-Officio. Membership by virtue of office is voice with vote unless otherwise specified.

Section 7: Rules of Order

7.1. Parliamentary Authority. In all matters not specifically covered by the latest Discipline or the conference rules, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be considered authoritative.

7.2. Limitations on Speaking. No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor more than three minutes at one time, without permission of the Conference, nor shall any person speak more than once until every member choosing to speak has spoken. The Presiding Officer shall have the privilege to request the following procedure for debate: to recognize alternately someone for and someone against the issue, and to recognize alternately lay and clergy members.

7.3. Division of the House. Any member is in order to request a count of the vote for and against any question before the Conference, and if ten members present sustain the request, the vote shall be duly counted.

7.4. All Motions in the Affirmative. All motions brought to the floor of the Conference shall be worded in the affirmative.

7.5. Business Items

7.5.1. All items to be brought to the floor of Annual Conference for action, whether by conference agencies, local churches, clergy members, or professing members of the Annual Conference, shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary by the deadline(s) and in the form(s) set by the Sessions Committee and shall be published in the pre-conference workbook, and/or other print or electronic publications authorized by the Sessions Committee. These items include but are not limited to resolutions, recommendations for conference action, and General Conference petitions.

7.5.2. Any item not meeting the requirements of rule 7.5.1 shall not be brought to the floor for action unless deemed urgent by the Sessions Committee, the Common Table, or the Cabinet, or brought up by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

7.5.3. Appropriate items submitted by the Dakotas Youth Annual Conference will be reviewed by the Sessions Committee for possible consideration by the Annual Conference.

7.5.4. Annual Conference consideration of resolutions and petitions will be guided by the Conference Committee on Resolutions and Petitions. In the case of each resolution or General Conference petition, the Committee on Resolutions and Petitions shall offer to the Annual Conference its counsel of "pass or don't pass." The Conference will then proceed to consider and act on the resolution or petition.

POLICIES

Policies are printed for informational purposes and are not to be considered as standing rules of the conference. Policies may therefore be changed or amended by majority vote of the Annual Conference.

Council on Finance and Administration

Revised April 2022 by CCFA

I. Travel Fundⁱ

A. Travel for conference business shall be reimbursed as follows:

By automobile: 60% of the IRS business mileage rate for one round trip.

Per Diem: The amount will be 60% of the United States General Services Administration (GSA) rate for meals/lodging. Any conference meeting that occurs, childcare assistance is available if requested.

Public conveyance: Actual cost of fare unless the cost of fare exceeds the 60% of the IRS business mileage rate for round trip. If the cost of public conveyance exceeds the standard reimbursable mileage rate, prior permission by the applicable Board or Committee Chairperson is required before the travel occurs or the expense is reimbursed.

The in-conference travel expenses of retired clergy members (including those supervising any certified lay ministers or licensed local pastors), persons who were a spouse of a clergy member at the time of that member's death, and clergy members on disability to attend Annual Conference sessions shall be treated as travel for conference business, under this policy.ⁱⁱ For such persons traveling from beyond the conference's geographical borders, the in-conference travel will be measured as one round trip within the Conference from the point on the conference border along the individual's most direct route (as recommended by Google maps) to the site of the Annual Conference and back to that border point.

B. The cost of personal items such as personal telephone calls, etc. shall not be reimbursed from the travel account of that board.

C. A receipt for travel expenses according to IRS guidelines shall be issued in lieu of a reimbursement check if requested.

ⁱ For coverage of this policy for lay-equalization members and assigned certified lay ministers, see Conference Rule 6.11. For coverage of this policy for retired clergy members specifically appointed to a charge, see the conference vacation policy.

ⁱⁱ According to the conference vacation policy, "the charge will pay the travel, registration and per diem expense for its clergy and lay members attending Annual Conference." This includes retired clergy members of the Dakotas Conference appointed specifically to that charge.

II. Budgeting and administration of funds by any committee or group that is funded through the apportionment system

A. Financial Responsibilities of Conference Agency Chairpersons. All conference agency chairpersons (or presidents) shall have the following responsibilities to ensure that expenditures are maintained within the Conference budget for the agency:

1. Knowing what funds are available for their particular program.
2. Spending those funds in accordance with the planning that led to approval by the Annual Conference.
3. Vouchering all expenditure items on forms provided by the Conference Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services and signed/approved by the appropriate chairperson.
4. Sending all vouchers directly to the Conference Office of Finance for payment. Appropriate identification of expenditures is expected. Documentation of expenditures (e.g., receipts) is also expected when circumstances warrant.
5. Vouchers submitted that exceed the total of funds approved for the affected line item in the budget must be approved by the chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) prior to the expenditure of funds.

B. Budget Requests

1. All budget requests for the next fiscal year shall be presented to the CCFA for approval and modification, if necessary, prior to the Annual Conference session in which the total Conference budget is approved. No new budget requests shall be presented to the CCFA less than 30 days prior to the Annual Conference session.
2. No budget requests shall be brought to the CCFA without prior approval of the appropriate conference council, board, committee, commission or task force.
3. CCFA requests that a budget request be made for each new program or agency, as they are developed.

C. CCFA Budgetary Authority Between Conference Sessions

1. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall have authority to adjust line items within the Conference budget when the Conference is not in session under the following restrictions:

- a. The grand total Conference budget may not be changed.
- b. A line item may not be adjusted unless prior consultation has been made with the appropriate Conference agency affected by the proposed adjustment.

D. Designating Reserve Funds:

1. Designated funds are monies set aside by a governing body from the unrestricted reserves for a specific purpose. All requests to designate funds shall be submitted to CCFA for approval. The two types of requests to be considered will be One-Time Requests and Ongoing Requests:

2. One-Time Requests: These are requests to designate unrestricted reserves for a specific purpose and funds are expected to be used within 12-months to satisfy the purpose. One-Time Requests are appropriate for specific purposes: 1) where the need cannot be met by the current budget or other funding sources and 2) that are time sensitive so that they cannot wait upon the normal budget cycle. Requests should be submitted to the CCFA Executive Committee.

3. Ongoing Requests: These are requests to designate unrestricted reserves for a long-term purpose. Ongoing requests are appropriate for: 1) purposes that have expenses that are large and difficult to accurately predict and 2) purposes where a large amount of funds need to be accumulated over time. Requests should be submitted to the CCFA Executive Committee no later than February 28th. For approved requests, any investment income/loss will be applied to the designated funds.

E. CCFA Apportionment Payout Policy: The Conference Policy allows funds to be paid out at 100% of budget. Pensions and insurance is paid out or passed through monthly. All organizations units of the Conference shall adhere to their approved budgets and/or adopted spending plans.

III. Audits, Bonding and Insurance

A. Auditing

Each board, agency, committee and task force which receives and administers conference funds in excess of \$2,500 per year be required to:

Submit annual financial reports to CCFA 30 days prior to the Annual Conference session following completion of the affected organizations' fiscal year.

Submit a report for printing in the annual conference journal.

Arrange for an annual audit.

B. Bonding Requirements

The Conference Treasurer shall be bonded in accordance with ¶618 The Book of Discipline through a blanket bond carried by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church. This bond also covers the Conference Finance staff, any Conference Trustee and staff, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and Treasurers of the Jurisdictional Conference and their staffs.

C. Conference Insurance

Insurance shall be provided for all residences owned by the Annual Conference, the Conference Center, all Conference camp properties, and campus ministry properties and all other properties for which the Conference holds title. Workers' Compensation insurance shall be provided for Conference and camp staff. The Conference insurance program shall be administered by the Conference Board of Trustees. CCFA will provide Officers and Directors liability insurance for the Dakotas Conference.

IV. Personnel/Benefit Section

A. A Rental/Housing Allowance Resolution for Ordained Conference Staff and District Superintendents can be found in the Resolutions section of this JOURNAL.

B. We recommend that each local congregation investigate what state laws may require for coverage of Workers' Compensation and Social Security regulations for full-time or part-time employees. We also recommend local churches investigate the same for ministers.

C. The Conference Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall be designated as the Conference Treasurer for all incorporated and unincorporated councils, boards, committees, commissions, and task forces of the Dakotas Annual Conference.

V. Special Offerings

A. We recommend that every church, after having made arrangements to meet apportionments in full, support Conference Advance Special or General Advance Special Projects. At the mandate of the 2004 General Conference, we urge every pastor and church to celebrate the following Special Days with offerings to be sent to the Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services: Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday, Christian Education Sunday, Rural Life Sunday and Disability Awareness Sunday.

B. Special Fund Drive Appeals: No annual conference agency or interest shall make a special conference-wide appeal to the local churches for funds without approval of the Annual Conference upon recommendation of CCFA, except in case of an extreme emergency, when such approval may be given by a two-thirds vote of the district superintendents and of the Common Table, acting jointly. (See Para 614.5 of the The Book of Discipline).

C. Offerings received at the Annual Conference Session will be used at the discretion of the Annual Conference Sessions Committee and the Bishop.

D. Golden Cross Sunday: The Conference is granted permission to have a Golden Cross Sunday. Receipts from the offering shall be used to support parish nurse programs.

E. Christian Education Sunday Offering: This special offering will support ministries for children and the poor and is recommended to be taken on the second Sunday of September.

F. Thanksgiving Offering: The appeal for this offering shall be designated by the Bishop.

G. CCFA gives the right of permission for the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation to call on local churches for both current gifts and deferred gifts for the Foundation on behalf of the ministries of the Dakotas Annual Conference.

H. Global Aids Awareness Sunday: The Global Aids Task Force is granted permission to have a Global Aids Sunday. Receipts from this offering shall be used at the discretion of the Global Aids Task Force.

VI. Miscellaneous

A. Any board or committee considering an honorarium for a special task demanding time and services of one of its officers or members can only do so upon submitting a proposal for an honorarium to the CCFA for its approval.

Apportionment Method

Part of how a United Methodist Church fulfills its mission is through full and faithful participation in apportionments. In the Dakotas Conference, the method of apportionment shall be that each church gives its percentage of their income to the Annual Conference. For Federated and United churches, this percentage applies only to the income attributed to the United Methodist denomination. The percentage will be of the income received for the support of the operating budget. This is income as defined in Table 3 Line 67 of the annual statistical reports as follows:

Donations from identified and unidentified givers to support the operating budget

Interest and dividends allocated toward the operating budget

Net proceeds from the sale of church assets where the proceeds are used to support the operating budget

Building use fees and rental income

Net income from fundraisers and other programs used to support the operating budget

CCFA will annually determine a percentage for churches to give of their income that is adequate to fund the apportioned budget. The percentage will be approved annually (*A continuation of the 13% apportionment percentage rate has been approved for 2026.*) In addition, each charge will be direct billed for the cost of pension, health insurance, and death/disability insurance. The amount of the direct billing will be calculated as follows:

Health Insurance:

The total annual premiums for all pastors appointed full-time to a charge and participating in the Conference health plan will be reduced by the participant's share. The result will be divided by the number of pastors and billed to each charge based on their number of full-time pastors on the Conference health plan.

Pension:

The pension is made up of two parts: a defined benefit amount and a defined contribution amount. The defined benefit amount is provided to the Conference from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOP). This amount will be divided by the Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) of pastors appointed to local churches and enrolled in the defined benefit pension plan and pastors appointed to extension ministry where the Conference is responsible for their pension contributions. The resulting amount will be billed out according to each charge's

FTE of pastors enrolled in the defined benefit pension plan. The defined contribution is billed to the Conference monthly by GBOP. The billing is a specific amount for each pastor and is based on the pastor's compensation. This amount will be billed by the Conference to each charge according to the pastor(s) appointed.

Death/Disability Insurance:

Death/Disability Insurance is billed to the Conference monthly by GBOP. The billing is a specific amount for each pastor and is based on the pastor's compensation. This amount will be billed by the Conference to each charge according to the pastor(s) appointed.

Mission congregations, as defined in The Book of Discipline ¶259.1.a, will not participate in apportionments or be direct billed for any pension, health insurance, and death/disability insurance. Mission congregations will be reviewed annually by the cabinet to determine if they still meet the definition of a mission congregation. In the event that the congregation is determined to not be a mission congregation, they will begin participating in apportionments following the same schedule as new churches. This also includes satellite congregations.

Churches chartered after 12/31/13 will use the following schedule:

First Partial Year – Begin paying direct bill for pension, health insurance, and death/disability insurance

First Full Year – Direct bill + 20% full apportionment

Second Full Year – Direct bill + 40% full apportionment

Third Full Year – Direct bill + 60% full apportionment

Fourth Full Year – Direct bill + 80% full apportionment

Fifth Full Year – Direct bill + full apportionment

Regarding Churches paying less than 100% of Apportionments.

In recognition of the fact that not all churches within the Dakotas Conference are participating fully (100%) in the apportionment system of financing conference ministries, Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services will contact each of those churches regularly, to help them develop a plan that will make it possible for them to assume their share of apportionments. The goal will be to have each church fully participating within three years of the initial contact. It is further expected that if pastoral leadership is the problem, and if progress is not made yearly and the goal is not reached at the end of the third year, the bishop and cabinet will seriously consider making a change in pastoral leadership for that church.

Mission Congregation Support Policy

Adopted June 2014

The declaration of the “mission congregation” status according to ¶259.1 of The Discipline rests with the office of the bishop, as is the case with any established congregations. The bishop and Cabinet shall carefully review proposed mission congregation opportunities to ensure that they fit both The Discipline definition and the Conference missional strategy. It is expected that very few congregations would receive such a declaration.

When a congregation is either organized or reorganized as a mission congregation in accordance with Discipline and Conference guidelines, the Cabinet shall develop and recommend to the Annual Conference a covenant of understanding, support, and accountability between the congregation and the Conference.

Responsibility for consideration of the financial support for a mission congregation shall rest with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Any support for the physical property shall remain under the purview of the Conference Trustees.

The four areas outlined below shall be considered areas of financial support, pending CCFA's approval:

1. Consistent and ongoing financial resources for each mission congregation. A mission congregation may receive budget support from the Conference, which will allow it to better pursue its missional/strategic goals, and provide for pastoral leadership support. Instead of looking at membership growth, attendance or income, the benchmarks for continued funding shall be based on the ministry of the mission congregation to the parish/ministry field with which they are identified. Effectiveness shall be determined by the outcome of the ministries offered, and not solely on “numbers.”
2. Health and pension costs for a pastor appointed to a mission congregation. The Annual Conference, upon CCFA recommendation, shall assume the health and pension costs for the appointed pastor, in the same way as superintendents or directors have their health and pension costs assumed under conference budgets.

3. Exemption from apportionment formulas. With Conference approval, Mission congregations shall be exempted from the conference apportionment formulas. Instead, on a yearly basis, they shall approve goals and raise funds for missional giving beyond their own needs in accordance with The United Methodist Church.
4. Property support. The Conference Board of Trustees shall have responsibility to consider repair, renovation, upkeep and new builds for the “home” and parsonage of each mission congregation, as feasible within the conference budget.
5. Oversight and evaluation. The bishop and Cabinet shall review the status of “mission congregation” at least every 4 years, recommend to CCFA and the Conference continued financial support. A change of status may occur due to changing demographics, emerging ability of the congregation to assume more of its own financial support, or evaluation of the effectiveness of the congregation to meet its missional goals or purpose.

Policies for Dakotas Conference Salaries

Adopted 2016

EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

District Superintendents and Executive Directors.

The Dakotas Annual Conference Human Resources Committee policy adopted in 2004 shall apply to District Superintendents and Conference Executive Directors (Director of Ministries and Director of Finance and Administrative Services). The policy is: Salaries for district superintendents and conference executive directors shall be equal to the average salary of the top five salaries paid to conference pastors in churches who pay 100% of their apportionments. Salaries in any one year would not decrease from the previous year.

Directors, including Area Directors

Directors are exempt professional employees with special training and expertise to perform responsibilities in a specific area of ministry. Directors include, but not limited to, the campsite directors, Director of Leadership Development and Director of Communications. Area directors serve Dakotas and Minnesota and include Area Director of New Church Development and Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry.

Missionaries

Conference Missionaries are exempt professional employees who are certified by the General Board of Global Ministries for service as mission personnel. The bishop assigns these people to the mission field of the Dakotas Annual Conference. Missionaries may supervise a staff of non-exempt employees. The respective employing agents will develop a salary pool for its employees.

Conference Center Employees

The Human Resources Committee has adopted a compensation system to help ensure equity in compensation based on the grade of the position and the individual employee’s job performance. Each Conference Center position will be assigned a grade and exempt/non-exempt status based on the Factor Evaluation System and job description. Annual evaluations will be used to help determine how well the employee is fulfilling the job description of their position. Compensation is calculated accordingly, including an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Conference Support Staff Salaries

The Human Resource Committee sets salaries annually, usually allowing a cost-of-living increase.

Conference Camping Employees

As a non-permanent standing committee of the Developing Missional Leaders Link, the Area Camp and Retreat Ministry Council works in conjunction with the Missional Leaders Link and the Council on Finance and Administration to set the overall operations budget. The Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry, in partnership with the Area Camp and Retreat Ministry Council and site directors, develops a compensation pool for conference camping employees. The individual salaries are set at the discretion of the Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministry, based upon an individual’s performance and the availability of funds.

Equitable Compensation

Revised: June 2017

The purpose of Equitable Compensation is to work with the District Superintendents in the effort to support congregations as they strive to become viable (Rule 1.4). This is done by A) providing salary support grants to churches/charges served by a fulltime United Methodist pastor and B) making an annual recommendation of the minimum compensation needed by a pastor to allow them to focus their efforts on the ministry instead of seeking secondary employment.

ANNUAL RECOMMENDATION OF MINIMUM COMPENSATION

- 1) The base cash salary for each year: 65% of the conference average compensation for full connection clergy; 62% of the conference average compensation for less than full connection clergy.
- 2) The base cash salary for both clergy groups listed in 1) shall include any personal tax deferred annuities, personal IRA's paid by the local church, or personal pension plan in addition to the recommended contribution to the Pension program (UMPIP) in paragraph 3.
- 3) The pastor shall receive the following in addition to minimum compensation. A) pension program contribution (UMPIP) equal to 3% of the denominational average compensation; B) continuing education allowance (minimum of \$150); C) travel allowance by voucher at the current IRS rate; D) utilities paid in full (minimum of heat, electricity, local phone service, water, garbage service, and internet); accountable reimbursement plan (minimum of \$500).

SALARY SUPPORT GRANTS

- 1) The following requests will be considered by the Commission:
 - a. Strategic Appointment Grant – Available when a new appointment results in significantly increased costs to the church or charge. These increased costs will be so burdensome that it is unlikely that the church or charge will have adequate resources available to take the necessary steps to becoming viable without outside assistance. The purpose of this grant is to assist the church or charge in its transition to being able to fully support the newly appointed pastor. The church or charge shall provide monthly written status reports to the District Superintendent and Conference Treasurer. Status reports shall at a minimum report progress towards benchmarks.
 - b. Discernment Grant – Available when a church or charge has declined in its ability to support a full-time United Methodist pastor to the point where it is unlikely to be able to provide the recommended minimum compensation. The purpose of this grant is to provide time for the District Superintendent to evaluate the viability of the congregation and decide upon a ministry plan that is appropriate for the church or charge. The District Superintendent shall provide a report on the viability and the ministry plan at the next Equitable Compensation meeting. Depending on the ministry plan adopted by the District Superintendent and the church or charge, it may be appropriate for the church or charge to provide monthly written status reports to the District Superintendent and Conference Treasurer.
 - c. Emergency Grant – Available when a church or charge provides evidence that they will not be able to provide their full-time United Methodist pastor with the recommended minimum compensation. The purpose of this grant is to ensure that the pastor is properly cared for.
- 2) Churches or charges shall pay their apportionments in full during the years they receive salary support grant payments. Churches or charges that do not comply with this shall not be considered for a Salary Support Grant the following year with the exception of Emergency Grants.
- 3) The maximum amount to be paid for Strategic Appointment Grants and Discernment Grants shall be \$5,400 annually. Grant payments to a church or charge shall be made monthly. A church or charge shall not receive Salary Support Grant payments for more than 36 consecutive months.
- 4) Salary Support Grant requests shall be submitted in writing to the District Superintendent and the Conference Treasurer. In order for Salary Support Grant payments to continue into a new calendar year, the written request must be updated and resubmitted.
- 5) The churches or charges receiving support will be listed in the Conference Journal.

