

*Developing
Relationships*

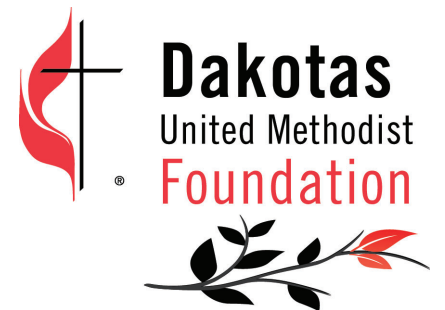


2018-2019
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

*Cultivating
Resources*



*Embracing
Ministry*



I DARE YOU...

Growing up in rural South Dakota, 4-H was very important to our family. We participated at all levels and learned early on that hard work and dedication was rewarded at the end of the summer during the county fair. Throughout the years we learned how to win with humility, lose with dignity and to celebrate the accomplishments of others.

Back in the day, the Lincoln County 4-H program honored one graduate with the “I Dare You” leadership award. This award challenged the recipient to aspire nobly, adventure daringly and serve humbly. In 1981, to my surprise, I was the recipient of that award. Wow, I was overwhelmed to think that the 4-H leadership saw me as “that person” who embodied the characteristics this award represented. It was truly an honor. The award is a book titled “I Dare You!” by William Danforth and since the day I received it, it has guided me throughout my entire career. When I got home the evening following the awards banquet, I began to read the little red leadership book and saw the many ways those few pages could challenge me.

Over the past 30+ years I have moved numerous times and have purged many items with each move. What I didn’t realize is how often this book would appear when I most needed the reminder to be daring. This book with a whole lot of divine intervention reminds me that balance is important and daring to take a challenge is imperative to growth while entering into the unimaginable.

This year’s Annual Conference theme was Dare to Reach...Love Boldly, and once again my little red book appeared as a reminder. This time, I had a nudge to re-read the book. As I did, it spoke to me time and time again and has dared me to reach beyond. Beyond what is normal – beyond what is comfortable.

The Foundation has an exciting opportunity before us. We have entered into a management agreement with Minnesota to begin the conversations of best practices for collaboration. As of July 1, I added to my responsibilities and reached beyond to become the Executive Director of the Minnesota Foundation. Many of you may think “WHY would we do that?” Well...anytime we can pool resources and expand what is currently successful in each Foundation, it makes good sense to collaborate to become stronger. Because.... together we’re better. This is also a trend we’re seeing across the denomination in other Foundations and we’ve learned there is so much to gain by streamlining administration, aligning marketing materials, increasing contacts with potential donors and better serving local churches and congregations.

With this opportunity, and others before us,
I dare you to think beyond what is currently being done in your churches,
I dare you to challenge one another,
I dare you to do things like we’ve never done them before,
I dare you to believe there are more resources available for ministry than we know what to do with,
I dare you to answer the call when the Holy Spirit is nudging you to take the next step,
I dare you to reach...and love boldly,
I dare you...

Sheri Meister
President/CEO

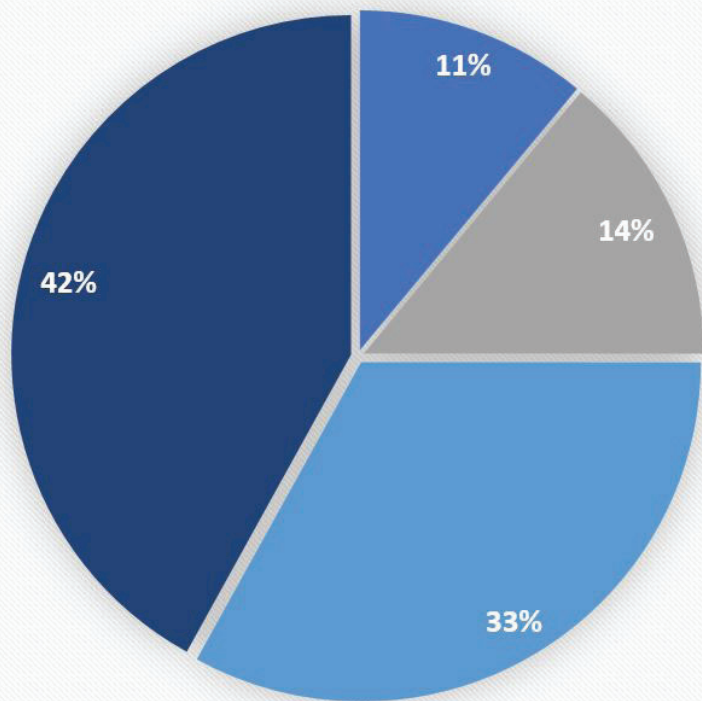


BY THE NUMBERS

29 MILLION

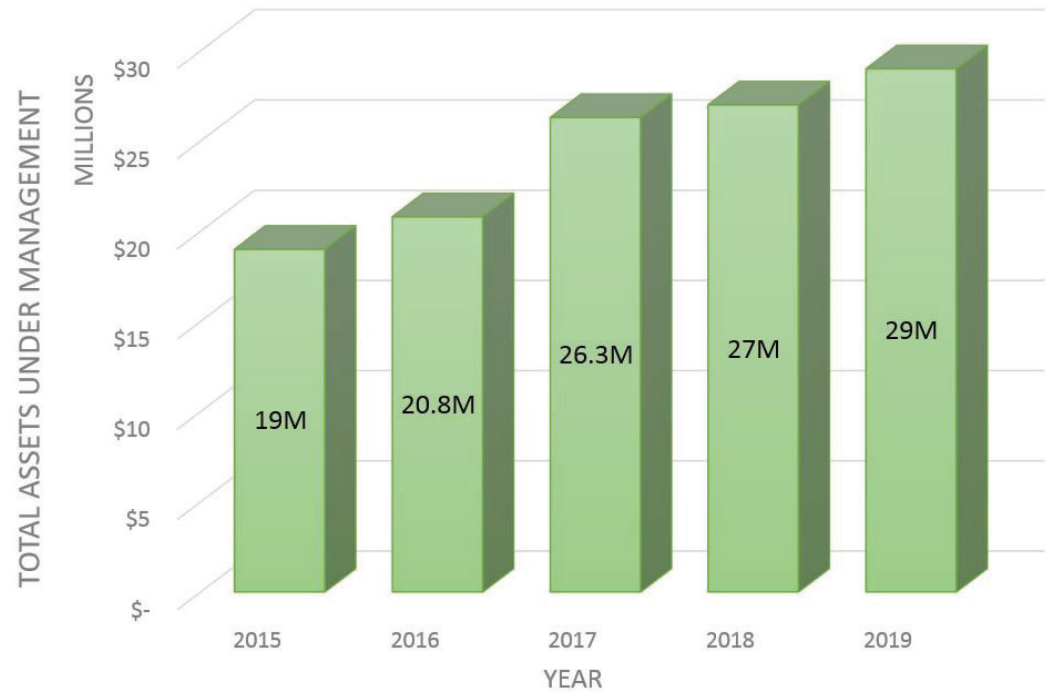
Assets Under Management

Earnings Distributions



■ Other Nonprofits ■ Individuals
■ Churches ■ Conference

5 Year Growth



3 New endowments totaling **\$519,802**

4 New investments totaling **\$835,294**

Seminary Scholarships: **\$90,200**

Builders Club: **\$39,200**

Breakthrough Ministry Grants: **\$52,130**

Total funds distributed to churches, ministries, and individuals: **\$1,111,254**

Touchpoints with church members:

63 individuals throughout **43** churches have attended our Financial Foundations webinars/workshops

Number of churches visited throughout the past year: **32**

Nonprofit Church Leadership Program Equips Pastors with Nonprofit Skills

Developing strong, faithful, and educated pastoral leaders is vital to the life of our churches. Pastors learn a lot at seminary, but many are lacking knowledge when it comes to the business side of running a church.