Equitable Compensation Calculation: The Commission calculates the Equitable Compensation amount based on the Conference Average Compensation. See calculations below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Full Connection Clergy</i>	<i>Less than Full Connection Clergy</i>
2026	\$78,677 x 65% = \$51,140	\$78,677 x 62% = \$48,780
2025*	\$77,234 x 65% = \$50,203	\$77,234 x 62% = \$47,885
2024*	\$75,241 x 65% = \$48,906	\$75,241 x 62% = \$46,649
2023	\$73,163 x 65% = \$47,556	\$73,163 x 62% = \$45,361
2022	\$70,476 x 65% = \$45,809	\$70,476 x 62% = \$43,695
2021	\$68,424 x 65% = \$44,476	\$68,424 x 62% = \$42,423

**The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) is the average compensation paid to full-time clergy in a particular conference, effective three years after the calculation year, i.e., the 2025 CAC is calculated using the 2022 compensation*

figures. Due to the pension rebates paid to clergy in 2021 and 2022, the CAC reported to the Dakotas Conference from Wespeth for 2024 and 2025 were abnormally high (\$84,767 and \$81,594, respectively). Therefore, the CAC's for 2024 and 2025 were adjusted by increasing the CAC by the five-year average increase in CAC of 2.84% and 2.65%, respectively, preventing a decrease in the equitable compensation calculation from 2024 to 2025. For 2026, the actual CAC was used to determine equitable compensation. The charges which received Equitable Compensation support in 2024 included the following: Garretson, Montrose, Flandreau, Plankinton, and Clark

Pensions & Health Benefits Guidelines

Adopted: 1996; Amended: 2017

Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.

Benefit Programs administered by the Dakotas Conference Board of Pensions include:

- **Health Insurance:** The Board currently provides health insurance for eligible active clergy, retired clergy under the age of 65, lay employees, their families and surviving spouses through the “HealthFlex” plan offered by Wespeth Benefits and Investments (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits). The Board recommended effective 1/1/2013, providing retirees with access to coverage through Via Benefits which will be facilitated by Wespeth Benefits and Investments. This was voted on and approved at Annual Conference June 2012.
- Beginning in 2019, we moved to HealthFlex Exchange through Wespeth giving active participant’s more coverage options. The participant’s share calculations will no longer be based on participant’s total compensation. Details were shared throughout 2018.
- **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP):** CPP provides several benefits for eligible active clergy, retired clergy, their families and survivors. These include:
 - Disability benefits for clergy who are not able to perform full-time work as clergy for medical or behavioral health reasons.
 - Death benefits of lump-sum payments upon the death of a clergy, spouse, surviving spouse, or dependent child, a basic annuity rate for surviving spouses, an annual surviving child benefit for children under the age of 18, and an educational benefit for surviving children enrolled in school and under age 25. According to Wespeth Benefits and Investments, “Clergy who retire under the 20 year rule are not eligible for CPP death benefits.”

Effective 1/1/2013 for those who retire 1/1/13 or after (CPP) Participant (retiree, retiree’s spouse, retiree’s surviving spouse, retiree’s child) Death Benefits will change to a flat dollar amount rather than a percentage of the Denomination Average Compensation in the year of death as was calculated previously. Death benefits for Active Participant will remain the same.

Effective 1/1/2017 the Dakotas Conference will make it mandatory that CPP participation will cover all full-time, three-quarter time ordained or in process of becoming clergy members, clergy on sabbatical, local pastors and members of other denominations (provided they are not covered under another denomination’s benefits).

- **The Ministerial Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-1982 – MRPF):** This “Defined Benefit” plan offers a benefit for each year of service before 1982. The annuity (Past Service) rate is adjusted according to the CAC (Conference Average Compensation.)
- **Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP):** A defined contribution plan for service between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 2006. Effective January 1, 2007, no further contributions are paid into this plan. However, the Annual Conference is still responsible to guarantee the annuity amounts paid from the Ministerial Pension Plan.
- **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP):** Approved by the 2012 General Conference, CRSP provides two levels of benefits for clergy effective 1/1/2014: a) a “Defined Benefit” (DB) component equal to 1.00% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement for each year of credited service (1.25% of credited service from 2007-2013) and b) a “Defined Contribution” (DC) equal to 2% of a clergy’s plan compensation deposited into an investment account controlled by the clergyperson. In addition, the Church/salary paying unit will match participant contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) up to 1% of compensation – and deposit those matching funds into participant CRSP DC accounts. Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of compensation plus housing to UMPIP, his or her CRSP DC contributions will be 3% as was under the 2007-2013 CRSP plan. This plan change became effective January 1, 2014.

- **Pension and Benefit Plans for Lay Employees:** The Board of Pensions administers these plans; however, funding and enrollment for these plans are the responsibility of the employer (Annual Conference, UM related institution, or local church).
 - **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP):** This voluntary plan is a 403(b) retirement savings and investment plan. If local churches, the annual conference, or UM related institutions are willing to become a plan sponsor, clergy and lay employees can make personal contributions to UMPIP without any “employer” contributions. The requirements to do this are very simple: complete the necessary application forms to be a PLAN SPONSOR, withhold an amount from the employee’s wages, and submit it to Wespath Benefits and Investments monthly on the employee’s behalf. **Beginning in January 2018 the Dakotas Conference became Plan Sponsor for all clergy.**
 - **UMPIP personal contributions:** Beginning in January 2018 all clergy with an existing participant contribution election at a contribution rate that is lower than the default contribution rate of 3%, all clergy who are not making participant contributions, and all new clergy hires will be automatically enrolled in the UMPIP plan with a contribution rate of 3%. Participants will have the opportunity to opt-out. This will not affect participants that are already contributing 3% or more.

If clergy want to make sure they continue to receive the full 3% into their CRSP DC account, they will need to participate and make personal contribution of a minimum 1% of their compensation plus housing into their UMPIP account.

Health Benefits Guidelines

Adopted 1996/Amended 2016, 2020 and 2021

Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.

Conference Health Benefits Plan Eligibility to Participate and Premium Payment Rules for Active Pastor And Lay Employees

ADMINISTRATION OF PENSION AND BENEFIT FUNDS: The Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. shall be responsible for the administration of the pension and other benefit funds of the Conference in accordance with THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE of The United Methodist Church. The conference health benefits plan will be provided through HealthFlex, a group plan under the auspices of Wespath Benefits & Investments (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) of The United Methodist Church.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN

Beginning January 2022, HealthFlex coverage will include three-quarter time active clergy. All of the same options will be available to these clergy as available to full time clergy. There will be the option for both three-quarter time and full-time clergy to Opt-Out as long as they qualify for the Opt-Out reasons. The Opt-Out reasons are as follows:

1. Enrollment in coverage through former or current employer
2. Enrollment as a dependent in your spouse’s employer-provided coverage
3. Enrollment in Champus/Tricare
4. Enrollment in Medicaid or Medicare
- 5a. Coverage under HealthFlex through your local church (Salary-Paying Unit) through your Plan Sponsor (Annual Conference) is considered unaffordable under the ACA.
- 5b. The participant has no offer of employer-provided coverage under HealthFlex

HealthFlex Direct Bill effective 2022: Full time pastors – churches with covered pastors will be billed the full HealthFlex Direct Bill. Churches with opt-out pastors (full time) will be billed half of the full HealthFlex Direct Bill. Three quarter time pastors – churches with covered pastors will be billed half of the full HealthFlex Direct Bill. Churches with opt-out pastors (3/4 time) will be billed one quarter of the full HealthFlex Direct Bill. Churches with a retired pastor serving immediately following a covered pastor will be billed half of the full HealthFlex Direct Bill.

Clergy appointed full time interim of less than 12 months are eligible to Opt-Out. The appointed church will still be responsible for the HealthFlex Direct Bill.

- a. No active United Methodist pastor can participate in the Conference Health Benefits Plan if they are appointed/employed less than three-quarter time.

- b. A lay employee of a salary paying unit normally scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week inclusively in a calendar year and who has reached age 18 and who has been employed for at least one month shall be eligible for coverage in HealthFlex.
- c. Active participants who do not enroll during the initial 30-day eligibility period can enroll only during the annual open enrollment period and the pre-existing conditions provisions of the plan would then take effect. In addition, active participants who experience a special enrollment event may enroll mid-year.
- d. Participants appointed to medical leave and receiving CPP disability benefits may participate in the Conference Active Health Plan and will be responsible for paying the participant's share as long as conference policy and rules permit. The participant's share for 2016 and forward: 28% of participant's actual premium, whether single or participant-plus-one or family will be paid to the conference office.
- e. Participants appointed to medical leave and applying for CPP disability benefits can participate up to four (4) months and will be responsible for the participant's share as long as conference policy and rules permit. The participant's share for 2016 and forward: 28% of participant's actual premium, whether single or participant plus one or family will be paid to the conference office. Applications for extensions of the four (4) month time limit should be made to the Conference Benefits Officer for Executive Committee review and consideration.
- f. Participants appointed to sabbatical leave may remain covered on the health plan for up to 12 months. Participants after the 12 months are eligible for the 18-month Continuation Coverage provided by the plan. Participants pay 100% of premium.
- g. Participants appointed to voluntary leave of absence/personal leave may remain covered on the health plan for up to 12 months. Participants after the 12 months are eligible for the 18-month Continuation Coverage provided by the plan. Participants pay 100% of premium.
- h. Participants appointed to voluntary leave of absence/transitional leave may remain covered on the health plan for up to 12 months. Participants after the 12 months are eligible for the 18-month Continuation Coverage provided by the plan. Participants pay 100% of premium.
- i. Participants appointed to voluntary leave of absence/family leave remain covered on the health plan for up to 12 months. Participants after the 12 months are eligible for the 18-month Continuation Coverage provided by the plan. Participants pay 100% of premium.
- j. Participants granted maternity/paternity leave will remain covered for the duration of the leave. Participant and salary paying unit will continue to pay their respective shares of premium for duration of leave.
- k. Participants appointed to involuntary leave may remain covered on the health plan for up to 12 months. Participants after the 12 months are eligible for the 18-month Continuation Coverage provided by the plan. Participants pay 100% of premium.
- l. Grant Policy: "In the event that a Conference health plan participant (clergy, surviving spouse, or lay employee) has a significant financial need related to medical costs, Conference Board of Pensions' grant funding may be available by applying to the Conference Benefits Officer. Participants in sub adoption agreement health plans who have a significant medical financial need may apply to their employer for assistance."
- m. When both spouses of a clergy couple are appointed full-time to a local charge, it should be noted that each spouse be covered by a separate policy unless they have a qualifying dependent. In that case, they may be covered by a family policy. Clergy couples covered by a family policy will pay only one participant's share (calculated on the salary of the spouse with the higher salary). Clergy couples on separate policies will each have a participant's share. In either case, only one Direct Bill will be billed which may be split between the charges.
- n. Surviving Spouses and their eligible dependent(s) (up to age 26 or as otherwise permitted under federal or state law) of a deceased active pastor or lay employee may remain eligible for coverage under the active health plan until the surviving spouse reaches age 65. The Surviving Spouse's cost will be 28% of the actual premium, whether single or 2 party or family and will be paid to the conference office, directly. This policy is retroactively effective commencing January 1, 2021. In the event of remarriage of a surviving spouse, the Surviving Spouse and their dependent(s) shall no longer be eligible for coverage under the active health plan.

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF HEALTH BENEFIT PREMIUMS: The Conference Health Benefit Plan premium shall be remitted monthly to the conference Office of Finance and Administrative Services by:

- a. The church treasurer, who shall pay this amount from the church budget for the direct bill and deduct the appropriate amount from the participant's salary for the participant's share.
- b. The Conference Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall deduct the appropriate amount from the participant's salaries paid by the Annual Conference.
- c. Treasurers of independent agencies enrolled in the conference health plan.
- d. Individuals who are responsible for payment of part or all of their premiums, but whose premiums are not paid by those listed in a. through c. above.

Conference Health Benefits Plan Eligibility To Participate For Retirees & Survivors (Clergy Or Lay)

ADMINISTRATION OF PENSION AND BENEFIT FUNDS: The Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. shall be responsible for the administration of the pension and other benefit funds of the Conference in accordance with THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE of The United Methodist Church. The conference health benefits plan will be provided through HealthFlex Exchange (retirees under 65), a group plan under the auspices of Wespath Benefits & Investments (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) of The United Methodist Church and Via Benefits (formerly One Exchange) (retirees 65 and older), a Medicare Individual Supplement Insurance Exchange.

Eligibility Rules for Participating in the Conference Health Benefits Plan, HealthFlex Exchange (Retiree under 65)

To participate in this health plan of the Conference in retirement:

CLERGY: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference in retirement, a person must have been an active clergy member of this Conference for at least five years immediately prior to retirement and a participant in HealthFlex for five (5) continuous uninterrupted years immediately prior to retirement

LAY: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference in retirement, a person must have been for at least five years immediately prior to retirement either an active lay employee of this Conference or an active lay employee of a Conference-related institution and must be a participant in HealthFlex for five (5) continuous uninterrupted years immediately prior to retirement.

SURVIVORS: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference as a surviving spouse or surviving dependent, the person survived (the deceased participant) must have been participating in the health insurance plan of this Conference at the time of the participant's death. Surviving dependent children remain eligible as long as the child remains dependent and is not eligible for health care through government programs.

SPOUSES: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference as a spouse the person must have been married to the clergy or lay employee prior to retirement and the clergy or lay employee is eligible to participate.

Eligibility Rules for Participating in the Conference Health Benefits Plan, Via Benefits

To participate in this health plan of the Conference in retirement:

CLERGY: Shall be retiring as a member of the Dakotas Conference AND meet one of the following:

- a. Have been a member and on HealthFlex for five continuous years immediately prior to retirement;
- b. Was eligible but declined or dropped retiree HealthFlex coverage with 20+ years of service;
- c. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire with less than five continuous years on HealthFlex immediately prior to retirement;
- d. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while serving a charge part-time;
- e. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while on Voluntary Leave of Absence;
- f. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while under appointment of another Conference (346.1);
- g. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while appointed to extension ministry under GBHEM (344.1b);
- h. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while appointed to other extension ministries (344.1b);
- i. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while appointed to extension ministry under GBGM (344.1c);
- j. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while appointed to extension ministry within the Connectional Structure (344.1a);
- k. Have 20+ years of full-time service but retire while appointed to a church of another denomination (345);
- l. Have been approved by the Conference Board of Pensions because of exceptional circumstances.

LAY: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference in retirement, a person must have been for at least five years immediately prior to retirement either an active lay employee of this Conference or an active lay employee of a Conference-related institution and must be a participant in HealthFlex for five (5) continuous uninterrupted years immediately prior to retirement.

SURVIVORS: To be able to participate in the health plan of this Conference as a surviving spouse or surviving dependent, the person survived must have been participating in the health insurance plan of this Conference at the time of the participant's death. Surviving dependent children remain eligible as long as the child remains dependent and is not eligible for health care through government programs.

Any retiree not participating in Social Security, i.e., who has opted out of Social Security, and thereby not covered by Medicare Part A and enrolled in Medicare Part B, will NOT be eligible to participate in the health plan of this Conference, through HealthFlex, Via Benefits or otherwise, in retirement. This does not prohibit a retiree's spouse from participating if the spouse has NOT opted out of Social Security and is covered by Medicare Part A and enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Rules and policies included in the adoption agreements between Wespeth Benefits & Investments (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) of The United Methodist Church and the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church supersede these policies.

Conference Eligibility For Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) and Premium Support Funding For Retirees & Survivors (Clergy Or Lay)

Eligibility Rules for Receiving Funding in a Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) or through Premium Support

For determining eligibility, the following service qualifies as full-time service: clergy that are appointed in this Conference or within the connectional structure to a unit of this Conference or on CPP (disability) for which the annual conference has provided the pension contributions to either CRSP, MPP, or Pre-82. These changes became effective 1/1/2017.

Elders, Associate Members, Provisionals, and Local Pastors: Sabbatical Leave (§352); Full-time local charge in Conference; Full-time within the Conference; CPP (disability)

Any retiree not participating in the health plan of this Conference will NOT be eligible for receiving a retiree HRA or premium support.

In addition:

- a. **CLERGY:** To be eligible to receive a retiree HRA or premium support, a person must have the following years of full-time service:
 - i. Persons retiring prior to 1/1/2016 must have 6 or more years of service.
 - ii. Persons retiring from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2019 must have 10 or more years of service.
 - iii. Persons retiring from 1/1/2020 going forward must have 14 or more years of service.*
- b. **LAY:** To be eligible to receive a retiree HRA or premium support, a person must have the following years of full-time service as determined by their employment record:
 - i. Persons retiring prior to 1/1/2016 must have 6 or more years of service.
 - ii. Persons retiring from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2019 must have 10 or more years of service.
 - iii. Persons retiring from 1/1/2020 going forward must have 14 or more years of service.*
- c. **SURVIVORS, SPOUSES, AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN:** Eligibility extends to the surviving spouse or, if no surviving spouse, the surviving dependent children of eligible clergy persons and lay employees at the same rate as the person that they survived.
- d. Retirees serving in retirement at a church that they have served during active status will not qualify for any fund due to IRS rules. However, once they have fully retired from serving or are serving a church that was not in their active service record will be eligible to receive funding. The funding that they would have earned when they officially retired will then be put into their account as well.

*Approved during March 22-23, 2024, Board of Pensions meeting

Determining Amount of HRA Contributions and Premium Support

The amount for those persons eligible will be calculated based on:

- a. The person's age as of January 1st (calculated to a quarter-year). For dependent children, the age of the clergy person or lay employee will be used.

- b. The years of full-time service as defined above in the eligibility rules section for clergy persons or the employment records for lay employees. For dependent children and spouses, the years of service of the clergy person or lay employee will be used. For clergy couples, the years of service of the spouse with the greater number of years of service will be used for both persons.
- c. Years of credit in place as of July 2012 will be grandfathered in to the HRA calculations.

An amount determined by the ratio of each participant's individual calculations (age plus years of service minus the number 65) to the total of all individual calculations. Each participant's individual ratio will be applied to the total amount available for contributions for the retiree's HRA and premium support.

The total amount available for HRA contributions and premiums support will be determined by the Conference Board of Pensions as part of their annual budget recommendation.

For retirees age 65 and older that are on Via Benefits, their amount will be deposited in an HRA administered through Via Benefits.

For retirees under the age of 65 that are on HealthFlex Exchange, their premium support will reduce the amount of the premium that the retiree is responsible for. (e.g. In 2021, depending on the plan that is selected from the six plans that will be available, the premium will range from \$7,500 up to \$10,164 for single coverage; \$14,256 up to \$19,308 for 2 party coverage. The conference support will be based on the same calculations as though they were retired and 65 year or older. See the prior paragraph for explanation. This does not include any dental or advanced vision coverage that will also be available.

If a retiree is unable to pay the total participant's share, the retiree may apply to the Conference Board of Pensions by contacting the Conference Benefits Officer for possible grant funding assistance.

General Rules and Policies regarding Health Care Benefits

Rules and policies included in the HealthFlex Plan Documents and Adoptions Agreements between Wespeth Benefits & Investments (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) of The United Methodist Church and the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church supersede these policies.

Specific Rules and Policies regarding Medical Reimbursement Accounts (MRA) and Dependent Care Accounts (DCA).

If a participant fails to make the required contributions within sixty days of such notice, the plan sponsor may terminate the participant's coverage effective the end of the month for which some partial contribution has been paid by the participant. This may apply to a participant's medical, dental, vision and medical/dependent reimbursement accounts as a group, or to just a medical reimbursement account and/or dependent care account. The plan sponsor needs to complete an enrollment/change form showing declination of coverage on the participant, with the event date being the last date of the period for which partial payment was received. If participant later wants to accept coverage he/she must wait until the next annual election period to enroll for coverage beginning the following plan year. In addition, in order to re-enroll and select election, all outstanding premiums must be paid by the participant. The exception to this is if the participant or dependent experiences a special enrollment event as defined under the Health Information Protection and Portability Act (HIPPA).

Specific Rules and Policies Regarding Health Care Benefits

Divorced Spouses may continue to participate in HealthFlex for up to two (2) years if divorce decree does not stipulate a time period. Participant or Divorced Spouse pay 100% of the premium, depending on divorce decree stipulations.

Surviving spouses of clergy who are participating in the Conference Health Benefits Plan will receive reimbursement of their Medicare Part B premium. If a surviving spouse remarries, Medicare Part B reimbursement is reduced to 50%.

Questions regarding policy interpretation should be addressed to the Conference Benefits Officer, Conference Board of Pensions, for referral to, and decision by, that body.

Specific Rules regarding payment of direct billing to churches and participants

If payment is not made on the direct billing to the church for both the churches' direct bill and/or the participant's direct bill, the following steps will be taken:

After 30 days, a certified letter will be sent by the conference finance office to the applicable pastor/participant, church/charge treasurer, PPRC Chair, and applicable district superintendent inquiring about payment.

After 45 days, the applicable district superintendent will contact the applicable pastor/participant, church/charge treasurer, and PPRC Chair to inquire and encourage regarding payment.

Funding Policies

RETIREE HEALTH FUNDING PLAN/(HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS)

To fund the Health Reimbursement Account contributions, the Board will use funds from three sources. It is the Board of Pensions hope that we will be able to increase the funding amount each year for our retirees:

1. Funds that had been accumulated for the Retiree Health Liability.
2. Earnings from the Frank Lynch and Georgia Lynch Trust.
3. Each year a small percentage will be added to the Active Participant Share in the “Salary Ratio” that the Active Participant Share is currently calculated. The amount generated by the additional 3% in 2018 will be directed to funding retiree health.

Care and Concern Fund: Care and Concern funds are available to the cabinet on a case-by-case basis. The case shall be presented by the Cabinet for approval by the Executive Committee of the Board of Pensions as to the need for these funds. A report shall be given to the full Board of Pensions on any cases. These funds shall be of a last resort after all other options have been explored including the use of cabinet emergency funds. The purpose of this fund is to assist: A) pastors exiting from ministry and B) caring for extreme health and well-being issues. At the end of the calendar year any leftover cabinet emergency funds shall be transferred to replenish the Care and Concern fund.

Lynch Trust Funds Policy

The Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. is the entity within the Dakotas Conference structure that has “charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the institutions, organizations, and agencies within” the Dakotas Annual Conference, (Book of Discipline, ¶639).

The Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. is the successor of the Conference Claimants Fund and therefore is the entity responsible for administering funds today that are dedicated to the same purpose as the “Conference Claimants Fund” of the Methodist Episcopal Church [and the Methodist Church] as outlined in the will of Frank Lynch. As stated in the [will and codicil of Frank and Georgia Lynch], their intention in making their gift to the Conference Claimants Fund was to provide for the benefit and welfare of “worn out preachers.” Therefore, it is the policy of the Dakotas Annual Conference, that when the principals of the Frank Lynch Trust and the Georgia Lynch Trust are distributed, the Dakotas Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits shall be the Conference entity to receive and exercise stewardship over both the principal and the existing and subsequent earnings of those Trusts. On receipt of the disbursed Trusts’ assets, the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. shall deposit those assets in its accounts held on its behalf by Wespeth Benefits and Investments (formerly General Board of Pension & Health Benefits) of The United Methodist Church. At the time of receipt, the Treasurer of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. in consultation with the Board’s Executive Committee shall determine where in the Wespeth (formerly General Board) accounts to deposit the assets. Subsequent movement and investment of the assets shall be made in accordance with then-current policies and practices of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

On receipt of the assets, the initial principal amount shall be held by the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. as an endowment. Release from endowment status of any funds shall be made only after consideration by and decision of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. and consistently with the [will and codicil of Frank and Georgia Lynch].

All earnings generated by the Lynch Trusts Assets Endowment shall be allocated to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy of the Dakotas Annual Conference as determined by decision of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

Earnings generated by the Lynch Trusts Assets Endowment that are included in the annual budget recommendation of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. shall be expended consistently with the [will and codicil of Frank and Georgia Lynch] as recommended by the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., and adopted by the Dakotas Annual Conference.

Guidelines for Applying for Disability Benefits

Amended: June 2017

Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Conference Board of Pensions

1. Initiation of the disability application process should begin with the applicant. In emergency situations, it may be initiated by the custodian or designee of the applicant or by the District Superintendent in whose district the applicant serves.
2. District Superintendent contacts Conference Benefits Officer to verify CPP eligibility of applicant.
3. If CPP eligible then CBO or DS will contact Joint Committee on Incapacity and Cabinet of request.
4. Application shall proceed using the forms provided by Wespath Benefits & Investments which will be provided, when so requested, by the Conference Benefits Officer. The forms shall be sent to the District Superintendent who shall serve as primary contact in the initial stages of application or directly to CBO if approved by District Superintendent.
5. The Superintendent or CBO, if directed by DS shall prepare the file by ensuring that materials which will include (but are not restricted to) the following are enclosed: signed request for disability application; written statement from the Superintendent endorsing the disability with citation from parish consultations; other supporting documentation that may be germane to a special situation.
6. Once the applicant has completed all the necessary forms they shall then be sent to the Conference Benefits Officer for approval and signature on appropriate forms on behalf of the Conference Board of Pensions. The CBO in turn will send the appropriate form for approval and signature to the Convener of the Joint Committee on Disability or the Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry if no such committee established.
7. The Convener or Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry shall arrange for either a face-to-face meeting or other communication setting with the Joint Committee on Medical Leave (chair and vice chair or other committee member of BOM, Chair and Executive Secretary of BOP and District Superintendent for applicant) to review the application process for applicant.
8. The Convener or Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry will contact the District Superintendent, full Board of Ordained Ministry, full Board of Pensions of the Committee's action and recommendation on Medical Leave process. If the decision is to "not endorse," the Superintendent, after consultation with the applicant, may request that the file be forwarded to Wespath.
9. Assuming endorsement and support by the Joint Committee, the Convener or Chair of BOM will add signature to the application form and record recommendation for file and send form to the Conference Benefits Officer, who in turn will submit the form to Wespath for application approval by the current disability insurance company.
10. The applicant shall be notified by the CBO that the application and supporting materials have been submitted to Wespath.
11. Participants newly appointed to medical leave and in the process of applying for Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits as outlined above will be paid by the Conference for up to four (4) months as disability benefits a monthly amount calculated from the greater of: a) 70% of their plan compensation in their appointment immediately prior to appointment to medical leave, or b) 40% of the Denominational Average Compensation in effect at the time of appointment to medical leave. (See the "Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Dakotas Conference" published elsewhere in this Journal for the designation of this amount as Housing Allowance.) The monthly Conference disability benefit will cease upon approval of CPP disability benefits as described in that Plan's Document or upon disapproval of CPP benefits, whichever happens first within the time limit stated earlier. In extraordinary situations application for extension of the four (4) month time limit should be made to the Conference Benefits Officer for Executive Committee review and consideration."

Vacation and Time Off Policy

Amended: 2015; Revised: 2024

Vacation

Vacation is a vital and important part of human health and renewal. The Charge will pay for the pulpit supply for vacation Sundays. In order to ensure the health of our Spirit-led missional leaders, the Dakotas Conference mandates that each charge shall grant full time appointed clergy at least, but not limited to the following amount of paid vacation during each appointment year. Vacation is 28 days each including four Sundays, for a total of 28 days. Parishes may choose to grant more than 28 days considering years of service in ministry, family needs, or other variables. All such agreements shall be

agreed to in writing between the pastor and pastor/staff parish relations committee. Clergy with a less than a full-time appointment shall be granted at least the number of vacation as follows:

- Quarter Time appointed clergy shall receive one 10 days including four Sundays.
- Half Time appointed clergy shall receive 16 days including four Sundays.
- Three-quarter Time appointed clergy shall receive 22 days including four Sundays.

Sick Leave

Clergy under appointment are eligible for up to 10 days paid sick leave annually. These days will not accrue from year-to-year. They will be pro-rated for less than full-time service. Unused sick leave will not be paid out as cash compensation. If a clergy exceeds 10 days sick leave, the staff parish relations committee and district superintendent shall be consulted on next steps. It is expected that sick leave is not used for person time off but rather because the clergy person is either ill or recovering from a medical procedure or caring for a sick family member.

Parental Leave

Parent Leave, Book of Discipline, Para. 335— Up to 13 weeks of parental leave is available for the pastor who becomes a new parent following the guidelines of the *Book of Discipline*. Full compensation, salary and benefits are to be maintained for at least 8 weeks. Pulpit supply funds are available to cover the period of leave. Visit the conference website for more information on applying for pulpit supply funds.

Continuing Education

Continuing Education is a vital and important part of leadership development for Spirit-led missional leaders. Continuing Education time is not to be confused with vacation and can be taken in single day increments. Vacation is for rest and recharging. Continuing Education is for professional and spiritual development. Each Charge will grant its appointed clergy (full or part-time) one week, including one Sunday, for a total of seven days for the purpose of continuing education and professional improvement during each appointment year. Board of Ordained Ministry has dollars available to support continuing education. Visit the Dakotas Conference website for more information. The Charge will pay for the pulpit supply for the continuing education Sunday. Process: The pastor consulting with the staff parish relations committee and / or the leadership team to agree upon the timeframe and focus for continuing education.

Weekly Days Off

Clergy are expected to take holidays—federal, state, along with any others the parish may determine, and at least one day off each week, preferable two days. Up to five days of “compensation time” may be accumulated to be taken at another time, not to include a Sunday. Clergy will inform the staff parish relations committee when “compensation time” is taken.

Annual Conference

All clergy are expected to attend all sessions of the Annual Conference. The Sunday immediately after Annual Conference is a travel/rest day and is not vacation or continuing education time. The Charge will pay the travel, registration and per diem expense for its clergy and lay members attending Annual Conference. The Charge will pay for the pulpit supply for Conference Sunday. Process: The pastor consulting with the staff parish relations committee to agree upon the timeframe and focus for continuing education.

Connectional Responsibilities

As members of the Annual Conference, clergy will have connectional responsibilities (e.g. meetings of the Annual, Jurisdictional or General Conference Boards and agencies, Conference Camps, etc.). Time spent on these responsibilities will not be counted as vacation time or continuing education. Process: Clergy will inform the staff-parish relations committee of time needed for these responsibilities.

Higher Ground

Eight-Year Assessment Book of Discipline, Para. 349.5—All clergy must participate in this eight-year assessment process as required by the *Book of Discipline*. It is required to remain in good standing with the Board of Ordained Ministry

(BOM). Deferments must be negotiated in consultation with the Cabinet and BOM. Two-weeks of extra vacation times is part of the Higher Ground experiences in addition to the required retreat. Higher Ground can be back-to-back with other leaves. Process: The pastor consults with the staff parish relations committee and / or leadership team to communicate time away and coverage in the clergy's absence.

Short-Term Renewal Leave

Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth Leave, Book of Discipline, para. 350.2—Appointed clergy are eligible to take a renewal leave to seek rest and renewal, educational opportunities, and / or spiritual growth of one month of a year every quadrennium. The time away is in addition to vacation time. The local church continues providing compensation and benefits during the pastor's leave. Funding: Financial help for pulpit supply and pastoral coverage is available. Fill out the form found on the conference website.

Long-Term Renewal Leave

Renewal Leave, Book of Discipline, para. 350.3—Appointed clergy who have held full-time appointments for at least six years may request a long-term renewal leave up to six months in duration while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. The time away is in addition to vacation time. The pastor, staff / pastors relations committee and district superintendent negotiate compensation during this leave. The pastor consults with the staff pastor relations committee and / or leadership team, and the district superintendent to develop a formal plan of learning and grow as part of the leave experiences. Information regarding funding is available on the conference website.

Sabbatical Leave

Sabbatical Leave, Book of Discipline, para. 351—Appointed clergy in full connection or associate members who have been serving in a full-time appointment for six consecutive years, or in a less than full-time appointment equivalent for six consecutive full-time years, may request a sabbatical leave up to one year for a time of study or travel as approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The appointment to sabbatical leave is to be made by the bishop upon the vote of the annual conference after recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry. A written request with a plan for study and travel is required. The clergy is not compensated during the leave period. Refer to *para. 351* of the *Book of Discipline* for more information.

Personal Wellness Leave

Clergy under appointment serving a local church in the Dakotas Annual Conferences may request a Personal Wellness Leave up to eight weeks when needed due to an urgent situation or crisis in the life of the clergyperson when other time away options are not available or not appropriate. The Clergy Personal Wellness Leave request is approved by the district superintendent in coordination with the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. The local church continues providing compensation and benefits during the pastor's leave. The pastor contacts the district superintendent and if able, the S/PPRC, to request a Personal Wellness Leave. The Personal Wellness Leave form is completed by the clergyperson if possible. If not, the district superintendent completes on the clergy's behalf. The district superintendent approves or denies the request based upon the circumstances of the situation. The district superintendent works with the S/PPRC and leadership to seek pastoral coverage in the pastor's absence. Financial help for pulpit supply and pastoral coverage is available through the Pastoral Coverage Grant. Funds for the Wellness Plan is available through clergy well-being emergency funds by contacting the Area Director of Clergy Wellbeing.

Clergy Continuing Education Policies

Amended 1996

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Dakotas Annual Conference makes available \$600.00 per quadrennium for each: *Elder or Deacon* member of the conference in full connection,

Probationary member of the conference,

Diaconal minister who is a member of conference, and

Licensed Local Pastor who has completed the Conference Course of Study.

Each clergy person is required to complete eight Continuing Education credits each quadrennium or two credits per year.

One CEU/CSU shall be the equivalent of:

- Twenty hours of supervised reading/reflection in a knowledge-competency area agreed upon by pastor and PPR. (No more than one CEU/CSU can be given by this route in one year.)
- Ten contact hours under qualified leadership. (An hour spent with an instructor or a course, workshop, or seminar.)

The term CSU stands for Conference Standard Unit, which may be used in lieu of Continuing Education Units (CEU). CEUs often require that a fee be paid to a college or university. CSUs do not. CSUs reflect study time but might not reflect formal credits outside our conference.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING FOR A CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

Determine and select the desired event. Each clergy person is to think through her/his needs and desires concerning continuing education and consult with the local church PPRC concerning observed needs. Out of that reflection choose what best fits the needs for this period of time.

Use the CE Grant application form describing the event and listing number of CEUs available. Include a copy of the brochure or material describing the event and send it to the continuing education officer of the BOM.

The request will then be processed by the continuing education officer. If there are questions, the CE officer will clarify them before processing the request. When completed, the request will be sent on for payment to the clergy person.

General Expectations of the Board Regarding Continuing Education Funds and Events:

Should an event be selected that does not grant CEUs, material describing “contact hours” within that event should be sent to the continuing education officer. Should a clergy member be assigned after the beginning of a quadrennium, the CE grant amount available will be prorated to the years left in the quadrennium. Each clergy member is encouraged to receive one-half (4) of her/his units outside the Annual Conference offerings. Each January the clergy member is asked to submit a summary of continuing education experiences and units earned. To receive credit for the continuing education event, a report is to be sent to the continuing education officer. *If the event does not list a specific number of credits, the general ratio is one credit unit for every 6-8 hours of course work or study. Credit can be given whether or not funds were requested.*

Continuing Education forms can be found on our website: www.dakotasumc.org

Please send completed forms via email to two places:

1. Leadership Development: leadershipdevelopment@dakotasumc.org

a. For paper copies: Dakotas Conference Office, PO Box 460, Mitchell SD 57301

2. BOM Continuing Education Chair: Marilyn Spurrell: marilynspurrell@gmail.com

To receive credit for a Continuing Education event photocopy this page, fill in the information and send to the BOM Continuing Education Chair.

Reminder: these units also need to be reported on the annual pastor self-assessment for District Superintendent’s records.

Student Aid Guidelines

Revised: 2017 by the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)

The Ministerial Student Aid Fund (MSAF) is available for seminary and course of study students related to the Dakotas Annual Conference (DAC). The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance for a student’s seminary education through loans and debt reduction grants.

1. SEMINARY FORGIVABLE LOANS

1. Eligibility. Any seminary student related to the DAC who is a certified candidate for ministry enrolled and completing satisfactory work at a recognized seminary toward the completion of a M.Div. Degree (or degree in specialized ministry) is eligible to receive aid from MSAF. A recognized seminary is defined as a seminary properly recognized and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

A. Aid from the MSAF will be provided after the student has consulted with the loan officer of the seminary. Aid will not be made beyond the basic seminary (or specialized) degree (M.Div. or other) and/or reception into full membership in the Conference.

B. Loan approval is contingent upon full-time satisfactory progress being made toward the completion of the appropriate Degree.

C. The DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY. will make the final decision regarding loan approval, and the applicant will be bound by that decision.

2. Process. Funds provided to a student through the MSAF are first given on a loan basis. Students must sign a promissory note indicating their commitment to repay the loan under the terms and conditions of the note before the

aid is given. Should certain conditions be met, all or a portion of the principal and interest due on a loan will be forgiven by service in the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Conditions for forgiving the loan are outlined in number six below.

3. Loan Maximums.

A. The DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY. will set the yearly maximum aid available. The amount will be published in the Journal.

B. The DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY. will set a Forgivable loan Cap for aid available to a student while in seminary.

In special circumstances, matching aid scholarship, additional loan/grant aid may be granted. The additional aid will be subtracted from available debt-reduction aid available to the individual. If insufficient funds are available to meet all MSAF requests, approved applicants will receive aid in proportion to the funds available. Second- and third-year students shall be given priority.

C. Loans for the second, third, or fourth years in seminary will be approved only as a new loan upon receipt of the completed application and promissory note, (see number four below).

4. Applications. Students may apply for MSAF assistance by completing and signing the following forms: a) MSAF Loan Application; and b) MSAF Promissory Note.

A. An application for aid will not be approved until the two documents listed above are properly completed and submitted to the Conference Loan Officer. The forms listed above may be obtained from the Conference Loan Officer.

B. Applications for aid may be made at any time. In addition, an application for aid may be submitted as many times as needed until the yearly maximum aid or the forgivable loan cap for a student has been reached.

5. Loan Repayment Provisions. The total of loans made to the student during his or her seminary education career will become due and payable upon graduation from seminary with a M.Div. Degree or other appropriate degree. Interest will begin to accrue upon the student's graduation from seminary with the appropriate degree or immediately after any of the circumstances defined in 5A through 5G have occurred (see below). The DAC Board of Ordained Ministry will determine interest rates and Yearly Minimum Payments required. Payments will begin within six months after graduation or within six months after any of the circumstance defined in 5A through 5B have occurred. Principal and interest payments will continue until the loan is fully paid. Payment schedules will be prepared by the Conference Director of Finance. Loan payments will be made to and the accounting thereof will reside with the Conference Office of Finance and Administrative Services.

A. The DAC Board of Ordained Ministry will make the final determination as to whether or not the aid recipient will repay the loan. The aid recipient is bound by the Board's decision regarding the repayment of his or her loan.

B. The Loan will be repaid in the following circumstances:

i. If the aid recipient receives an appointment in an annual conference other than the Dakotas Annual Conference.

ii. If the aid recipient refuses to accept an appointment by the Dakotas Area Bishop within the boundaries of the DAC.

iii. If the aid recipient requests and receives a leave of absence, sabbatical leave or honorable location.

iv. If the aid recipient is refused admission to the DAC by the Conference Clergy or other Conference bodies as prescribed by The Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the Standing Rules of the Dakotas Conference.

v. If the aid recipient is placed in an appointment beyond the local church by the Dakotas Area Bishop where the location of that appointment is outside the boundaries of the DAC.

vi. If the aid recipient leaves seminary regardless of his/her intention to complete degree.

vii. If the aid recipient's membership in the conference is voluntarily or involuntarily terminated or if aid recipient, no longer continues as a certified candidate for ordained ministry.

6. Service Conversion Privilege. The aid recipient may earn forgiveness of portions of the loan under the following circumstances:

A. After completion of the appropriate degree, the principal of the loan may be forgiven at a rate per year determined by the DAC Board of Ordained Ministry with no interest accrual while the recipient is serving an appointment under the authority of the Dakotas

i. Area Bishop within the boundaries of the DAC. Forgiveness will be granted yearly at Annual Conference.

ii. The DAC Board of Ordained Ministry will make the final determination as to whether or not the forgiveness privilege will be offered to the aid recipient. The aid recipient is bound by the Board's decision regarding the forgiveness privilege.