In July 2018, eighteen pastors from across the Dakotas and Minnesota gathered for the launch of the Nonprofit Church Leadership Program (NPCL). Part of the \$1 million Lilly Endowment Grant that the Dakotas-Minnesota area received in late 2016, this program provides clergy with the business skills required to meet the demands of a growing church, along with training in how to handle aspects of fundraising, organizational leadership, and human resources.

A collaboration between Dakotas Wesleyan University and the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church, NPCL is a year-long certificate program that allows pastors to connect and apply what they learn to their real-life ministry settings.

During the training, students take four online graduate courses, execute two applied projects focusing on areas within their local church that need addressing, and attend three in-person sessions with peer and outside coaching.

“One of the very positive things I've heard about this program is that the individual can apply almost immediately some of their learning. They're able to take a new skill or some knowledge and translate that fairly rapidly into the work of their local church. It's not just theoretical knowledge. It is a practical application that gives this a lot of strength,” says Diane Owen, director for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area Lilly Grant.

Local churches are growing in vitality as a result of the learning and leadership of the NPCL participants. In July 2019, the pilot participants graduated from NPCL, while twenty-three new participants began their journey.



Diane Owen presents a certificate to one of the graduates at the July 2019 NPCL graduation at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Bishop Bruce and Char Ough Scholarship Endowment Launched at Special Dinner

The Bishop Bruce and Char Ough Scholarship Endowment Dinner was held at Dakota Wesleyan University on May 15, 2019 to celebrate Bishop Bruce and Char Ough. The Dakotas United Methodist Foundation partnered with the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, Dakota Wesleyan University, and the Dakotas United Methodist Conference to honor the work and leadership of Bishop Bruce and Char Ough by launching a scholarship endowment in their honor.

The Bishop Bruce and Char Ough Scholarship Endowment will provide an annual scholarship for a United Methodist student who is attending Dakota Wesleyan University and planning on a career in ministry.

Rev. Bill Bates, serving at Ben Clare UMC, Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Executive Director of Ministries for the Dakotas Conference, and Thanael Certa-Werner, recent graduate of DWU and seminary student,

spoke at the event. Music throughout the evening was provided by East of Westville. Over \$145,000 of the \$200,000 needed to establish the endowment was raised during the dinner.

Bishop Bruce Ough, a North Dakota native, is the resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church, where he has served since September 1, 2012.

Bishop Ough shared thoughts about the endowed scholarship fund. “It is an honor and blessing for Char and me to serve and be in ministry with you. This is home,” said Bishop Ough. “This scholarship is not meant to be about me. It is about the next generation that we are to call forth and mentor. I believe that preparing the next generation of spiritual leaders is every leader’s responsibility and ultimately, the legacy I want to leave.”



Bob Fletcher, President of the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, presents Bishop Bruce and Char Ough with a gift at the Bishop Bruce and Char Ough Scholarship Endowment Dinner at Dakota Wesleyan University on May 15, 2019.

If you would like to make a gift to this endowment, please contact our office for more details.

Breakthrough Ministry Grant helps Rapid Valley UMC share food and fellowship with homeless through the Sandwich Ministry

Every other Saturday, members at Rapid Valley United Methodist Church in Rapid City, SD gather together to make 200 sandwiches. These sandwiches, a mix between peanut butter and jelly, turkey, or ham and cheese, along with an encouraging scripture, are then distributed to the homeless or those struggling to make ends meet in the Rapid City area.

Members at Rapid Valley UMC heard of a similar ministry that a United Methodist Church in Billings, Montana was doing. That church would occasionally ask members to bring supplies for sandwiches, make sandwiches, and drop them off at the local homeless shelter. The Sandwich Ministry at Rapid Valley UMC expanded on that idea and decided to make it a regular part of their outreach ministry. They partnered with the RV Ministry, who was already serving breakfasts every Sunday at one of the local homeless shelters, and started handing out sandwiches for the same people to have for lunch, supper, or even a next-day meal. As they hand out the sandwiches, they are also given the opportunity to share kind words and Christ’s love with those on the receiving end.

“We strengthen and enjoy our relationships with our fellow parishioners on Saturdays, and on Sundays we have the opportunity to offer the hand of friendship and love of Christ to the struggling in our wider community,” says Caroline Castle, coordinator of the Sandwich Ministry.

The cost of providing sandwiches is \$60 per week, or \$120 each month. While members of Rapid Valley UMC have been very supportive of this outreach with food, monetary donations, and volunteers to make and hand out the sandwiches, the Sandwich Ministry is hoping to partner with another local church to be able to provide sandwiches every Sunday of the year.

“We have had nothing but enthusiastic reception to our sandwiches by the recipients, and often people have asked for sandwiches on the alternate Sundays when we cannot attend. There are plenty of hungry people in Rapid City, and it is a joy to provide nourishment for them,” says Castle.

Rapid Valley UMC was the recipient of a Breakthrough Ministry grant earlier this year to help expand this ministry. If your church is starting a new or expanding a current ministry, we encourage you to apply for a grant. Visit our website for more information.



2018

3rd Quarter Recipients- \$10,550

- Calvary UMC- Bismarck, ND; Neighborhood Block Party
- McCabe UMC- Bismarck, ND; McCabe Celebrate Recovery
- Cresbard UMC- Cresbard, SD; Children’s Ministry
- Elgin UMC- Elgin, ND; Elgin Community Cupboard
- Downtown First UMC- Mitchell, SD ; Chapel Renovation
- Montrose UMC- Montrose, SD; Wigglers on Wednesday
- Asbury UMC- ioux Falls, SD; Online Service and Outreach
- Sunnycrest UMC- Sioux Falls, SD; Moore Thriving Communities
- First UMC- Yankton, SD; Multiply Program – Technology Updates

4rd Quarter Recipients - \$17,855

- Belle Fourche UMC- Belle Fourche, SD; King’s Kids Ministry
- Clark UMC- Clark, SD; Amazing Grace Daycare
- Linton UMC- Linton, ND; Financial Peace University
- Madison UMC- Madison, SD; DSU Bible Study
- Park River Federated Church- Park River, ND; Technology Updates
- Grace UMC-Piedmont, SD; Technology Updates
- Plankinton UMC- Plankinton, SD; Financial Peace University
- Open Heart UMC- Rapid City, SD; CHAOS Wednesdays
- Spearfish UMC- Spearfish, SD; Partnering with Children First
- Evergreen UMC- Wahpeton, ND; Wednesday School
- Flame of Faith UMC- West Fargo, ND; Community Outreach
- Spirit of Faith UMC; Woonsocket, SD; Feeding Heart-N-Soul

2019

1st Quarter Recipients - \$20,150

- Legacy UMC South Campus-Bismarck, ND; Shoes of Hope
- Dakotas Camp & Retreat Ministries; Lake Poinsett Camp Chaplin
- Devils Lake UMC- Devils Lake, ND; Technology Updates
- Elk Point United Parish – Elk Point, SD; Technology Updates
- Plankinton UMC- Plankinton, SD; Group Grief Counseling
- Flame of Faith UMC- West Fargo, ND; Audio/Visual Outreach
- Rapid Valley UMC- Rapid City, SD; The Sandwich Ministry
- First UMC- Sioux Falls SD; The Light/Livestream Ministry
- Sunnycrest UMC- Sioux Falls, SD; Live Feeds for TVs in church
- Evergreen UMC- Wahpeton, ND; Technology Updates
- White Lake UMC-White Lake, SD; Church House Rock