If the aid recipient has been previously extended the forgiveness privilege but leaves the Dakotas Annual Conference for any reason or otherwise falls within the provision of 5A through 5B above, the grant will revert back to cash repayment of the remaining principal balance with interest as required under the provisions of number five above.

2. COURSE OF STUDY AND KAIROS FORGIVABLE LOANS

A. Some persons seek to serve in the Annual Conference through the approved Course of Study as outlined in The United Methodist Discipline. Student Aid funds are available for Course of Study and Kairos students. All aspects of the forgoing Student Aid Policy apply to those pursuing Course of Study or Kairos with the following exceptions/clarifications.

i. Course of Study and Kairos students will be eligible for the Yearly Maximum Aid as determined by the DAC Board of Ordained Ministry or actual expenses, whichever is less, at a 75/25 reimbursement ratio. The DAC Board of Ordained Ministry through MSAF will cover 75% of eligible expenses. The remaining 25% will be covered by the student, the student's continuing education funds as a local pastor, and/or by local church sponsorships.

ii. Eligible expenses include tuition and fees, books, room and board, subject to conference per diem, and travel (at conference rate paid to a maximum of the cost of travel to one of the three closest United Methodist Seminaries — Iliff, Garrett-Evangelical, St. Paul - with additional travel expenses left to the candidate).

iii. Course of Study, Advanced Course of Study and Kairos students will be eligible for an overall cap as determined by the DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY.

iv. Special situations of need may be appealed to the DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY.

3. EDUCATIONAL DEBT REDUCTION GRANTS FOR NEW PROVISIONAL AND ORDAINED PASTORS

A. Provisional members of the Dakotas Conference may be eligible to receive up to a Yearly Maximum as determined by the DAC Board of Ordained Ministry per year for up to six successive years for educational debt retirement. Eligibility continues after Elder's/Deacon's ordination. The following stipulations determine eligibility.

i. All educational requirements for Elder's/Deacon's Orders have been completed.

ii. The applicant must be in a full-time appointment within the bounds of the Dakotas Annual Conference; however, less-than-full-time appointments may receive grants on a pro rata basis. Appointments to attend school do not qualify. Debt-reduction grant will cease with any termination of relationship with the DAC, or appointment outside the bounds of the conference.

iii. The applicant will supply evidence of educational debt related to ministerial education.

iv. Debt-reduction grant is considered a forgivable loan and must be repaid or forgiven by service in the conference on a yearly basis. Yearly debt-reduction forgiveness (per the levels of aid stated below) will apply only after requirements for forgiveness or repayment have been satisfied for any outstanding seminary, COS, or Kairos forgivable loans. Exception to this policy may be approved by the DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY. Application forms must be requested annually from the conference loan officer. Debt reduction grant decisions will be made by the Board of Ordained Ministry Ministerial Student Aid/Finance Group.

v. Special situations of need may be appealed to the DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY.

4. LEVELS OF AID

A. The DAC BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY established the following levels of aid (2017):

i. Yearly forgivable loan maximum \$2,000

ii. Seminary Forgivable Loan Cap \$6,000

iii. Course of Study Overall Cap \$9,000

iv. Repayment Interest Rate 7%

v. Yearly Minimum Payments \$500

vi. Yearly Forgiveness \$2,000 for Seminary and COS Loan/Grants

vii. Yearly Debt Reduction \$1,000

viii. Overall Debt Reduction \$6,000

Dakotas Conference UMC—Office of Leadership Development, 1331 W. University Ave, Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 990-7796, dakumcom@dakotasumc.org

Clergy Ethics for Retired Pastors

in Relation to the Local Church and Appointed Pastors

Adopted by Board of Ordained Ministry on March 14, 2006, Affirmed by the Executive Session on June 8, 2006

- Remember, the Retired Pastor is not the Appointed Pastor of this parish.
 - Let the Appointed Pastor know your desires as to leadership responsibilities within the church; but, except under exceptional circumstances, Retired Pastors should not accept official church structure offices...chairing boards or committees which rightly belong to the laity. Establish a covenant between the Appointed and Retired Pastors regarding those agreed upon responsibilities and share that covenant with the Staff Parish Relations Committee.
 - Priestly functions and associated counseling are the responsibility of the Appointed Pastor. In special circumstances Retired Pastors may assist or perform funerals, weddings and baptism at the invitation of the Appointed Pastor.
 - Retired Pastors shall not perform worship services within the bounds of a pastoral charge without permission of the appointed Pastor or District Superintendent. (§341.4, The Book of Discipline)
 - If the Retired Pastor is a former pastor of the parish, do not pass on any negative opinions about persons or the church to the Appointed Pastor. When the Appointed Pastor asks for information, respond to those questions as fully as you wish.
 - If the Retired Pastor feels their Appointed Pastor is in error, talk to the pastor. If you do not receive an adequate response, talk to the District Superintendent. Never discuss these issues related to the Appointed Pastor with the laity. If you feel you cannot continue under that Appointed Pastor's ministry, change churches.
 - Be tolerant of different styles of ministry and be tolerant of occasional mistakes and errors by the Appointed Pastor.
 - Encourage parishioners to talk to the Appointed Pastor in pastoral care situations. Tell the parishioner that you will support them as a Christian friend, but they should use the Appointed Pastor as pastor. In limited situations referral to the Retired Pastor by the Appointed Pastor may be appropriate.
 - When visiting in pastoral care situations, the Retired Pastor should make it clear that s/he is representing her/himself and not the church or pastor. It is appropriate to make hospital calls as a friend anytime.
 - Before making a hospital or nursing home visit that may be construed as a pastoral call, give the Appointed Pastor a chance to make the first call.
 - Do not expect to use church facilities without going through proper channels.
 - Make annual reports to Charge Conference and Cabinet.
- If you are in doubt about any of this, consult the District Superintendent.*

Clergy Ethics for Appointed Pastors

in Relationship to Retired Pastors

Adopted by Board of Ordained Ministry on March 14, 2006, Affirmed by the Executive Session on June 8, 2006

- Remember, the appointed pastor is the pastor for these clergy members and their families of your appointed parish.
 - Welcome the newly retired pastor to the congregation and affirm their ministry career.
 - The appointed pastor should be aware that newly retired pastors/spouses may be going through a stressful time of adjustment in their lives and they may need pastoral care in that regard.
 - The appointed pastor may wish to ask the Retired Pastor if they are interested in continuing in any areas of ministry. Establish an informal covenant regarding these areas of responsibility agreed upon and share that covenant with the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Remember, the Retired Pastor's spouse and family are laity with the same opportunities of service as any other laity.
 - The Appointed Pastor may use the Retired Pastor in areas they can contribute to the life of the church being sensitive to their needs to use their gifts and talents.
 - For those Retired Pastors who wish to continue to contribute ministry to the life of the local church, the Appointed Pastor may find valuable services for the Retired Pastor to perform.
 - Respect the wishes of some Retired Pastors to really be retired from the ministerial functions.
 - The appointed pastor should not be hypersensitive to Retired Pastor's pastoral care for friends or colleagues.
 - The appointed pastor should remember that they have been given the responsibility for the care of the congregation and not shift too much of that pastoral care to willing Retired Pastors.
 - With the permission of the retired clergy, report to the district superintendent any retired clergy family illness or death.
- If you are in doubt about any of this, consult the District Superintendent.*

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Adopted June 2012

Statement of Policy and Commitment

Clergy and laity in ministerial roles, lay employees and volunteers of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (hereafter referred to as Dakotas Conference) shall not engage in sexual abuse, sexual harassment, gender harassment or sexual misconduct, as defined by The Book of Discipline (BOD) of The UMC, state, federal and tribal law. In both North Dakota and South Dakota certain acts of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy are defined as crimes. Further, the Dakotas Conference bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, male or female, which is free of these sins and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ. The Dakotas Conference will not condone or tolerate instances of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, gender harassment, or sexual abuse and is committed to a prompt and thorough investigation of allegations, in compliance with the BOD.

Biblical and Theological Foundation

The Dakotas Conference is committed to the prevention of sexual misconduct in any form and to justly address allegations of the same. We believe that every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), that all Christians are equal in Christ (Galatians 3:26-28), and that we are called to love our neighbors as well as enemies (Matthew 5:42).

“Contrary to the nurturing community, sexual harassment creates improper, coercive, and abusive conditions wherever it occurs in society. Sexual harassment undermines the social goal of equal opportunity and the climate of mutual respect between men and women.” (BOD, ¶161.J). Furthermore, “Violent, disrespectful, or abusive sexual expressions do not confirm sexuality as God’s good gift.” (BOD, ¶161.I).

Definitions

1. “Sexual misconduct within ministerial relationships is a betrayal of sacred trust. It is a continuum of unwanted sexual or gender-directed behaviors by either a lay or clergy person within a ministerial relationship (paid or unpaid). It can include child abuse, adult sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual assault, sexualized verbal comments or visuals, unwelcome touching and advances, use of sexualized materials including pornography, stalking, sexual abuse of youth or those without capacity to consent, or misuse of the pastoral or ministerial position using sexualized conduct to take advantage of the vulnerability of another.” (Book of Resolutions—BOR, p. 776). Furthermore, “the use of pornography in church programs, on church property by persons in ministerial roles (lay and clergy) is a form of sexual misconduct.” (BOR, p. 777)
2. “Sexual harassment is a form of sexual misconduct and defined in ¶161J. To further clarify, [it is] any unwanted sexual or gender-directed comment, advance, or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. ... Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.” (BOD, ¶161.J). “[I]t is unwanted sexual or gender-directed behavior within a pastoral, employment, ministerial (including volunteers), mentor, or colleague relationship that is so severe or pervasive that it alters the conditions of employment or volunteer work or unreasonably interferes with the employee or volunteer’s performance by creating a hostile environment that can include unwanted sexual jokes, repeated advances, touching, displays, or comments that insult, degrade, or sexually exploit women, men, elders, children, or youth.” (BOR, p. 776-777)
3. “Gender harassment is unwelcome or unwanted conduct which is gender specific, either cross gender or same gender. Although not specifically “sexual,” gender harassment may be recognized in patterns of behavior creating a hostile or abusive working environment. Both sexual and gender harassment are exploitations of power and are discriminatory by law.” (<http://www.gcfa.org/gcfa-legal-manual>)
4. “Sexual abuse [in ministry] is a form of sexual misconduct and occurs when a person within a ministerial role of leadership (lay or clergy, pastor, educator, counselor, youth leader, or other position of leadership) engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, coworker, or volunteer.” (BOR, p. 777)
5. Clergy and laity in ministerial roles shall include clergy as defined by the ¶142, retired clergy members of the annual conference, and any other person in a ministerial role as explained and illustrated on p. 778 of the BOR.
6. Pornography is defined in ¶161Q.

Abuse of Power

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Similarly, sexual and gender harassment are usually understood as exploitations

of power relationships rather than as exclusively sexual or gender issues. This does not mean that clergy could never be the victim of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by laity. (See BOD, ¶605.8)

Implementation

Clergy and laity in ministerial roles (including retired clergy), lay employees, and volunteers of the Dakotas Conference shall be provided a copy of this policy through the Dakotas Conference Journal and website, the Conference Office, and Human Resources Handbook. Training information shall be available to assist in the understanding and implementation of this policy.

Making a Complaint

Some instances of harassment can be resolved informally by conversation between the parties or facilitated mediation. In all other instances, if a violation of this policy is witnessed, or in good faith thought to have occurred, it shall be reported immediately to one of the offices listed below. To make a complaint, contact one of the following and say, “I am calling to make a complaint of sexual misconduct”:

District Superintendent, Northeast District 701-532-0455

District Superintendent, Northwest District 701-269-9960

District Superintendent, Southeast District 605-990-7791

District Superintendent, Southwest District 605-484-1502

Assistant to the Bishop for Connection and Communications 605-990-7781

Office of the Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area 612-870-4007

Honest and good faith complaints are welcomed. Clergy and laity in ministerial roles (including retired clergy), lay employees, and volunteers of the Dakotas Conference are required to report immediately any reasonable suspicion of harassment, abuse or misconduct to the appropriate person except when knowledge would violate confidentiality between pastor and parishioner.

The Dakotas Conference, including the aforementioned persons, will not retaliate against any person who brings forward a complaint. Prompt and appropriate investigation and corrective action will be taken, including discipline pursuant to the BOD, state, federal, and/or tribal law. Persons who make false accusations will be held accountable. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to waive pastor-parishioner privilege.

“All clergy of The United Methodist Church are charged to maintain all confidences inviolate, including confessional confidences, except in the cases of suspected child abuse or neglect or in cases where mandatory reporting is required by civil law.” (BOD ¶341.5) Clergy and laity in ministerial roles (including retired clergy), lay employees, and volunteers of the Dakotas Conference will follow any applicable mandatory reporting laws. There is potential for conflict between the obligations imposed under church law and state law, and in these cases legal advice should be sought.

Information Sharing

While the Dakotas Conference cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality, it seeks to make every reasonable effort to maintain confidence by disclosing information about the complaint only on a “need to know” basis as necessary to promote God’s call for justice, reconciliation and healing.

Commitment to Justice and Healing

The Dakotas Conference will take appropriate corrective action upon completion of an investigation and affirms the goals of reconciliation and resolution, leading to justice and healing for all parties involved.

I have read and affirm my understanding of this policy.

Signature _____ Date _____

CONCERNS FOR FOLLOW-UP

To facilitate healing and recovery, post-divorce counseling is required for clergy. Counseling is to begin immediately following the divorce (at least within the first year). Because of the covenant relationship with non-clergy spouses, we recommend that the Dakotas Annual Conference seriously consider providing means of counseling for the spouse (and/or other family members). Furthermore, when applicable, moving expenses, career training, health/medical benefits may be provided. Also, the Conference Board of Pensions will investigate an equitable means of ensuring non-clergy spouses receiving pension benefits accrued during the time of the clergy partner’s ministerial service to the Dakotas Annual Conference.

Parsonage Standards

Adopted: 2011

Purpose: The Dakotas Conference policy is that a parsonage or housing allowance shall be provided for each clergy appointed with each charge making that determination. However, a parsonage is preferred. The following guidelines should be considered with providing a parsonage. "Housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration but shall be considered as means provided by the local church, and for the convenience of the local church to enable its ministry and the itinerant ministry of the Annual Conference."

A clergy couple appointed to a charge needs to be provided with only one parsonage.

I. Standards for Parsonage Furnishings

- A. Heating system with humidifier and dehumidifier as needed.
- B. Central air conditioning or adequate window air conditioning.
- C. Hot water heater. In areas of problem water, proper water conditioning equipment should be provided and the church or charge is responsible for the salt. Also available is water conditioning equipment that could be used that doesn't require salt.
- D. Modern kitchen range and oven with exhaust fan, garbage disposal, refrigerator with freezer, and dishwasher.
- E. Washer and dryer of at least standard laundry size.
- F. Bundled package of basic cable television or dish, along with landline phone and internet.
- G. Lawn mower and snow blower. Lawn care and snow removal could be provided after discussion with SPPRC.
- H. Appropriately placed smoke alarms. Carbon monoxide detectors in only those homes with natural gas, fuel oil or propane gas.
- I. Appropriate window treatments: including drapes, curtains, blinds, or decorator shades be provided in all windows. All materials shall be fire retardant.
- J. Floors on main level(s):
 - 1) Carpet in living room and dining room or adequate substitute such as attractive hardwood floor with appropriate rugs.
 - 2) Entry way halls should fit the décor of the living room and dining room.
 - 3) Kitchen: good grade of tile, linoleum or kitchen carpeting.
 - 4) Bathroom: good grade of tile or linoleum.
 - 5) Other rooms: (bedroom, den, etc) carpeting, other covering or well finished wood.
- K. Pets: The Clergy leaving a Charge shall be financially liable for any damage to the parsonage above and beyond the normal wear and tear of family living, and for problems created by pets or neglect. If such a situation occurs the District Superintendent shall be informed for inspection. If a church and the DS agree there is damage from a pastor's pets upon entering a new appointment, if that pastoral family insists on having pets, they must provide a damage deposit equal to the repair and replacement costs incurred in their prior parsonage.

II. On-Going Conditions:

- A. It is suggested that at least 2% per annum of the insured value of the parsonage be placed in the church budget of the Trustees for parsonage repair, decorating and refurbishing.
- B. It is the responsibility of the clergy leaving a Charge to fully and properly clean the parsonage. How this will be accomplished will be determined in consultation with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.
- C. When a pastoral change takes place, the Board of Trustees shall evaluate the needs of the parsonage and refurbish accordingly. The clergy leaving the Charge shall inform the Board of Trustees of structural problems or appliances that need repair or replacement.
- D. Suitable location with consultation of the District Board of Church Building and Location.
- E. Safe and dependable water supply.
- F. The parsonage should be a minimum of 2500 sq. feet of living space (less than 2500 sq. feet to be negotiated with District Superintendent and District Board of Church Location and Building).
- G. After approving a purchase proposal, the charge conference shall be deemed to have authorized and directed the Board of Trustees to proceed with the purchase. In the case of the purchase of a parsonage, the Board of Trustees shall either.

1. Purchase a parsonage that has on the ground floor level: - One room that can be used as a bedroom by a person with a disability; - One fully accessible bathroom; and - Fully accessible laundry facilities, or
2. Purchase a parsonage without the accessible features for persons with disabilities specified above and remodel it within one year's time, so that it does have those features.

III. Recommended Parsonage Standards

- A. General appearance inside and outside: Good
- B. Sidewalks to garage and front street.
- C. Play area in back.
- D. Yard maintained by church (fertilizer and insecticide provided by church).
- E. One car garage with storage. Garage has lights and electrical outlets.
- F. Insulated glass windows or regular glass with combination storm windows and storm doors.
- G. Fully insulated (walls and ceilings).
- H. Three bedrooms above ground. Master bedroom shall be at least 150 sq. feet. If two story, one bedroom shall be on the main floor.
- I. One full bath on main floor plus one three-quarter bath.
- J. Modern kitchen with dining area to seat at least four. There shall be adequate counter and storage space and an adequate number of electrical outlets.
- K. Living-dining room combination.
- L. Living room and a separate family room.
- M. If there is no office/study in the church, the parsonage should have a room available for an office/study. The office/study should have built-in bookshelves.
- N. Adequate electrical wiring with a minimum of 200 ampere entrance box with circuit breakers.
- O. Adequate fire exits from all areas of the house, especially the basement. Fire extinguishers on all levels.
- P. Adequate storage areas.

IV. Recommended Parsonage Standards: Preferred

- A. General appearance inside and outside: Excellent
- B. Sidewalks to garage and front street.
- C. Play area in back.
- D. Yard maintained by church (fertilizer and insecticide provided by church)
- E. Two-car garage and storage. Garage has lights and electrical outlets.
- F. Insulated glass windows or regular glass with combination storm windows and storm doors.
- G. Insulation installed which meets minimum standards recommended for maximum energy efficiency as determined by the Energy Commission.
- H. Three bedrooms above ground with a minimum of 130 sq. feet. Master bedroom shall be at least 180 sq. feet. Adequate lighted closets. If two-story, one full bathroom and one bedroom shall be on the main floor.
- I. One full bath plus one three-quarter bath adjoining master bedroom. One bath must be on main floor.
- J. Modern kitchen with dining area to seat at least six. There shall be adequate counter and storage space, and an ample number of electrical outlets.
- K. A separate dining room.
- L. Large living room with family room removed from it so that activities in one do not disturb person in the other.
- M. If there is no office/study in the church, the parsonage should have one that has a separate outside entrance. The office/study should have built-in bookshelves.
- N. Adequate electrical wiring with a minimum of 200 ampere entrance box with circuit breakers. All wiring shall meet at least the National Electric Code minimum standard.
- O. Adequate fire exits from all areas of the house; especially the basement. Fire extinguishers on all levels.
- P. Adequate storage space.

V. Pastor's Responsibility

- A. The parsonage family shall practice good stewardship of parsonage property and will be held financially accountable for damage other than normal wear and tear. They shall keep the parsonage in neat appearance. Upkeep, repair, and redecorating will be done in consultation with the local church parsonage (trustees) Committee. The parsonage family shall leave the parsonage as good as or better than it was when they moved into the dwelling.

B. The pastor should keep the parsonage (trustees) committee informed of maintenance needs throughout the year between annual reviews.

C. The pastor and the parsonage (trustees) committee shall inspect the parsonage together at the time of a change of pastors. The location of guarantees and operating instructions for parsonage equipment should be designated for the benefit of the incoming pastor.

D. Disputes between the pastor and the local church concerning the parsonage shall be referred to the District Superintendent for negotiation and settlement.

VI. The Parsonage Review and Report

A. In accordance with The Book of Discipline, ¶258, 2.g 16: The chairperson of the Committee on Staff Pastor Parish Relations, chairperson of the Board of Trustees and pastor shall make an annual review of the church owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance.

B. A log book shall be used by the local church and Board of Trustees recording the outcome of the inspection of the parsonage on an annual basis. Using the form by the conference, the inspection should be for termites, varmints and radon. The results of the inspection, should include a list of the repairs or upgrades to fix the problem.

Moving Policy

Adopted: June 2024

Expenses for moving clergy and their families shall be administered under the following policies:

1. General:

- a. The Moving Fund shall assist in paying the moving expenses for household goods, office furniture, and equipment of itinerant clergy appointed to a pastoral charge, a conference staff position, or as district superintendent. Assistance shall be provided when a primary residence is changed due to a new appointment.
- b. Mileage reimbursement will be provided for one additional visit to the community by the incoming pastor.
- c. Clergy included in this provision shall include full members, provisional members, associate members, local pastors, seminary students appointed to a local charge, one move of a retiring clergy person to his/her retirement residence, and those under disability leave.
- d. The Treasurer/Finance Office will follow the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) regulations in issuing the proper tax forms to those who move.
- e. The moving funds issued to a clergy person are taxable income and will be reported as such to the IRS.
- f. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) shall set the moving stipend and mileage rates by January 1 for the upcoming move cycle. The CCFA will consider factors such as the average cost of a moving (under 15,000 lbs.), cargo mileage rate, the Dakotas Conference annual budget, other United Methodist Conference stipend and mileage rates, and other factors when setting the Dakotas Conference move stipend and mileage rate.
- g. Eligible clergy may submit requests for a supplemental moving grant to cover additional expenses. These requests will be received by the Treasurer, reviewed by the Cabinet, and approved by the CCFA.

2. Additional Eligibility Clarification

- a. Pastors with disability status moving out of a Dakotas Conference appointment are eligible to receive a one-time move stipend at the time of the relocation of their primary residence.
- b. Retiring pastors moving out of a Dakotas Conference appointment are eligible to receive a one-time move stipend at the time of the relocation of their primary residence.
- c. If a person in retired status is required to move their primary residence to accept an appointment within the Dakotas Annual Conference, they are entitled to a stipend to and from that appointment.
- d. Clergy under suspension or clergy leaving appointment in the Dakotas Annual Conference for leave of absence, honorable location, extension ministry, and transfer to another conference or denomination will not be eligible for a moving stipend.
- e. Clergy moving to the Dakotas Annual Conference are eligible to receive a moving stipend.
- f. When a clergy dies while under appointment to a local charge, conference staff position, or as a district superintendent, the surviving spouse and/or dependents may have their moving stipend paid by the Conference within the provisions of this policy. If no spouse or dependents are living with the clergy

person at their death, a move may be provided in accordance with this policy within 90 days of the death of the clergy. A 1099 will be issued in the name of the spouse at year end.

3. Moving Stipend:

- a. Each eligible clergyperson shall receive a moving stipend as determined by CCFA in consultation with the cabinet.
- b. Clergy couples being moved shall be given an additional 25% of the moving stipend.

4. Mileage Reimbursement

- a. Those clergy eligible for a moving stipend, are also eligible for mileage current address to new address to be paid at a trucking freight rate, as determined by CCFA. The per mile rate is paid only within the bounds of the Annual Conference and is in addition to the stipend.
- b. Retired Clergy and seminary students returning to take an appointment are eligible for a mileage reimbursement of actual miles up to maximum of 700 miles at the trucking freight rate determined by CCFA.
- c. Clergy couples are eligible for 1 mileage reimbursement.

5. Procedures:

- a. The Cabinet will name a Move Coordinator who will work with the staff in fulfilling this policy.
- b. The Move Coordinator will provide the procedure, developed and approved by the cabinet and a Board of Ordained Ministry representative, to moving clergy.
- c. The Move Coordinator in conjunction with the cabinet shall establish and administer all procedures for implementing the moving policy contained herein.
- d. Clergy may forfeit access to the moving funds if they fail to complete the procedure as outlined by the Cabinet and Move Coordinator.

Reaffiliation Process

Approved by Annual Conference, June 7, 2025; Implementation of policy to be effective July 1, 2025

1) Eligibility for Reaffiliation

- a) A local church that was previously affiliated with the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“Dakotas Conference”) is eligible for reaffiliation with the Dakotas Annual Conference after completing the following minimum requirements:
 - i) satisfy the Conference Board of Trustees that all church deeds include the trust clause as required by *the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (Book of Discipline.)*, and cover all real and personal, tangible and intangible properties of the church
 - ii) satisfy the Conference Board of Trustees, Common Table and the Appointive Cabinet that the local church will comply with the requirements and criteria of the Dakotas Annual Conference for the organization of a local United Methodist Church under ¶259.1 and ¶259.4, as determined by the Common Table and the Appointive Cabinet (Cabinet).

2) Local Church Discernment

- a) The leaders of a local church that wish to reaffiliate will first contact the District Superintendent (DS) of the area in which the local church is located to share their interest. The DS, at least one Conference Trustee, and one member from the District Board of Church Location and Building, will meet with the leaders of the local congregation to understand the reasons for the local church’s current desire to reaffiliate with the Dakotas Conference, and to help the church discern if it desires to reaffiliate. A review of key sections of the *Book of Discipline* is required, including our Doctrinal Statements, The General Rules, The Ministry of All Christians, the section on the Local Church, and the Social Principles.
- b) As part of their discernment, local church leaders will provide a written rationale to the District Superintendent for reaffiliation with The United Methodist Church (UMC). This written statement should clearly express both their understanding of what it means to be a United Methodist Congregation and their willingness to support the UMC and the Dakotas Annual Conference with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

3) Annual Conference Leadership Discernment

- a) The DS will forward the written request and rationale to the Cabinet, or other Cabinet designated committee, which shall review this document. That body shall also evaluate the missional impact of the local church seeking reaffiliation on its community, on neighboring United Methodist congregations, and on planned or potential United Methodist

ministries.

- b) If the Cabinet makes the determination to proceed, they will forward the request and rationale document to the Common Table for their discernment and decision.
- c) If the Common Table affirms moving forward, then the District Superintendent is authorized to work with the local church leaders to establish a timeline for the following required church actions.

4) Local Church Reaffiliation Approval

- a) The legally authorized leadership body of the local church, at a duly called meeting of such body, must adopt by appropriate legal vote the following resolution requesting reaffiliation and acknowledging the applicability of the trust clause: *“Resolved that _____ Church become a member congregation of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and thereby become subject to all provisions of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2020/2024 and all subsequent editions of the Book of Discipline, including but not limited to the provisions of Paragraphs 2501 through 2505, providing that all the local church’s real and personal property shall be held in trust for the United Methodist Church. Our leadership is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this resolution in accordance with the Book of Discipline, by a deed including the relevant trust clause language as found in ¶2503 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline.”*
 - i) Upon adoption of the resolution, the presiding officer of the meeting and its secretary will sign a document (e.g., the minutes of the meeting) setting forth the resolution adopted and the vote by which it was adopted and submit it to the District Superintendent in charge.
- b) After the local church leadership body has met the foregoing requirements, the membership of the local church, at a duly called church conference (¶248) or congregational meeting of professing or full church members, must adopt, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, the same resolution adopted by the leadership body as required in paragraph (4a) above.
 - i) Upon adoption of the resolution the presiding officer of the church conference or congregational meeting, elected leaders of the local church, and its secretary must sign a document (e.g., the minutes of the meeting) which sets forth the resolution in its entirety, lists all members present and voting at the meeting, and reports the results of the vote.
 - ii) If approved, the DS will work with the church leadership to begin making any church organizational changes needed to align with Disciplinary requirements as laid out in ¶259.9. The process of organizing as a United Methodist Church must be in compliance with relevant portions of ¶259 and ¶2529.1c.

5) Annual Conference Approval

- a) After the local church has met the foregoing requirements, the DS in charge shall return a report of this action to the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the Conference Board of Trustees for final majority approval of each body. At the next regular session of the Dakotas Annual Conference, the request for reaffiliation will be presented during the Conference Board of Trustees report to the Annual Conference which may, by simple majority, vote to receive the church into the Dakotas Annual Conference.

6) Completion of Reaffiliation Process

- a) Upon acceptance into the Dakotas Annual Conference, the local church shall have 90 days following the close of the regular session of the Dakotas Annual Conference to present revised deeds, showing proof of being filed with the appropriate County Recorder's Office or Register of Deeds, to the Conference Board of Trustees in order for the reaffiliation process to be completed. The local church shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with revising and filing their deeds. The Conference Board of Trustees will forward a Reaffiliation Certificate to the local church upon receipt of all required documents. The requirements of this paragraph are necessary for readmission of the local church to The United Methodist Church. Approval of the Annual Conference for readmission of the local church to The United Methodist Church is subject to the local church’s compliance with the requirements under this paragraph.

7) Care of Members of a Reaffiliated Congregation

- a) Persons who withdrew their membership within The United Methodist Church as part of disaffiliation or at any other time may return to professing membership within the reaffiliated congregation and The United Methodist Church under the provisions of ¶242.3; that is, upon reaffirmation of their baptismal and membership vows.
- b) Persons who united with the disaffiliated congregation but who previously were not United Methodist may become professing members of the reaffiliated congregation and The United Methodist Church under the provisions of ¶259.6.

Clergy Effectiveness
Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church
 Adopted by the Board of Ordained Ministry, October 2014

An effective clergy personifies:	An effective clergy practices:	An effective clergy produces:
(a1) A strong, articulate Wesleyan theology	(b1) A strong, spiritually disciplined prayer life	(c1) Growth in worship
(a2) Maturity reflected in a respectful, humble, mature and coachable nature	(b2) Self-care and respect of boundaries	(c2) Disciples who are lifelong learners and evangelists
(a3) Adaptivity, creativity, and risk-taking	(b3) Generosity in resources, words and actions	(c3) Mature and healthy leaders with a vision for the local church and community
(a4) A joyful, engaging and faithful servant heart	(b4) Responsibility, and helps others to do the same	(c4) Missional churches and other new ministries
(a5) An ability to motivate, equip, encourage, and give permission	(b5) A work ethic that is smart and kingdom-oriented	(c5) Financial strength and viability.

Explanation of Traits

<i>(a1) An effective clergy is one who possesses and articulates a working knowledge of Biblical faith and social holiness. The clergy demonstrates the ability to communicate and apply the gospel of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways. The clergy understands, knows, and celebrates the power of the triune God to bring healing, reconciliation, and peace to the lives of individual congregations and communities.</i>	<i>(b1) An effective clergy is one who begins with an essential and vibrant faith, lived out in a spiritually disciplined life that includes prayer and other means of grace. Attention to this primary foundation and practice as a disciple of Jesus Christ sets an example by the clergy. The clergy intentionally moves in a deepening life devoted to Christ.</i>	<i>(c1) An effective clergy produces growth in worship in numbers and in spiritual vitality. The clergy uses the worship experience to draw people closer to God and to each other. The clergy accomplishes this through music, prayer, preaching and the sharing of the sacraments that is relevant to the context and culture of the people and the community in which he/she serves. These worship experiences need to be inviting and welcoming to diversity and dialogue.</i>
<i>(a2) An effective clergy is a lifelong learner. This is enabled by a humble, coachable attitude that submits to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, God's Word and to help and advice of others. Such an attitude also enables the clergy to learn from successes as well as failures. The clergy person's disciplined spiritual life makes his/her accountable in one's work and actions. The clergy gives up the quest for status and power following Christ's example.</i>	<i>(b2) An effective clergy knows him/herself, recognizing the need for clear boundaries and proper balance in all aspects of life, taking steps to keep those boundaries and that balance healthy and evident. The clergy seeks to care for him/herself physically, maintaining and strengthening healthy relationship among family, friends and parishioners. The clergy knows when to say "no" to activities that weaken good boundaries, and how to respect times of rest and renewal as a way to keep a healthy perspective and discipline of making good choices in his/her life.</i>	<i>(c2) An effective clergy produces disciples actively engaged in learning and growing in Christ through intentional Bible study, a disciplined prayer and devotional life, faithful worship attendance and participation, and evangelistic service beyond church walls. The clergy helps disciples to identify, develop and use their spiritual gifts to build up the church, the community and the world.</i>

<i>(a3) An effective clergy is able to set and accomplish goals with flexibility and responsiveness while managing conflict in a way that leads to healthy resolution. The clergy thinks outside the box and is willing to take oneself and others in creative, new directions, responsive to and trusting in the moving of the Holy Spirit.</i>	<i>(b3) An effective clergy gives up the emotion of jealousy in life. Instead, the clergy practices a heartfelt expression of joy in the success of others, growing others into healthy and faithful disciples. He/she uses all means - financial, prayer and pastoral skills - to assist others to move forward in their own ministries.</i>	<i>(c3) An effective clergy develops and empowers leaders who have a vision for their local church, community and world for which they take responsibility and work to achieve. The clergy stays abreast of, provides information about, and encourages attendance at training opportunities and workshops that help leaders address an ever changing world.</i>
<i>(a4) An effective clergy is faithful to their ordination vows and their relationship with Jesus Christ. The clergy is joyful and engaging with a heart for serving a world that is hurting. The clergy serves God and others without complaining or drawing attention to oneself. The clergy's servanthood inspires others to live in like manner.</i>	<i>(b4) An effective clergy lives with integrity in his/her life. He/she takes clear responsibility for the failure of ministry under the clergy's care, and as well, includes others in the expression of praise in the success of ministry. In those situations in which others fail to live up to the call of ministry or discipleship of Christ, the clergy carefully and lovingly leads others into a place of repentance and forgiveness, and asks the same in return.</i>	<i>(c4) An effective clergy guides and encourages the people in reaching beyond church walls in ever growing and developing ministries. The clergy leads by example by participating alongside the people in outreach events and activities.</i>
<i>(a5) An effective clergy is relational and cultivates the gifts of the Spirit in others and empowers them to claim their call and assists in helping them find their place in ministry.</i>	<i>(b5) An effective clergy does not waste time. The gifts, skill, energy and time used by the clergy are well used and continue to create both solid foundations and promising futures. As the season of a ministry comes to a close, the effective clergy is the one who is able to celebrate its ending and to direct others to dream of new expressions of ministry yet to be experienced.</i>	<i>(c5) An effective clergy develops financial commitment among the people so that developing and emerging ministries have the resources needed to sustain these ministries as long as they are relevant to the community.</i>

Measurement

The role of the Board of Ordained Ministry for clergy effectiveness falls in the area of providing standards, best practices and healthy examples for a life of clergy ministry in the Dakotas Conference.

The measurement of these standards and practices of the effective clergy occur under the supervisory work of the superintendent and the ongoing review and support of the staff-parish relations committee or other personnel committees for those in extension ministries or the deacons in ministry beyond the local church. As mutually agreed upon expectations and goals are created in consultation with these groups, the effective clergy will be able to honestly ask and answer the questions: How clearly and fully have I been able to create this ministry environment over the past period of time? Where could I have been clearer or more focused? How else may I continue to grow in each of these areas in order to prove my effectiveness? Am I being faithful to my ordination vows, family and my relationship to God?

With mutually agreed upon goals, the evaluation becomes a team effort, and not an opportunity to unduly criticize a pastor for not doing what he/she never realized was expected to do in the first place.

Crisis Management Guidelines

A Crisis is a Major Turning Point Resulting in Permanent Drastic Change

A crisis occurs when you least expect it; the outcome will determine if affairs are better or worse. There is not a single way to solve a crisis, but they all have certain earmarks:

1. Crises come as a surprise. They occur unexpectedly and probably when we are least able to deal with them. Personnel may also not be readily available.
2. Surprise leads to insufficient information, and questions are difficult to answer.
3. Questions begin to surface from the media and constituents almost immediately, which is the time to take control and not be hesitant.
4. Demonstrating concern and ability to take control will probably result in being able to withstand outside pressures.
5. The crisis may cause short term focus and lead to short sighted actions.
6. After the initial shock, there are always varying degrees of trauma for those directly and indirectly affected.

It is important to have a plan of action in mind before a crisis hits. When the questions come, never say “no comment.” Be truthful and be sure all church officials have been consulted.

There must be an official who will speak to the questions when needed.

The Episcopal office is the most logical source of information, with a line of responsibility assigned and others to assist with the task of dispensing information.

These are suggestions of crises that have been encountered:

1. Crises of a personal nature.
2. Crises of a corporate nature.
3. Crises prompted by natural disasters.

Success in planning before the crisis is one thing that can be controlled. This may be not only the success or failure in the management of the church, but also the basis for building integrity and strengthening the work of the church. The process should include the following.

1. **Name a Crisis Management Team.** This would include the bishop, executive director of ministries and director of communication. The legal counsel may have to be involved. Also, the district superintendents should be aware of the proceedings and have full knowledge of activities. Chair of the Common Table may be included with the possibility of one of the co-lay leaders. All should be listed by name, address, telephone, e-mail address, and fax number.
2. **Empower the team.** The bishop should convene the team, gather information, consult with all; and provide the final decision. The bishop could serve as spokesperson.
3. **The Conference Communicator** should be gathering background material, if needed; assist in preparation of releases; assist in monitoring the information flow. They should monitor and report media activities; screen and direct media inquiries and keep the Crisis Management Team informed.
4. **Legal Counsel.** The Legal Counsel provides input on liability and regulatory issues related to the crisis. Remember that damage from a crisis is much worse if it loses in the court of public opinion than if it loses in a court of law. Legal counsel is not the spokesperson.
5. **Support team.** Screen and log calls. Know how to reach all crisis management members. This team needs to be available at all times. In the event a person in the chain of responsibility is not available, have backups and alternates in place. Make sure to inform the persons closest to the central office; also, key leaders in the church (employees, clergy, church members, lay leaders).

If possible, make a list of crises that could possibly occur and how the response could be along with the effect.

The Crisis Team should be guided by predict, prevent and prepare:

Designated Places. Press room with the possibility of holding press conferences.

Ample Opportunity for necessary communications. Team members need to be available at all times.

Be Very Sure Arrangements Are Made to keep a log of all statements made, in addition to developments of the crisis. Be prepared to answer questions as to who is in charge; biographies of personalities; background information; knowledge of church.

Arrange for Security Personnel to keep order and control access to all offices in addition to people to handle telephones and serve as “runners” or hospitality.

In Conclusion: Be pro-active; don’t isolate the team or The United Methodist Church; your image is important (be natural); do not speculate; be sure to place the personal element above all else.

Credit to: Tom McAnally, Director, United Methodist News Service and United Methodist Communications, “Not If, But When” manual.

Dakotas Disaster Response Action Plan

The “Action Plan” complements the Conference Disaster Plan, listed above and found on the conference website, both of which were revised in the spring of 2010. Definition of Disaster Response by UMCOR:

“A disaster is a severe disruption of personal and community life, involving a significant number of people and causing spiritual, emotional, physical, and social crisis to which the church can respond with God’s love and help. Such disasters may include: tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, toxic poisonings and other community-wide occurrences. The United Methodist Committee on Relief seeks to provide relief for acute human needs that might otherwise go unheeded. This assistance may come in the form of cash allocations, specialized services, volunteer ministries or other avenues of mission services.” (page 59, UMCOR Disaster Training Manual.)

Checklist of Responsibilities by Position

Local Church Pastor and/or Lay Leader/or Chair of Trustees

Assess general situation and physical needs of people, affected area and forward initial assessment (either by telephone or by email) to the District Superintendent and/or the Ministry Team Disaster Coordinator and/or the Presiding Elder.

Done _____ Date _____

Establish contact with any local community emergency management committees or agencies as soon as possible.

Done _____ Date _____

Provide specific needs assessment (within 24 hours if possible) of any damage to the church or parsonage.