2nd Quarter Recipients - \$3,575

- Faith UMC- Fargo, ND; Sound System Upgrade
- Sturgis UMC- Sturgis, SD; After School Program
- First UMC- Watertown, SD; Children’s Ministry Technology

Breakthrough Ministry Grants

35 New Ministries

31 Churches

\$52,130

\$90,200 in ministerial student aid awarded in 2019

2019 Merit Scholarship Recipients

Bryce Blank – Perkins Theological Seminary
Thanael Certa-Werner – Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary
Christine Cappetta – Sioux Falls Seminary
Donald Dinger – Sioux Falls Seminary
Veronica Fleming – Sioux Falls Seminary
Jason Martens – Sioux Falls Seminary

Matthew Morrison – Sioux Falls Seminary
Teresa Person – Sioux Falls Seminary
Derek Runge – Sioux Falls Seminary
Teresa Whetsel – Sioux Falls Seminary

2019 Excellence in Clergy Leadership Recipient

Natalie Buck – Candler School of Theology



Teresa Person, middle, with the Annual Conference Band from 2018. (R-L) Chuck Bell, Krista Wisener, Brandon Dunham, Theresa, Matt Morrison, and Matthew Manes

"I feel so very blessed to receive this generous scholarship from the Foundation. Although the Kairos project is much more affordable than a traditional seminary education, it is still something that does not fit in my budget and is not an expense that I had planned for. Currently, I have two daughters in college, and my son is entering his senior year of high school, so that means that at this time next year, four of the five people in my household will be enrolled in post-secondary education. This thought makes my blood pressure rise as I think about the financial impact on my family. Receiving this scholarship relieves much of the financial stress, and I am thankful not to add to the mountain of undergraduate debt that I already carry. I entered Kairos last year, knowing that I couldn't afford it, but praying that God would provide a way for me to live out this calling. Through the generosity of faithful donors, God is providing a way for me and others like me. It means the world to me that there are people in this conference that believe in me and support my call to ministry. Tears of joy are flowing down my cheeks as I write this while my heart overflows with gratitude for the blessings I receive."

- Teresa Person

32 Campers were able to attend camp in 2018 because of scholarships

Total camperships granted in 2018 was over \$12,500





2018 Recipients:

Sunnycrest UMC - Sioux Falls, SD
Marion Grace UMC - Marion, ND

2019 Recipients:

Trinity UMC - Lead, SD
Beresford Zion UMC - Beresford, SD

Our churches thank you...

The people of Beresford Zion UMC thank the Builders Club for their incredible generosity in supporting our project! We look forward to the many ways that God will use this opportunity to change lives!

Trinity United Methodist Church of Lead/Deadwood greatly appreciates the support from the Builders Club. Thank you for your support, and for helping this dream become a reality.

The Marion Grace United Methodist Church greatly appreciates the support from the Builders Club. Thank you for your support to help keep our church thriving into the future.

Sioux Falls Sunnycrest UMC just wanted to reach out to the partners of the Builders Club with a huge "THANK YOU" for your support and help!! With your support we are able to continue the church's mission of continuing to Love God and Love Neighbor.

Over \$39,000 awarded
this past year

Contact our office if you are interested in joining Builders Club or send a gift of \$20 or more to: Builders Club, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301

Or donate online at www.dakotasumf.org/donate

Investment helps Clark UMC open Daycare

Mark and Joy Tracy serve as pastors at Clark United Methodist Church where they, with the help of the Clark community, recently opened Amazing Grace Daycare. Joy also serves as the director of the daycare. It was her leadership and dedication, along with the Holy Spirit, that made this happen.



It has been the Tracys' dream to start a daycare in the church since they were appointed to Clark in 2014. The perfect opportunity came when the only other daycare in town closed its doors and asked if the Clark UMC would take their staff, clients, and equipment. Today, Amazing Grace Daycare provides a safe, loving, developmentally appropriate environment, and a Godly atmosphere that offers a quality education experience for children.

Part of the church had to be remodeled in order to meet safety standards, including new doors, a fire alarm system, and installing cameras. They also put in a new playground set, fencing, and landscaping for the outside area. One of the greatest benefits of having the daycare at the church is that it gives people who may otherwise not come through the doors the opportunity to meet Jesus.



Pastor Joy Tracy enjoys spending time with the kids at Amazing Grace Daycare.

Trisha Byrne Marx, whose kids attend the daycare, says, "My kiddos absolutely love this place. Yesterday I had to drag my son out of there kicking and screaming because he didn't want to go home yet. The staff is amazing."

Clark UMC was able to open their daycare partially through their investment with the Foundation. Investments allow churches to grow their initial funds with the flexibility to withdraw money when needed. Currently, 35 Dakotas Conference churches have one or more accounts invested in the Foundation. Please contact us if you'd like more information on the advantages of investing with the Foundation and turning your resources into ministry.

Larsons' Legacy lives on at Lake Poinsett Camp

For decades, Jim and Deb Larson were regulars at the Sunday worship service at the Lake Poinsett Chapel. They loved spending time relaxing at the lake and volunteering at Lake Poinsett Camp. Jim especially liked to bring his speedboat over during camps so campers could enjoy boat rides and tubing. When planning for their estate giving, Jim and Deb wanted to make sure Lake Poinsett Camp was taken care of for generations to come. They wanted others to experience the same love, joy, fellowship, and fun they had at the lake.



When Jim passed away in 2017, he left nearly \$1 million to Lake Poinsett Camp. Half of the funds, which are invested with the Foundation, established an endowment named for Jim and Deb Larson. Funds from this endowment will be used for maintenance and site improvements, as well as investing in Lake Poinsett's strategic ministry plan.

"This spectacular gift will impact campers in many ways. The Larson family legacy will live on as their footprints will be sprinkled around camp," said Christy Heflin, director at Lake Poinsett Camp.

An endowment is a great way to leave a lasting gift to a church or other missional ministry. We would love to talk to you about how you can leave a legacy through an endowment.

OUR DONORS

\$50,000 or More

Scott and Julia Jones
James Larson
George and Joannie Sercl

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Burgum Foundation
Paul Christen
Maxine Darnall
John Grinager
Robert and Dorothy Nelson
Dean and Rita Sorenson
Al Yocom

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Daniel Rudolph
Jerald Stewart
Tim and Pam Zoellner

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Alex Coughlin
Jack and Kathy Erickson
Max and Jeanne Gonzenbach
Howard and Karen Grinager
Terry Jacobson
Gary and Cindy Meyer
Steve and Linda Stouffer
Rebecca and Steve Trefz
Michelle Triplett

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Steve and Hazel Behrens
Roy and Lazann Caudill
Kermit and Sue Culver
Myron and Bonnie Fuerst
Anne Green
Kathy Hammond

Tom and Pam Heck
Luverne Huber
Nadine Hull
Steve and Marlene Hulm
Sonia Jordre
Todd and Karin Loomer
Deb and Norm Mack
Wayne and Dianne Millar
Tom and Michele Olsen
Mavis Pomeroy
DeVern and Joan Schwenn
Faye Sweet
Dick and Jackie Tupper
Cliff Weixel
Julian and Lois Wigen
Jim and Barbara Williams

\$500 - \$999

Rodney and Linda Buck
Thomas and Britni Carlson
Karen Chesley
Gerald Close
Jeff Denison
Steve and Michelle Erpenbach
Sandra Githens
Al and Sue Goehring
Barb Hart
Arden Lowery
Scott and Colleen McKirdy
Matt and Amy Morrison
Bishop Bruce and Char Ough
Jon and Barbara Owen
Emily Reed
Carlyle and Sheila Richards
John and Jennifer Rickertsen
Arthur and Lorraine Scanson
Rodger and Kim Schock
Thomas Sorensen
Mavis Stearns
Krestie Utech