Done _____ Date _____

Begin seeking local response to needs: general and specific. Done _____ Date _____

Coordinate relief efforts on the local level. Done _____ Date _____

Implement your local church disaster plan. Done _____ Date _____

When disaster response has concluded, review local church disaster plan and evaluate your response efforts. Done _____ Date _____

District Superintendent

Contact pastor/s involved and the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator/s as soon as possible. Done _____ Date _____

Receive the report of the local pastor/s and/or the Trustees Chair for churches within impacted areas. Done _____ Date _____

Make initial contact with the Bishop (within 24-36 hours if possible.) Done _____ Date _____

Conduct an on-site visit (within 36 hours if possible.) Done _____ Date _____

Remain in close pastoral care of churches and pastoral families of the impacted areas. Done _____ Date _____

Participate in the Conference Disaster Response Crisis Management Team. Done _____ Date _____

When the crisis is over, review your district’s disaster response plan and the plans of the congregations within the impacted area. Evaluate your response efforts. Done _____ Date _____

Conference Disaster Response Coordinators

Conduct an on-site visit with the Bishop, District Superintendent, Presiding Elder and (if possible) the Ministry Team Disaster Response Coordinator of the impacted area (within 36 hours if possible). Done _____ Date _____

Coordinate efforts on area-wide or state-wide basis. Done _____ Date _____

Work with Bishop and/or the District Superintendent/s of impacted area to coordinate communication and general response efforts to the disaster. Done _____ Date _____

Activate the conference disaster response plan. Done _____ Date _____

When the crisis has passed, work with other conference leadership to evaluate the conference disaster plan. Presiding Elder or Ministry Team Disaster Coordinator Accompany the Bishop and/or Conference Disaster Coordinator/s to survey the impacted area. Done _____ Date _____

Meet with the Bishop, affected District Superintendent/s, Conference Disaster Response Coordinators and Conference Disaster Response Crisis Management Team to assess the needs and coordinate the response. Done _____ Date _____

Implement the District Disaster Response Plan so that healing is brought to the affected disaster area. Done _____ Date _____

When the crisis has passed, work with the District Superintendent of the affected area and the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator/s to evaluate the district disaster response plan and local church disaster response plans within the affected area. Continue your ministry of training and mitigation. Done _____ Date _____

XI. STATISTICS

DISTRICT & CONFERENCE TOTALS

	NORTHEAST	NORTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	CONF TOTAL
MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION					
1-Beginning Membership	3,477	5,138	11,952	4,820	25,387
2a-Received by Confirmation	25	32	109	31	197
2b-Received by Profession of Faith	15	20	57	40	132
2c-Restored by Affirmation	3	4	10	1	18
2d-Correct by addition	0	2	1	199	202
2e-Transfer from Other UMC	7	12	38	43	100
2f-Transfer from Non-UMC	22	12	58	27	119
2g-Received from Closed UMC Churches	0	3	2	2	7
3a-Removed by Charge Conference	8	5	47	188	248
3b-Withdrawn	37	181	2,354	61	2,633
3c-Correct by subtraction	3	113	14	41	171
3d-Transfer to Other UMC	5	8	25	19	57
3e-Transfer to Non-UMC	11	32	38	18	99
3f-Removed by Death	64	82	141	87	374
4-Total Membership	3,421	4,802	9,608	4,749	22,580
7-Average Worship Attendance	1,175	1,528	3,474	1,761	7,938
7a-Average Online Attendance	1,047	1,011	2,224	1,052	5,334
8a-Children baptized	21	41	105	45	212
8b-Adults baptized	5	7	20	16	48
Small Group Participants					
11a-CHILDREN	229	643	1,167	568	2,607
11b-YOUTH	139	265	821	283	1,508
11c-YOUNG ADULTS	71	44	166	73	354
11d-OTHER ADULTS	437	529	1,525	944	3,435
22-Persons engaged in mission	491	798	1,772	1,251	4,312
23-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries	11,832	50,395	49,982	25,795	138,004

	NORTHEAST	NORTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	CONF TOTAL
ASSETS & EXPENSES					
24-Market value of land, buildings, equipment	34,244,999	54,312,577	100,419,201	46,650,418	235,627,195
25-Market value of all other assets	6,024,059	7,909,488	9,428,533	5,898,021	29,260,101
26-Debt secured by Church Assets	152,082	1,103,748	1,171,323	904,463	3,331,616
27-Other debt	20,324	10,309	261,400	11,690	303,723
29b-Appportionments Paid	305,243	462,916	929,446	523,815	2,221,420
30-General Advance Specials	16,026	24,272	42,747	17,618	100,663
32-Conference Advance Specials	10,889	11,976	25,084	15,222	63,171
35-Conference Sunday Offering	2,624	10,473	7,850	10,959	31,906
37-Direct UM Gifts	28,311	25,713	35,421	111,710	201,155
38-Non-UM Gifts	56,787	87,720	175,975	117,804	438,286
46-Total Local Church Program Expenses	93,797	173,970	377,706	123,900	769,373
47-Total Church Operating Expenses	885,688	1,214,024	2,093,354	1,326,585	5,519,651
48-Payments on Debt	14,398	438,935	321,798	352,865	1,127,996
49-Capital Expenditures	1,559,217	362,140	2,874,764	531,158	5,327,279

	NORTHEAST	NORTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	CONF TOTAL
INCOME					
51-Giving Units	1,299	1,849	3,762	2,098	9,008
Operating Income					
52a-Pledge Gifts	877,013	550,040	3,258,822	1,201,419	5,887,294
52b-Gifts from Identified Givers but Not Pledged	1,746,801	2,797,520	4,075,241	2,657,337	11,276,899
52c-Gifts from Unidentified Givers	73,852	111,992	262,633	95,424	543,901
52d-Interest/Dividends	69,823	96,317	131,153	111,533	408,826
52e-Sale of Church Assets	0	7,119	2,600	0	9,719
52f-Building Use Fees	93,309	74,164	230,521	191,354	589,348
52g-Fundraisers	334,885	58,524	189,745	203,917	787,071
52-Total	3,195,683	3,695,676	8,150,715	4,460,984	19,503,058
53a-Capital Campaign	116,716	373,223	2,191,410	107,434	2,788,783
53b-Memorials, Endowments, Bequests	55,136	210,693	118,590	119,116	503,535
53c-Funds from Other Sources and Projects	47,577	490,928	78,621	173,673	790,799
53d-Designated Gifts for Benevolent Causes	109,889	55,529	87,240	85,655	338,313
53-Total Income For Designated Causes	329,318	1,130,373	2,475,861	485,878	4,421,430
54a-Equitable Compensation	12,412	0	3,600	0	16,012
54b-Received from Connectional Sources	26,760	95,711	220,850	161,856	505,177
54c-Other Grants from Institutional Sources	60,426	169,595	27,413	3,000	260,434
54-Total Support From Other Institutions	99,598	265,306	251,863	164,856	781,623

This is not a complete report of all statistical data submitted by local churches. Some fields have been omitted. For a full report, contact the General Council on Finance and Administration at (866) 367-4232



During the Miracle Offering service, Elisha and Samuel interns helped collect donations for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.
(photo by J. Lynn Studios)

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION: 1-Beginning Membership **2a**-Received by Confirmation **2b**-Received by Profession of Faith **2c**-Restored by Affirmation **2d**-Correct by addition **2e**-Transfer from Other UMC **2f**-Transfer from Non-UMC **2g**-Received from Closed UMC Churches **3a**-Removed by Charge Conference **3b**-Withdrawn **3c**-Correct by subtraction **3d**-Transfer to Other UMC **3e**-Transfer to Non-UMC **3f**-Removed by Death **4**-Total Membership **7**-Average Worship Attendance **7a**-Average Online Attendance **8a**-Children baptized **8b**-Adults baptized **Small Group Participants {11a**-Children **11b**-Youth **11c**-Young Adults **11d**-Other Adults} **22**-Persons engaged in mission **23**-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries

Church Name	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	7	7a	8a	8b	11a	11b	11c	11d	22	23
NORTHEAST DISTRICT																									
Aberdeen Faith	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen North Highland	143	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	145	48	20	1	0	6	12	2	50	53	750
Arthur	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	129	31	0	1	0	66	2	1	12	35	600
Bath	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	13	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Britton	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	57	17	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Casselton	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	20	10	0	0	2	0	0	10	6	44
Clark	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	3	4	171	45	0	1	0	0	4	0	13	8	0
Conde	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Crystal	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drayton	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	16	100	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Enderlin	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Fairmount	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	32	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	400
Fargo Faith	211	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	214	59	20	0	0	5	8	5	50	25	450
Fargo First	371	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	8	363	127	229	0	0	22	23	24	54	38	3800
Frederick	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grafton Federated	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Grand Forks Zion	223	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	219	79	27	2	0	5	7	9	39	55	2723
Groton	213	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	22	0	2	0	5	183	48	4	1	0	24	10	0	7	0	0
Hamilton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillsboro United	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	10	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	6	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Larimore	72	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	70	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	4	57
Leola	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisbon	31	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	31	18	0	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
Milnor	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	12	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	25	100
Park River Federated	25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	35	165	0	2	6	14	9	33	6	19
Pembina	27	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	19	12	100
St Thomas	46	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	46	15	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	15	200
Wahpeton Evergreen	246	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	241	75	150	3	0	10	8	5	25	61	500
Watertown First	748	13	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	757	300	102	5	0	61	35	15	100	104	2089
West Fargo Flame Of Faith	189	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	191	41	58	0	1	7	12	1	3	37	0
NORTHWEST DISTRICT																									
Bismarck Calvary	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	17	0	0	4	85	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0
Bismarck Legacy	552	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	553	250	102	10	3	218	58	25	75	155	1300
Bismarck McCabe	868	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	17	854	213	46	4	1	119	36	2	102	177	600
Bismarck Mission (new church start)	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottineau United	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	36	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Bowbells	55	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	56	10	5	0	0	26	2	0	0	4	350

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION: 1-Beginning Membership 2a-Received by Confirmation 2b-Received by Profession of Faith 2c-Restored by Affirmation 2d-Correct by addition 2e-Transfer from Other UMC 2f-Transfer from Non-UMC 2g-Received from Closed UMC Churches 3a-Removed by Charge Conference 3b-Withdrawn 3c-Correct by subtraction 3d-Transfer to Other UMC 3e-Transfer to Non-UMC 3f-Removed by Death 4-Total Membership 7-Average Worship Attendance 7a-Average Online Attendance 8a-Children baptized 8b-Adults baptized Small Group Participants {11a-Children 11b-Youth 11c-Young Adults 11d-Other Adults} 22-Persons engaged in mission 23-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries

Church Name	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	7	7a	8a	8b	11a	11b	11c	11d	22	23
Cando	68	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	68	22	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrington Federated Center	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaseley	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	1	50	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	12	0
Des Lacs	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Des Lacs	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	74	33	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Devils Lake	179	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	179	48	14	1	0	20	16	2	12	30	400
Dickinson	54	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	54	19	0	1	0	4	0	0	19	0	0
Drake	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edgeley Wesley	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	67	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	0
Ellendale United	101	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	104	31	100	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	0
Goodrich	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12	14	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Hettinger	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	100	27	74	0	0	27	0	0	12	20	150
Jamestown First	250	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	3	3	237	65	18	5	2	30	17	0	15	15	100
Jamestown St Paul's	379	8	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	15	11	361	76	14	2	0	25	15	0	50	10	500
Jud	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	60	
Kenmare Renew	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	13	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kensal	26	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	31	27	7	3	0	23	6	0	2	16	100
Langdon	122	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	122	26	40	2	0	18	5	0	6	12	15
Lansford	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linton	72	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	72	44	225	2	1	15	6	0	8	5	0
Mandan	254	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	253	119	2	4	0	40	33	5	35	50	725
Martin	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McClusky	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minot Faith	111	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	5	0	18	0	0	3	90	42	2	0	0	9	4	0	6	8	42000
Minot Vincent	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	6	286	79	130	3	0	4	3	5	30	80	750
Moffit	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nortonville	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Lake	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rolla	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	54	17	9	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Rugby Emmanuel United	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sherwood	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	10	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Steele	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6	0	0	0	86	34	0	0	0	8	5	0	12	2	0
Sterling, ND	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0
Valley City Epworth	393	8	2	0	1	2	3	0	0	2	38	3	2	6	358	70	24	0	0	15	29	3	38	21	1770
Velva	51	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	8	10	0	0	0	0
Washburn	167	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	164	40	150	2	0	9	0	0	35	150	1500
Wimbledon	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	68	12	33	0	0	7	10	0	0	20	75

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Alexandria	88	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	50	0	5	0	55	12	0	20	25	0
Alpena	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	59	25	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Transfer from Other UMC **2f**-Transfer from Non-UMC **2g**-Received from Closed UMC Churches **3a**-Removed by Charge Conference **3b**-Withdrawn **3c**-Correct by subtraction **3d**-Transfer to Other UMC **3e**-Transfer to Non-UMC **3f**-Removed by Death **4**-Total Membership **7a**-Average Worship Attendance **8a**-Children baptized **8b**-Adults baptized **Small Group Participants** {**11a**-Children **11b**-Youth **11c**-Young Adults **11d**-Other Adults} **22**-Persons engaged in mission **23**-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries

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MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION: 1-Beginning Membership **2a**-Received by Confirmation **2b**-Received by Profession of Faith **2c**-Restored by Affirmation **2d**-Correct by addition **2e**-Transfer from Other UMC **2f**-Transfer from Non-UMC **2g**-Received from Closed UMC Churches **3a**-Removed by Charge Conference **3b**-Withdrawn **3c**-Correct by subtraction **3d**-Transfer to Other UMC **3e**-Removed by Death **4**-Total Membership **7**-Average Worship Attendance **7a**-Average Online Attendance **8a**-Children baptized **8b**-Adults baptized **Small Group Participants {11a**-Children **11b**-Youth **11c**-Young Adults **11d**-Other Adults} **22**-Persons engaged in mission **23**-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries

Church Name	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	7	7a	8a	8b	11a	11b	11c	11d	22	23
Sioux Falls Southern Hills	272	5	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	282	98	32	2	1	14	30	0	0	5	0
Sioux Falls Sunnycrest	745	11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	747	295	342	10	7	38	27	22	120	176	3100
Sioux Falls Wesley	136	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	122	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	0
Sterling SD	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyndall	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	10	0	3	0	8	3	0	0	5	20
Vermillion	29	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	32	10	0	0	8	0	3	35	23	197
Virgil	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	45	24	0	0	0	8	3	0	8	12	100
Wagner	102	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	104	60	0	5	0	20	9	0	15	50	250
Wakonda	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	64	17	0	0	0	25	8	0	33	40	575
White	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	0
White Lake	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	46	33	0	1	0	23	5	0	0	0	0
Woonsocket Spirit of Faith UMC/ ELCA	311	5	8	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	333	96	100	9	1	45	22	25	35	80	1500
Yankton First	420	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	18	7	0	4	9	6	385	100	65	5	0	27	18	0	66	50	160

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Blunt	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	69	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	10	0	0	5	62	38	4	0	0	21	8	1	10	0	0
Camp Crook	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	29	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colome	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Draper	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	38	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	8
Edgemont United	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21	11	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0
Faith	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	12	0	0	0	4	0	6	3	30	
Faulkton	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	181	75	10	4	0	24	11	12	6	80	96	
Gettysburg	177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	3	150	45	19	3	0	20	8	9	25	60	
Gregory	260	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	7	2	1	8	233	68	8	2	0	24	15	0	10	0	0
Harrold	33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	33	15	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	15	150
Herrick	40	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	41	27	0	1	2	5	3	0	2	0	0
Highmore	74	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	79	27	0	0	0	3	40	0	12	15	150
Hot Springs Federated	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Trinity	139	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	135	64	17	2	0	6	11	0	21	9	84
Miller	189	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	1	1	1	187	42	22	0	1	14	6	0	0	23	125
Mission	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murdo	103	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	23	1	0	0	0	2	83	28	3	2	1	15	12	0	8	26	5
Onida	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	66	34	0	1	0	1	4	0	11	17	0
Philip United	121	4	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	129	58	35	6	2	41	25	11	33	25	13
Piedmont Grace	113	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	113	78	21	5	0	22	16	0	26	36	300
Pierre First	598	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	589	162	155	0	0	43	12	6	107	30	250
Prairie View	153	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	159	53	176	0	0	10	15	9	65	55	1300
Pringle	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	30	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1000	
Rapid City Canyon Lake	528	0	0	0	36	1	16	0	59	25	0	8	3	10	476	184	46	5	6	48	14	3	192	200	1100
Rapid City First	297	2	5	0	137	14	0	0	31	3	0	5	1	7	408	112	172	3	2	105	8	0	30	100	500
Rapid City Knollwood Hts	128	0	4	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	136	70	48	1	0	6	8	12	32	70	1400

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION: **1**-Beginning Membership **2a**-Received by Profession of Faith **2c**-Restored by Affirmation **2d**-Correct by addition **2e**-Transfer from Other UMC **2f**-Transfer from Non-UMC **2g**-Received from Closed UMC Churches **3a**-Removed by Charge Conference **3b**-Withdrawn **3c**-Correct by subtraction **3d**-Transfer to Other UMC **3e**-Transfer to Non-UMC **3f**-Removed by Death **4**-Total Membership **7**-Average Worship Attendance **7a**-Average Online Attendance **8a**-Children baptized **8b**-Adults baptized **Small Group Participants** {**11a**-Children **11b**-Youth **11c**-Young Adults **11d**-Other Adults} **22**-Persons engaged in mission **23**-Persons served by outreach, justice, mercy ministries

Church Name		1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	7	7a	8a	8b	11a	11b	11c	11d	22	23
Rapid City Open Heart		112	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	112	50	27	0	0	16	0	6	36	30	13044
Rapid Valley		306	1	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	307	83	34	0	1	18	9	2	22	116	4500
Spearfish		264	0	4	0	7	7	0	0	33	5	0	0	0	11	233	161	153	2	0	30	7	6	236	200	1000
Sturgis		224	0	4	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	228	84	7	3	0	40	19	0	38	90	590
Timber Lake		8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall		163	7	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	174	52	0	2	0	29	18	5	10	3	50
Wasta		19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	16	0	0	0	6	0	0	10	0	0
White River		138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	3	115	32	95	3	1	12	9	0	6	35	40
Totals		25387	197	132	18	202	100	119	7	248	2633	171	57	99	374	22580	7938	5334	212	48	2607	1508	354	3435	4312	138004

ASSETS & EXPENSES: 24-Market value of land, buildings, equipment 25-Market value of all other assets 26-Debt secured by Church Assets 27-Other debt 29a-Apportionments Paid 30-General Advance
Specials 32-Conference Advance Specials 35-Conference Sunday Offerings 37-Direct UM Gifts 38-Non-UM Gifts 46-Total Local Church Program Expenses 47-Total Church Operating Expenses 48-
Payments on Debt 49-Capital Expenditures