Robert and Nancy Wik
Peggy Zerface

\$250 - \$499

Royal Archer
Mary Balson
Rick and Jody Burgum
Dorothy Erhart
Richard and Donna Fisher
Tom and Charlene Haggar
Dianna Hatfield Clemenson
Bill and Sheila Hoffman
Ron and Becky Holten
Mildred K. Huggins
Ron Laqua
Luena Lent
Jim Loomer
Elsie McBride
Sharla and Scott McCaskell
Linda Mickelson Graham
Janet Miller
Brad and Sheryl Myers
Dave and Denise Page
Russell and Mary Peirce
Mary Ann Sheldon
Leo Spinar
Jerome Stiegelmeier
Les Strege
John and Barb Sweet
Weisser Distributing Inc
Karin Wentz

\$100 - \$249

Jeff and Wanda Adel
Jeff and Sandy Anderson
Dale and Lana Anderson
Don and Carolyn Andrews
Don and Dawn Armstrong
Kathryn Aughenbaugh

Dianne Axlund
Debra and Gary Ball-Kilbourne
Robert and Joann Barden
Jerry and Gail Bass
Bill Bates
Linda Bates
Terry and Bette Bergan
Irma Beukelman
Boyd and Evelyn Blumer
Nancy Bohlen
Wayne and Ann Bolton
Don Bradley
Dinus and June Briggs
James Brown
Lance and Karen Bueling
Beverly Cain
Larry and Gerry Cass
Robert and Linda Chilson
Ed and Ginny Coates
Bill and Pat Coffield
Maxon and Linda Conkey
Blanche Craig
Phyllis Crowe
Harold and Rachel DeKrey
Doug and Dawn Diehl
Louise Diehl
Malcolm and Diana Dirksen
Susan Dutt
LuAnn Edwards
Jim and Connie Eichinger
Jim and Janet Fagerland
Guy and Beata Ferris
Randy and Ella Fuhrer
Glen and Diana Fuhrman
Lon and Marva Gellhaus
Keith and Irene Goehring
Jim and Coraine Goodall
Richard and Sonja Gourley
Ralph and Rita Greer
Mark and Colleen Gronseth
Floyd and Jill Hansmeier

T
H
A
N
K

Y
O
U

OUR DONORS

Peggy Hanson
Lenora Harrison
Jerry and Kathy Hill
Norma Hill
Shirley Hintz
James Hoff
Ken and Carol Hogue
Rick and Bekki Holzkamm
David and Marilyn Holzwarth
Bob and Sandy Hoover
Lou Ora Houk
Cameon Jacobson Wefso
Keith and June James
Lee and Gail Johannsen-Bridge
Ralph and Gwen Johnsen
Steve Johnson
Sarah Jane Johnson
Galen Jordre
Don Kachelhoffer
Dean and Nancy Karlen
Brad and Alison Kattelmann
Clifford and Shirley Kenoyer
Laurie Kidd
Lola Killam
Kirk Funeral Home
Ron Knispel
Karl and Michelle Kroger
George and Deborah Kuhler
Paul and Sheilah Kyburz
Bill Leonard
Phil and Mary Lee Lint
Romaine Luckhurst
Terry and LaRee Mayes
Craig and Audrey McFarland
Ron McLean
Randy and Sheri Meister
Jerry and Judy Miller
David Mitchell
Jean Moser
Bonnie Neff
Susan Neimeyer