Church Name	24	25	26	27	29a	30	32	35	37	38	46	47	48	49
NORTHEAST DISTRICT														
Aberdeen Faith	4000000	152240	0	0	0	5146	0	0	0	2305	0	33359	0	93260
Aberdeen North Highland	1150000	199460	0	0	0	12128	0	0	0	2500	8405	31251	0	27595
Arthur	325000	150000	0	0	0	18270	0	0	625	10116	418	13280	0	25825
Bath	5870	6303	0	0	0	1813	0	0	0	310	0	765	0	1180
Britton	650000	365037	0	0	0	5944	0	0	0	0	267	23412	0	0
Casselton	160000	54000	0	0	0	5244	0	0	0	3500	0	7000	0	0
Clark	1720100	122223	0	0	0	9965	0	161	0	4500	1055	18990	0	8207
Conde	341500	24800	0	0	0	6002	2250	0	500	140	953	18884	0	40000
Crystal	1	1	0	0	0	600	0	0	0	290	1	6278	0	0
Drayton	1128500	570029	0	0	0	5002	110	175	0	170	250	26834	0	4119
Enderslin	736700	1	0	0	0	4664	2520	0	250	2520	1	21035	0	0
Fairmount	170000	46137	0	0	0	3574	100	40	0	400	68	8902	0	0
Fargo Faith	3750000	150000	0	1000	30740	0	3100	0	8570	3500	16850	60000	0	1500
Fargo First	2127700	86247	0	0	28567	5258	1652	0	0	2934	30480	121682	0	28619
Frederick	30000	2000	0	0	0	395	800	0	0	0	1	3000	0	0
Grafton Federated	0	0	0	0	0	750	210	345	0	444	598	17634	0	0
Grand Forks Zion	3386000	477001	95311	0	32063	0	0	500	0	1	1	79901	11398	81841
Groton	1611474	49794	0	0	3404	1282	50	0	0	270	1843	19594	0	0
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry	52000	7800	0	0	0	1085	0	0	0	0	7350	5726	0	0
Hillsboro United	495000	42400	0	0	2000	0	0	0	0	3745	1	11450	0	0
Holmes	190000	80000	0	0	4478	0	5507	0	6000	0	0	32800	0	0
Humboldt	371800	285525	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9325	0	0
Larimore	1761635	202613	0	0	7808	275	0	133	1599	4978	128	40742	0	15272
Leola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisbon	375000	190001	0	4324	4024	300	0	0	300	100	1	12422	0	0
Milnor	450000	125000	0	0	4880	0	0	0	0	2300	1000	32000	0	16000
Park River Federated	626067	125124	0	15000	2003	0	0	0	0	5295	1690	34640	0	0
Pembina	333827	68580	0	0	6392	0	0	0	0	6000	0	22841	0	0
St Thomas	1	1	0	0	4339	0	0	0	0	421	0	10970	0	1671
Wahpeton Evergreen	2789700	635716	0	0	29121	2715	0	955	495	3629	7238	49765	0	10915
Watertown First	3693124	1613362	0	0	49728	0	60	210	0	6007	7421	64241	0	1011338
West Fargo Flame Of Faith	1814000	192664	56771	0	15114	206	0	0	481	110	5879	46965	3000	191875
NORTHWEST DISTRICT														
Bismarck Calvary	400000	524911	0	0	19842	0	0	0	0	0	1833	29958	0	29593
Bismarck Legacy	6250000	250000	848119	0	36141	0	2441	3888	5670	8444	31922	241824	262644	0
Bismarck McCabe	12135424	1298323	0	10309	95200	2145	3000	2960	2388	14532	42764	166951	0	39871
Bismarck Mission (new church start)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottineau United	757001	43680	0	0	11056	405	546	0	0	0	0	24277	0	1773
Bowbells	750000	104000	0	0	6432	0	0	0	0	134	150	16031	0	0
Cando	1050900	163577	0	0	6533	0	0	0	0	0	1853	8267	0	25524
Carrington Federated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Center	85000	40457	0	0	1760	0	0	0	0	726	163	9306	0	0

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Church Name	24	25	26	27	29a	30	32	35	37	38	46	47	48	49
Chaseley	80000	24974	0	0	2476	0	0	0	500	500	0	8975	0	0
Cleveland	1	62941	0	0	5694	0	0	0	0	3011	1	16021	0	0
Des Lacs	245000	188161	0	0	8065	140	0	250	0	968	0	7322	0	0
Devils Lake	4429000	372000	0	0	13945	0	0	0	0	350	0	58000	0	16000
Dickinson	6000	30749	0	0	373	325	0	320	0	130	10400	6200	0	0
Drake	45000	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edgeley Wesley	1035000	137108	0	0	8366	0	0	0	0	0	1	37887	0	9057
Ellendale United	1300000	155895	0	0	6980	0	720	0	0	2534	2410	25597	0	0
Goodrich	50000	30068	0	0	4057	0	0	0	0	1	1	4825	0	0
Hettinger	1368000	105955	0	0	10540	0	0	585	0	4450	1805	20023	0	2267
Jamestown First	2000000	1000000	0	0	16957	4092	1421	1000	975	15750	500	81283	0	4000
Jamestown St Paul's	2927800	961103	0	0	22992	455	873	0	1200	4758	12141	39200	0	26339
Jud	45000	31000	0	0	1760	0	0	200	200	1000	1	2000	0	1
Kenmare Renew	246256	4268	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17039	1020	46505
Kensal	242000	43676	0	0	4827	200	0	0	0	0	1876	13211	0	0
Langdon	415000	430000	0	0	8877	0	0	0	0	0	200	20000	0	500
Lansford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linton	1000000	130000	0	0	11521	0	0	0	5000	3200	1300	21500	0	22000
Mandan	2074500	132625	0	0	31927	2365	0	85	0	2474	23262	43928	0	40779
Martin	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
McClusky	0	0	0	0	2788	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minot Faith	1600000	79304	56001	0	14523	0	365	700	600	7863	3338	44373	41340	1624
Minot Vincent	6000000	402747	0	0	31194	1828	0	215	0	2896	18000	103784	0	0
Moffit	0	0	0	0	292	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nortonville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Lake	1	1	0	0	1950	0	0	0	0	1	1	6564	0	1
Rolla	1	1	0	0	6066	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Rugby Emmanuel United	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sherwood	220000	1	0	0	2425	0	0	0	0	0	0	11952	0	0
Steele	150000	120000	0	0	11505	0	0	0	0	0	2468	13840	0	65407
Sterling, ND	725000	23000	0	0	4159	0	0	0	0	3600	1	15250	0	0
Valley City Epworth	5130692	282590	199628	0	30449	7282	2610	120	4730	3898	7952	59666	133931	30898
Velva	175000	62691	0	0	5631	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washburn	1250000	400000	0	0	7762	4450	0	0	4450	6500	5000	22500	0	0
Wimbledon	125000	263681	0	0	7551	585	0	150	0	0	4626	16468	0	0
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT														
Alexandria	1090000	320000	0	0	4970	0	0	0	0	2000	605	15152	0	0
Alpena	430700	25000	0	0	3500	0	0	0	0	0	0	33156	0	0
Aurora Impact	173001	40001	0	0	3459	0	0	0	0	600	1	5444	0	899
Ben Clare	1500000	40000	0	0	6193	0	0	0	0	0	2394	8817	0	0
Beresford Zion	1600000	168291	0	0	11159	0	0	0	0	6189	4500	30700	0	19890
Brandon Celebration	2582662	139560	72063	0	960	0	0	0	0	7300	271	32055	44512	2392
Broadland	150000	23000	0	0	3392	0	0	0	0	800	1	8814	0	1
Brookings First	5406992	258673	0	0	87986	22978	5740	190	0	1247	35407	279689	0	162158

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Church Name	24	25	26	27	29a	30	32	35	37	38	46	47	48	49
Canistota United	384461	500000	0	240000	11698	0	1250	750	1250	15000	20000	14000	0	12000
Canton	2621158	45722	28335	0	35824	0	540	0	0	7131	51971	51070	14659	11000
Carpenter	650000	0	44909	0	3204	50	250	250	0	9988	877	10205	1430	150577
Chester	725000	235941	0	0	8210	0	0	0	0	3324	1	18534	0	2208
Colton	1200000	0	0	0	6529	0	0	0	2000	1674	0	13383	0	0
De Smet	350000	0	0	0	8935	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000	0	0
Deil Rapids	1300000	111750	0	0	972	0	0	183	0	1500	3000	34081	0	1365
Elkton United	0	0	0	0	3717	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embrace-Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embrace-Tea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esmond	0	0	0	0	1382	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethan	150000	22945	0	0	6552	0	0	0	1000	2500	0	8257	0	60867
Flandreau	2340245	196934	0	0	10382	0	0	100	0	1710	1533	27812	0	0
Frankfort	75000	12586	0	0	2866	1006	216	54	0	0	260	8909	0	0
Garretson United	500000	200000	0	0	2170	0	0	0	0	1200	1700	13000	0	0
Gayville-Vollin	334000	92679	0	0	1948	530	0	0	530	0	106	7785	0	0
Harrisburg	6099689	249972	0	0	34871	0	0	0	0	1000	13002	60381	0	77236
Hartford	1835500	255701	0	0	17732	0	0	204	0	2650	4231	44234	0	0
Howard Beach	1751000	324160	0	0	11729	756	0	241	241	321	2528	31614	0	22694
Hurley	377600	13500	0	0	9390	0	262	317	0	5459	125	10882	0	6896
Huron Riverview	2800000	115000	0	0	25839	0	0	200	0	5100	13800	62900	0	64000
Irene	30000	5785	0	0	2970	200	500	500	0	4830	0	5800	0	0
Iroquois	300000	22000	0	0	8661	1455	562	0	2000	4000	175	18000	0	2500
Lake Preston	59000	157932	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2793	478	10593	0	0
Madison	6550280	367972	0	0	30234	0	760	0	600	8254	4648	59357	345	516515
Mitchell Downtown First	7422000	175914	0	0	68101	1000	0	200	6739	6412	40866	129256	0	0
Mitchell Fusion	350001	70000	0	0	23450	0	100	0	0	6759	14307	42431	0	0
Montrose	1500000	50000	0	0	10800	11893	3115	500	2250	17935	4441	19559	0	6088
North Sioux City Ark	152856	40681	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50483	0	0
Parker	640000	30000	50000	12000	5039	0	163	169	0	2248	125	6424	6564	14655
Plankinton	1550000	200000	0	0	11565	319	0	295	387	0	375	29494	0	0
Salem Unite	210000	215441	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1200	2462	24627	0	4270
Sioux Falls Asbury	2185165	132548	0	1713	83950	325	4211	770	14004	8022	33595	118339	0	77254
Sioux Falls Embrace	0	0	0	0	44000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sioux Falls First	17641467	2041027	0	0	123503	0	0	0	0	3689	26160	265173	0	1256396
Sioux Falls Hilltop	2111814	301819	70875	0	22800	0	4824	0	0	2847	14916	20849	45689	12547
Sioux Falls Southern Hills	2717074	394594	697430	0	7404	0	0	0	0	2909	6386	77219	137017	20425
Sioux Falls Sunnycrest	2217400	115013	109019	0	49925	0	0	0	0	0	31924	97536	4856	0
Sioux Falls Wesley	7601998	71609	0	0	15466	300	887	400	0	2900	1069	44388	0	0
Sterling SD	0	0	0	0	1712	0	0	0	0	0	202	6279	0	0
Tyndall	1212831	36250	0	0	600	20	0	0	0	0	0	9401	0	0
Vermillion	2765730	247704	0	0	99	0	732	0	439	5486	23396	45577	0	43312
Virgil	129000	119984	0	0	4999	0	400	400	0	3500	476	8807	0	0
Wagner	3000000	139149	0	149	12887	0	0	0	0	4000	173	18946	0	31337
Wakonda	227900	100779	0	0	6521	575	300	250	3980	1666	1503	10558	0	0

ASSETS & EXPENSES: 24-Market value of land, buildings, equipment 25-Market value of all other assets 26-Debt secured by Church Assets 27-Other debt 29a-Apportionments Paid 30-General Advance
Specials 32-Conference Advance Specials 35-Conference Sunday Offerings 37-Direct UM Gifts 38-Non-UM Gifts 46-Total Local Church Program Expenses 47-Total Church Operating Expenses 48-
Payments on Debt 49-Capital Expenditures

Church Name	24	25	26	27	29a	30	32	35	37	38	46	47	48	49
White	426000	150000	0	0	5704	0	0	0	0	200	3600	10000	0	0
White Lake	548968	220000	0	0	5424	40	172	500	1	1	224	18838	0	203000
Woonsocket Spirit of Faith UMC/ ELCA	640000	90862	98692	0	3000	0	0	0	0	2500	2750	14894	66726	0
Yankton First	1802709	540055	0	7538	55063	1300	100	1377	0	7131	7142	89652	0	92282
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT														
Blunt	325000	0	0	0	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000	0	0
Burke	464000	83235	0	0	8413	0	0	215	0	852	432	11117	0	0
Camp Crook	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Colome	0	35775	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2313	550	0	0
Draper	96000	328548	0	0	1788	0	0	0	0	75	1569	5255	0	2182
Edgemont United	0	49929	0	0	3448	0	200	0	0	0	0	17779	0	0
Faith	1442902	218360	0	0	2772	0	0	0	0	0	0	11495	0	0
Faulton	1	196524	0	0	20619	5500	4500	1794	31000	19000	3700	25300	0	1790
Gettysburg	3874810	675076	0	0	15302	20	12	0	0	2675	2048	41330	0	0
Gregory	1379170	37530	0	0	11577	100	1800	413	5000	2511	3314	17762	0	0
Harrold	40000	5324	0	0	3168	0	0	0	0	0	80	6550	0	0
Herrick	293020	70000	0	0	3700	60	0	0	250	250	216	5068	0	0
Highmore	840000	26000	0	0	9470	500	0	0	0	800	750	58720	0	0
Hot Springs Federated	0	0	0	0	5222	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Trinity	1979563	229290	0	0	23219	80	100	0	728	1259	1340	36782	0	0
Miller	2624000	194915	0	0	14359	380	1095	0	1395	0	1575	31040	0	9675
Mission	70000	65000	0	0	2446	225	210	0	0	0	0	13429	0	2500
Murdo	1005600	12375	0	0	8055	0	0	20	90	3000	3000	17100	0	0
Onida	1101600	194578	0	0	9033	65	750	100	200	4588	432	13468	0	0
Philip United	402000	1	0	0	3676	0	0	0	0	6632	3675	51230	0	0
Piedmont Grace	2684300	374031	0	0	32085	0	0	529	0	9255	5585	22207	0	0
Pierre First	6755845	261872	261744	300	70368	3201	200	6170	2930	9665	34812	205482	165000	264811
Prairie View	1200000	42000	0	0	15080	0	0	0	0	500	291	295	0	0
Pringle	61000	205000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4000	0	13820	0	0
Rapid City Canyon Lake	4922324	441158	0	9100	90300	2045	1812	60	0	18552	11917	166035	112746	87234
Rapid City First	4573466	473601	63057	0	42408	200	0	0	12939	6319	17258	171895	9230	21292
Rapid City Knollwood Hts	1321000	600000	0	0	21555	0	1135	300	1950	11154	1394	30428	0	0
Rapid City Open Heart	2203000	59472	0	0	2400	0	0	393	6595	0	7425	31586	0	0
Rapid Valley	1027459	39832	520455	2290	1284	327	0	0	0	1890	2942	26988	37889	25909
Spearsfish	2934186	635227	59207	0	53243	4795	2765	600	47758	8191	7945	194806	28000	55765
Sturgis	1255171	80277	0	0	23770	100	335	0	0	2186	2781	49617	0	60000
Timber Lake	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall	1500000	151000	0	0	11225	0	0	0	0	150	3000	22000	0	0
Wasta	220000	50000	0	0	1957	0	0	0	0	0	2000	4000	0	0
White River	55000	63000	0	0	9648	20	308	365	875	4300	2106	13450	0	0
Totals	235627195	29260101	3331616	303723	2221420	100663	63171	31906	201155	438286	769373	5519651	1127996	5327279

INCOME: 51-Giving Units Operating Income (52a-Pledge Gifts 52b-Gifts from Identified Givers but Not Pledged 52c-Gifts from Unidentified Givers 52d-Interest/Dividends 52e-Sale of Church Assets 52f-Building Use Fees 52g-Fundraisers 52-Total) 53a-Capital Campaign 53b-Memorials, Endowments, Bequests 53c-Funds from Other Sources and Projects 53d-Designated Gifts for Benevolent Causes 53-Total Income For Designated Causes 54a-Equitable Compensation 54b-Received from Connectional Sources 54c-Other Grants from Institutional Sources 54-Total Support From Other Institutions

Church Name	51	52a	52b	52c	52d	52e	52f	52g	52	53a	53b	53c	53d	53	54a	54b	54c	54
NORTHEAST DISTRICT																		
Aberdeen Faith	40	0	31718	8392	0	0	0	0	40110	25847	1395	0	3010	30252	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen North Highland	62	0	108105	2273	10000	0	250	56150	176778	0	100	0	10250	10350	0	0	10000	10000
Arthur	51	0	134887	2714	846	0	0	0	138447	0	1340	25825	18984	46149	0	0	0	0
Bath	15	0	13432	0	20	0	0	118	13570	0	0	951	466	1417	0	0	0	0
Britton	18	44085	0	295	8	0	0	0	44388	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casselton	14	0	39000	0	0	0	0	0	39000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	33	0	70365	2949	2182	0	14737	0	90233	7562	481	0	1691	9734	3130	26760	0	29890
Conde	20	0	30119	1155	0	0	0	1459	32733	0	9300	0	0	9300	0	0	0	0
Crystal	10	10996	0	0	0	0	0	0	10996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drayton	21	0	31505	977	15699	0	0	0	48181	0	0	0	285	285	0	0	0	0
Enderlin	10	0	27961	0	0	0	6600	0	34561	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairmount	13	0	21705	3601	912	0	250	0	26468	0	0	0	190	190	0	0	0	0
Fargo Faith	77	217132	54157	3314	1254	0	3614	0	279471	0	4829	0	14849	19678	0	0	0	0
Fargo First	167	239636	148050	23192	1210	0	3895	17946	433929	28619	8565	0	5920	43104	0	0	47926	47926
Frederick	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grafton Federated	8	0	27046	0	140	0	0	0	27186	9883	0	0	0	9883	9282	0	0	9282
Grand Forks Zion	125	0	209809	2000	300	0	25372	174441	411922	5577	0	0	0	5577	0	0	0	0
Groton	40	0	96856	2537	6325	0	691	2652	109061	0	482	0	1332	1814	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry	6	8912	0	0	0	0	0	5263	14175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillsboro United	27	0	45377	0	613	0	7990	0	53980	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	32	0	33500	0	0	0	0	0	33500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	8	0	5100	250	18500	0	0	0	23850	0	170	0	0	170	0	0	0	0
Larimore	24	0	47420	400	10016	0	0	0	57836	0	2409	0	4603	7012	0	0	0	0
Leola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisbon	19	0	32272	0	0	0	0	0	32272	0	410	0	0	410	0	0	0	0
Milnor	15	0	45000	1200	0	0	15000	15000	76200	0	11000	0	0	11000	0	0	0	0
Park River Federated	15	0	65658	0	1573	0	0	61856	129087	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembina	34	0	46106	1238	144	0	0	0	47488	0	680	0	9	689	0	0	0	0
St Thomas	1	0	27705	4058	81	0	0	0	31844	0	3810	0	0	3810	0	0	0	0
Wahpeton Evergreen	95	101198	108213	4946	0	0	2460	0	216817	0	5619	20800	9374	35793	0	0	2500	2500
Watertown First	221	255054	107607	5343	0	0	0	0	368004	0	4355	0	1702	6057	0	0	0	0
West Fargo Flame Of Faith	69	0	138128	3018	0	0	12450	0	153596	39227	190	0	37223	76640	0	0	0	0
NORTHWEST DISTRICT																		
Bismarck Calvary	85	0	115841	14715	2089	0	15605	3671	151921	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bismarck Legacy	306	0	537374	13305	2480	3800	8000	0	564959	51346	0	368099	0	419445	0	0	2750	2750
Bismarck McCabe	317	434853	161009	8965	29353	3317	5368	5754	648619	251412	6115	33495	29948	320970	0	0	152633	152633
Bismarck Mission (new church start)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottineau United	29	35387	0	0	24277	0	0	0	59664	0	150	0	1153	1303	0	0	0	0
Bowbells	18	0	40966	0	3500	0	850	0	45316	200	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0
Cando	26	0	40604	2751	20000	0	0	0	63355	0	550	0	0	550	0	0	1877	1877
Carrington Federated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Center	14	0	11320	418	0	0	0	0	11738	0	0	0	0	0	0	9061	0	9061
Chaseley	12	0	11076	7256	0	0	0	7860	26192	0	0	0	790	790	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	17	0	29179	0	0	0	0	13000	42179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

INCOME: 51-Giving Units Operating Income (52a-Pledge Gifts 52b-Gifts from Identified Givers but Not Pledged 52c-Gifts from Unidentified Givers 52d-Interest/Dividends 52e-Sale of Church Assets 52f-Building Use Fees 52g-Fundraisers 52-Total) 53a-Capital Campaign 53b-Memorials, Endowments, Bequests 53c-Funds from Other Sources and Projects 53d-Designated Gifts for Benevolent Causes 53-Total Income For Designated Causes 54a-Equitable Compensation 54b-Received from Connectional Sources 54c-Other Grants from Institutional Sources 54-Total Support From Other Institutions

Church Name	51	52a	52b	52c	52d	52e	52f	52g	52	53a	53b	53c	53d	53	54a	54b	54c	54
Des Lacs	30	0	59742	8065	3414	0	0	0	71221	0	0	0	1358	1358	0	1215	0	1215
Devils Lake	75	0	103269	147	30	0	550	7650	111646	0	260	0	500	760	0	0	0	0
Dickinson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drake	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edgeley Wesley	24	60883	2625	1156	489	0	0	0	65153	0	620	0	0	620	0	10574	0	10574
Ellendale United	26	0	40695	1989	133	0	142	0	42959	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	0	0
Goodrich	12	0	19458	0	0	0	0	6900	26358	0	0	0	300	300	0	0	0	0
Hettinger	28	0	84341	4612	0	0	0	0	88953	0	480	0	3745	4225	0	0	0	0
Jamestown First	80	0	127676	7522	20	0	0	0	135218	0	225	0	810	1035	0	0	0	0
Jamestown St Paul's	113	0	189180	11989	0	0	600	0	201769	0	62500	0	1965	64465	0	27776	0	27776
Jud	9	0	10410	400	40	0	0	0	10850	0	500	0	0	500	0	7981	0	7981
Kenmare Renew	9	0	41106	0	0	0	0	0	41106	0	0	28825	0	28825	0	0	0	0
Kensal	19	0	18784	1923	330	0	14000	625	35662	0	425	0	0	425	0	0	0	0
Langdon	50	0	63179	2407	0	0	0	0	65586	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
Lansford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linton	43	0	85230	0	3500	0	0	0	88730	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mandan	115	0	234242	2258	0	0	0	0	236500	0	18189	0	2365	20554	0	2384	0	2384
Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McClusky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minot Faith	63	0	88242	9398	0	0	368	9865	107873	44643	12961	884	1681	60169	0	1316	0	1316
Minot Vincent	122	0	224334	4130	0	0	27367	0	255831	0	6740	20000	0	26740	0	0	10018	10018
Moffit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nortonville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Lake	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	0	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0
Rolla	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rugby Emmanuel United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sherwood	7	18915	0	0	12	0	0	1500	20427	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	0	0
Steele	1	0	66600	1527	190	0	0	0	68317	1	1107	0	0	1108	0	18575	0	18575
Sterling, ND	10	0	45236	0	0	0	0	0	45236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley City Epworth	91	0	223529	6343	6458	0	1312	1697	239339	25621	92530	39625	10914	168690	0	0	2317	2317
Velva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washburn	70	0	68000	0	0	0	0	0	68000	0	6500	0	0	6500	0	16829	0	16829
Wimbledon	18	0	54271	714	0	0	0	0	54985	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT																		
Alexandria	40	0	45741	0	0	0	0	0	45741	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alpena	20	0	0	32424	0	0	0	0	32424	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aurora Impact	27	0	26048	1600	0	0	0	0	27648	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0
Ben Clare	24	0	70117	0	79	0	0	0	70196	0	0	51695	0	51695	0	0	0	0
Beresford Zion	42	0	105194	1958	0	0	0	0	107152	9781	2919	0	0	12700	0	0	0	0
Brandon Celebration	63	0	125465	875	1575	0	11752	16593	156260	13986	5251	0	0	19237	0	0	0	0
Broadland	10	25000	0	0	0	0	0	0	25000	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0
Brookings First	334	646342	123540	11197	699	0	6915	19660	808353	0	550	0	4876	5426	0	0	5500	5500
Canistota United	90	0	11500	1000	0	0	24000	5000	41500	0	1000	0	0	1000	0	0	0	0
Canton	93	0	299280	10384	60	0	675	0	310399	0	6054	0	0	6054	0	0	2000	2000

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Church Name	51	52a	52b	52c	52d	52e	52f	52g	52	53a	53b	53c	53d	53	54a	54b	54c	54
Carpenter	35	0	23195	5098	210	0	0	0	28503	156663	0	0	2218	158881	0	0	0	0
Chester	44	0	63132	3341	54	0	0	0	66527	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colton	0	0	47660	1477	0	0	0	4369	53506	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De Smet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dell Rapids	59	90402	0	0	5601	0	300	11400	107703	280	2680	0	0	2960	0	0	0	0
Elkton United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embrace-Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embrace-Tea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esmond	0	0	4500	0	0	0	0	0	4500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethan	9	0	55282	0	0	0	0	0	55282	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flandreau	31	0	77006	0	39	0	19865	1415	98325	0	1085	0	0	1085	0	28884	0	28884
Frankfort	10	0	15883	0	0	0	0	6140	22023	0	0	0	775	775	0	0	0	0
Garretson United	40	0	47000	0	0	0	8700	0	55700	35700	0	0	0	35700	0	0	0	0
Gayville-Volin	15	0	13932	1760	420	0	0	0	16112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrisburg	146	0	243750	6281	1954	2600	678	1688	256951	50000	0	0	0	50000	0	27904	0	27904
Hartford	69	0	134232	21879	0	0	0	0	156111	0	630	0	5986	6616	0	1000	0	1000
Howard Beach	55	0	87045	1795	10389	0	12950	9999	122178	3765	690	0	1246	5701	0	0	0	0
Hurley	25	0	66450	2137	0	0	579	2078	71244	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huron RiverView	130	0	179000	15900	910	0	300	300	196110	79900	25000	0	9300	114200	0	28100	0	28100
Irene	8	0	26215	107	0	0	0	0	26322	0	0	0	325	325	0	0	0	0
Iroquois	40	0	0	1100	0	0	0	0	1100	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	0	0
Lake Preston	10	0	34037	658	42	0	0	1795	36532	0	0	0	1535	1535	0	0	0	0
Madison	141	0	222582	7040	0	0	1225	9887	240734	333518	2739	0	225	336482	0	0	6000	6000
Mitchell Downtown First	324	476108	12970	28138	0	0	2603	5756	525575	0	10394	0	1330	11724	0	0	0	0
Mitchell Fusion	92	0	170542	7276	0	0	0	1641	179459	0	0	0	2662	2662	0	0	11000	11000
Montrose	32	96008	0	1529	4307	0	1275	8506	111625	0	0	0	13121	13121	1800	0	0	1800
North Sioux City Ark	12	32000	3000	0	0	0	0	8000	43000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parker	62	33969	0	3898	60567	0	359	1060	99853	0	7500	0	0	7500	0	935	0	935
Plankinton	35	0	81198	4466	1984	0	0	0	87648	0	7600	0	0	7600	0	0	0	0
Salem Unite	35	52048	65043	0	420	0	0	35000	152511	15000	0	0	0	15000	1800	0	0	1800
Sioux Falls Asbury	219	425398	137857	2383	0	0	1125	7223	573986	73299	5177	20586	21137	120199	0	0	0	0
Sioux Falls Embrace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sioux Falls First	448	823353	237002	7220	1835	0	1350	7866	1078626	1224286	8074	0	0	1232360	0	0	0	0
Sioux Falls Hilltop	112	114137	106029	17378	182	0	1275	23834	262835	29452	6179	0	4368	39999	0	3328	0	3328
Sioux Falls Southern Hills	66	0	252996	4938	0	0	108475	535	366944	0	0	2830	0	2830	0	0	0	0
Sioux Falls Sunnycrest	226	0	307336	25009	33000	0	0	0	388745	0	0	0	0	0	0	90750	0	90750
Sioux Falls Wesley	40	90506	2107	796	0	0	9870	0	103279	0	11328	0	0	11328	0	9596	0	9596
Sterling SD	24	0	12684	2500	0	0	0	0	15184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyndall	14	0	16460	644	97	0	825	0	18026	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
Vermillion	23	0	141079	0	0	0	9300	0	150379	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virgil	27	0	37134	20	297	0	0	0	37451	0	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0
Wagner	88	11290	94760	0	1633	0	700	0	108383	17476	150	0	740	18366	0	1773	0	1773
Wakonda	13	20000	28482	74	2807	0	0	0	51363	0	4247	1000	5280	10527	0	0	1145	1145
White	25	0	40076	0	0	0	0	0	40076	0	985	0	0	985	0	0	1768	1768
White Lake	15	12	27118	12267	0	0	0	0	39397	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	0	0

INCOME: 51-Giving Units Operating Income (52a-Pledge Gifts 52b-Gifts from Identified Givers but Not Pledged 52c-Gifts from Unidentified Givers 52d-Interest/Dividends 52e-Sale of Church Assets 52f-Building Use Fees 52g-Fundraisers 52-Total) 53a-Capital Campaign 53b-Memorials, Endowments, Bequests 53c-Funds from Other Sources and Projects 53d-Designated Gifts for Benevolent Causes 53-Total Income For Designated Causes 54a-Equitable Compensation 54b-Received from Connectional Sources 54c-Other Grants from Institutional Sources 54-Total Support From Other Institutions

Church Name	51	52a	52b	52c	52d	52e	52f	52g	52	53a	53b	53c	53d	53	54a	54b	54c	54
Woonsocket Spirit of Faith UMC/ ELCA	90	0	86866	13225	0	0	750	0	100841	39935	6000	0	0	45935	0	0	0	0
Yankton First	130	322249	43316	2861	1992	0	4975	0	375393	108368	1657	2509	11955	124489	0	28580	0	28580
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT																		
Blunt	0	0	7393	0	0	0	0	0	7393	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	62	0	62319	0	0	0	0	0	62319	0	0	0	750	750	0	0	0	0
Camp Crook	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colome	4	0	12767	23	0	0	0	0	12790	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drapar	12	11685	0	1556	21917	0	0	0	35158	0	20000	0	0	20000	0	5422	0	5422
Edgemont United	12	25673	0	1050	0	0	0	5673	32396	0	2830	0	90	2920	0	0	0	0
Faith	27	0	17955	0	0	0	0	6897	24852	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faulton	69	0	125074	2572	0	0	62238	0	189884	0	2687	0	0	2687	0	27344	0	27344
Gettysburg	40	88510	6470	0	20000	0	1455	2372	118807	0	10200	0	0	10200	0	0	0	0
Gregory	105	0	83281	0	249	0	7000	0	90530	0	0	0	0	0	0	18853	0	18853
Harrold	14	0	22900	0	0	0	0	0	22900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herrick	15	0	27216	0	0	0	0	0	27216	0	0	0	105	105	0	10602	0	10602
Higmore	45	0	76145	0	1250	0	0	0	77395	0	1500	0	0	1500	0	0	0	0
Hot Springs Federated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Trinity	76	0	157373	29371	2220	0	2486	716	192166	0	370	0	917	1287	0	0	0	0
Miller	62	0	103211	3841	0	0	230	1615	108897	0	8304	0	1075	9379	0	0	0	0
Mission	12	0	12909	0	0	0	1600	0	14509	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murdo	35	0	57894	1763	20331	0	0	0	79988	0	5000	210	0	5210	0	10843	0	10843
Onida	28	0	61501	2559	3358	0	0	0	67418	0	1096	0	753	1849	0	0	0	0
Philip United	59	0	80238	5322	0	0	0	0	85560	0	7150	21300	0	28450	0	0	0	0
Piedmont Grace	113	57182	120343	4329	579	0	325	5674	188432	0	275	0	529	804	0	0	0	0
Pierre First	99	440870	354470	0	0	0	205	0	795545	0	0	0	60218	60218	0	0	0	0
Prairie View	78	129	0	0	0	0	400	0	529	0	2120	0	129	2249	0	0	2000	2000
Pringle	45	0	27709	5283	1687	0	0	0	34679	0	3800	0	0	3800	0	0	0	0
Rapid City Canyon Lake	218	316155	266784	6178	5879	0	59000	151777	805773	57813	11540	18552	0	87905	0	24745	0	24745
Rapid City First	187	0	283669	7162	15327	0	10026	0	316184	0	0	0	0	0	0	21135	0	21135
Rapid City Knollwood Hts	118	0	152720	8281	5390	0	0	0	166391	0	2081	6230	13104	21415	0	0	1000	1000
Rapid City Open Heart	49	0	94870	4762	0	0	19600	12123	131355	0	0	0	6595	6595	0	29770	0	29770
Rapid Valley	83	7942	117325	3645	2600	0	280	16569	148361	5845	5913	0	0	11758	0	2299	0	2299
Spearsfish	224	253268	83236	4934	10673	0	10909	0	363020	43776	23985	0	0	67761	0	0	0	0
Sturgis	139	0	144438	2792	73	0	8650	0	155953	0	10055	127381	1390	138826	0	0	0	0
Timber Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall	50	0	82974	0	0	0	0	0	82974	0	210	0	0	210	0	0	0	0
Wasta	16	0	14152	0	0	0	0	500	14652	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White River	1	0	0	0	0	0	6950	0	6950	0	0	0	0	0	0	10843	0	10843

Total 9008 5887294 11276899 543901 408826 9719 589348 787071 19503058 2788783 503535 790799 338313 4421430 16012 505177 260434 781623

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Quick Reference

DAKOTAS MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES

Bakken Oil Rush Ministry—Watford City, Melanie Smith
2nd Ave NE, Watford City, North Dakota 58854
E: bakkenoilrush@gmail.com
Website: www.oilrushministry.com

O: 701-339-6188
Fund: 746 Program

Solar Oven Partners, Randy Harwood
1331 W. University Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301
E: al.roll@dakotasumc.org
Website: <http://www.solarovenpartnersumc.org/>

O: 605-996-6552
Fund: 637 Program
Salary 661

Spirit Lake Ministry Center, Kim and Paulette Paulson
3365—81st Ave. NE, Sheyenne, ND 58374
E: spiritlekeministry@dakotasumc.org
Website: www.spiritlekeministrycenter.org

C: 701-739-9019 or 701-351-8579
Fund: 639 Program
Salary 663

Tree of Life Ministry, Sandra Spotted Tail
140 S. Roosevelt (PO Box 149), Mission, SD 57555
E: treeoflife@gwtc.net
Website: www.treeofliferelief.org

O: 605-856-4266, F: 605-856-5835
Fund: 678 Program
Advance: #123615 Program

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission — North Central Jurisdiction, Tammy Kuntz
8800 Cleveland Ave., NW, North Canton, OH 44720-4564
E: umvimncj.coor@gmail.com

O: 614-325-8741

RELATED AGENCIES and INFORMATIONAL NUMBERS

Open Door Community Center
1030 North 6th St., Bismarck, ND, 58501
E: opendoor@btinet.net

701-222-3004
Website: opendoorbismarck.com

Interfaith Federal Credit Union
P.O. Box 60651, Montclair, CA 91763-1126

1-800-245-0433

Southeast Pierre Community Center
2315 E. Park St., Pierre, SD, 57501

605-224-7244

Logo and artwork for the 2025 Annual Conference were designed by Karla Hovde, Minnesota Conference Communication Associate.

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRY

Lake Poinsett Camp/Retreat Center, Nicole Anderson
20 South Lake Drive, Arlington, SD 57212
Storm Mountain Center – Tanner Clark
23740 Storm Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702
Wesley Acres Camp - Lori Faleide
1821 115th Ave. SE, Dazey, ND 58429
Dakotas-Minnesota Area Central Camping Office
122 W. Franklin, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404

E: lpc@dakcamps.org 605-983-5547
Fax: 605- 983-3911
E: smc@dakcamps.org 605-343-4391
Fax: 605-343-0154
E: wac@dakcamps.org 701-733-2413
Fax: 701-733-2411
E: info@dakcamps.org 855-622-1973
Fax: 612-870-1260

HOME, HOSPITAL AND RETIREMENT MINISTRIES

Jenkins Living Center - Loren W. Diekman, Administrator
12 Second Ave., Watertown, SD 57201
Sunnycrest Village - Mary Morgan, Administrator
3900 S. Terry Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Wesley Acres - Priscilla Stevenson, CEO
1115 West Havens, Mitchell, SD 57301

605-886-5777
605-361-1422
E: mary.sunnycrest@midconetwork.com
605-996-6164
E: wesleyacres@midconetwork.com

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop
122 W. Franklin Ave Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55504
Conference Secretary, Amber Laffey
PO Box 460,1331 University, Mitchell, SD 57301
Archivist Laurie Langland, McGovern Library
1201 McGovern Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301
Conference Co-Lay Leaders
John Srstka
5604 W. Circle Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Karl Rockeman
PO Box 3123, Dickinson, ND 58602
Conference Treasurer, Jim Ducker
PO Box 460, 1331 University, Mitchell, SD 57301

612-230-3334
E: bishopoffice@dkmnareaumc.org
605-770-7802
E: conference.secretary@dakotasumc.org
605-995-2134
E: Laurie.Langland@dwu.edu F: 605-995-2893
605-490-0109
E: j1srstka@aol.com
701-590-9093
E: cowboyk@gmail.com
605-990-7786
E: jim.ducker@dakotasumc.org

WEB SITES

Dakotas Conference
Dakotas Camping
Foundation
Youth Ministries
United Methodist Church

www.dakotasumc.org
www.dakcamps.org
www.dkmnmf.org
www.dakyouth.org
www.umc.org

INFORMATIONAL

Infoserv 1-800-251-8140
Cokesbury 1-800-672-1789
UMCOR Hotline..... 1-800-841-1235
UMCOR Depot 1-801-973-7250
Midwest Distribution Center, Jefferson, Iowa1 515-386-2236
Midwest Distribution Center, Pawnee, Illinois1 217-483-7911

CONFERENCE OFFICE

1331 West University, Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301

605-996-6552

www.dakotasumc.org

dakumcom@dakotasumc.org

Camping

Area Director Camp and Retreats, Keith Shew

612-230-6130

keith.shew@dkmnareaumc.org

Area Coordinator Camp and Retreats, Stacey Edwards

855-622-1973

stacey.edwards@dkmnareaumc.org

Dakotas Methodist Foundation

President and CEO, Sheri Meister

605-990-7789

sheri.meister@dkmnmf.org

Director of Foundation Relations, Diane Weller

605-990-7790

diane.weller@dkmnmf.org

Director of Communications, Barb Goldammer

606-990-7797

barb.goldammer@dkmnmf.org

Director of Finance and Accounting, Lisa Schultz

612-230-3339

lisa.schultz@dkmnmf.org

Event and Program Coordinator, Katie Meister

612-230-3336

katie.meister@dkmnmf.org

Conference Superintendents

Dan Bader

605-990-7006

dan.bader@dakotasumc.org

Kris Mutzenberger

701-532-0455

kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org

Joel Winckler

701-401-8800

joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org

Brandon Vetter

605-630-7882

brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org

Finance and Benefits

Executive Dir. of Finance and Admin, Jim Ducker

605-990-7786

jim.ducker@dakotasumc.org

Conference Benefits and HR Officer, JoAnn Early

605-990-7785

joann.early@dakotasumc.org

Assistant Treasurer, Dana Bassett

605-990-7787

dana.bassett@dakotasumc.org

Sr. Accountant / Payroll Administrator, Kathy Roll

605-990-7004

kathy.roll@dakotasumc.org

Finance & Benefits, HR Assistant, Kaylynn Schutte

605-990-7782

kaylynn.schutte@dakotasumc.org

Ministries and Communications

Asst.to Bishop—Connection/Communication, Rebecca Trefz

605-990-7781

rebecca.trefz@dakotasumc.org

Area Director of Clergy Well-Being, Diane Owen

612-230-6129

diane.owen@dkmnareaumc.org

Missional Impact Development Coach, Al Roll

605-990-7005

al.roll@dakotasumc.org

Coordinator of Ministry Operations, Bea Stucke

605-990-7791

bea.stucke@dakotasumc.org

Ministries Assistant, Susan Punt

605-990-7796

susan.punt@dakotasumc.org

Communications Associate, David Stucke

605-990-7794

david.stucke@dakotasumc.org

Communications Assistant, Anna Mutzenberger

605-990-7793

anna.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org

Wespath Benefits and Investments

1901 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, IL 60025

www.wespath.org

Wespath Health Care Coordinator

1-833-762-0876

Pension Dept—press 1, then 0

1-800-851-2201

Viabenefits

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1-800-877-7195

www.vsp.com

Virgin Pulse

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www.virginpulse.com

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MD Live Telemedicine

1-888-750-4991

WW (Weigh Watchers)

1-866-204-2885

www.weightwatchers.com

EY Financial Planning Services

1-800-360-2539

www.wespath.eynavigate.com