Oepke and Beth Niemeyer
George Niimi
Mary Beth Olombel
Richard and Beryl Olson
Bob and Lois Ough
Paul Owen
Tom and Peg Page
John Peasley and Gail Shlanta Peasley
Norma Peltier
James and Eileen Persons
Pat and Deb Prostrollo
Duane and Jan Quiett
Marilyn Rahn
Eldon and Donna Reich
David and Eleanor Richards
Robert Richardson
Vivian Rickertt
Jan and Sandy Rieger
Bob and Paula Ruedebusch
Margaret Salmonson
Scott and Margaret Schaar
Charles and Voleta Schnabel
Garry and Gloria Scott
Lynn Senftner
John and Carol Simons
Wally Sizer
Katherine Sorenson
James and JoAnn Sperry
Robert Stoner
Brooke Sturlaugson
Roger and Mardel Tanquist
Betty Taylor
Sheri Thelen
Bob Thue
Scott and Mary Tilberg
Lucille Toennies
Richard and Pat Unkenholz
Dan and Susan Van Dover
Eric and Denise Van Meter
Louie and Carol Vander Laan
Glenn and Sandy Veil

Virginia Dettman Foundation
Chuck and Janet Von Eschen
Lanny and Linda Wade
Jo Wahle
Richard and Cathy Wahlstrom
Ron Waterland
Dan and Arlene Watson
John and Carol Wiechmann
Dianne Willey
Megan Williams
Glenna Wilson
Richard Wyman
Lois Zander

Churches / Church Groups

Aberdeen First United Methodist Church
Aberdeen First UMC Sunday School
Aurora Impact United Methodist Church
Center United Methodist Church
Fargo Faith United Methodist Church
Geddes United Methodist Church
Harrold United Methodist Women
Hettinger United Methodist Church
Jamestown St Paul's United Methodist Men
Jud United Methodist Women
Mellette Northwestern United Methodist Church
Mobridge United Methodist Men
Onida United Methodist Church
Plankinton United Methodist Men
Prairie View United Methodist Women
Sioux Falls Sunnycrest United Methodist Church
Spearfish United Methodist Church
Stickney United Methodist Women
Wahpeton Evergreen United Methodist Church
Washburn United Methodist Church
Winner United Methodist Church
Yankton United Methodist Church

Rest Assured

We are facing uncertain times in the denomination and each of us has questions as to what our church will look like in the future. Please know that whatever the outcome, the Foundation Board of Directors is committed to fulfilling your needs.

Dave Zellner, Chief Investment Officer of Wespath Institutional Investments, has assured us "they will continue to provide financial stability and security to our churches both now and into the future." The Dakotas United Methodist Foundation shares this philosophy, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you in ministry as we move forward together.

And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.

-Philemon 1:6

Dakotas Youth learn to 'Love Well' in Kansas City

177 youth and adults from across the Dakotas Conference reached out recently to 'Love Well' in Kansas City, Missouri by participating in Urban Plunge and Youth 2019. There were many holy moments experienced throughout the trip through mission work, prayer walks, a baptismal remembrance service, communion outside on the convention center steps, awe-inspiring worship, DIG groups, and Bishop Ough's presence.

The first couple days of the trip were spent participating in Urban Plunge. During this inner-city mission trip, Dakotas youth and leaders served at a food bank, a homeless shelter, a clothing thrift store, an outreach for at-risk teens, and an addiction recovery ministry. At each site, the teams of participants helped wherever they could with cleanup, home improvement projects, and just spending time with those in need of connection.

After a couple days spent in the mission field, they spent some time unwinding at Worlds of Fun thanks to the support of the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation. For some, Worlds of Fun was a highlight of the trip because new connections and friendships were made throughout the day that will last a lifetime. The Foundation also provided prayer journals for the youth and leaders to use during their time in Kansas City.



The last four days of the trip were spent at Youth 2019, a nationwide gathering for United Methodist youth. The thousands of youth and leaders who attended Youth 2019 spent time in discipleship, worship, Bible studies, service opportunities, and lots of fun. 'Love Well', the theme for this year's event focused on how to live, love well, and care for others by sharing God's love in an ever-changing world. Participants were inspired, challenged, and supported to grow in their faith as they listened to various speakers, participated in small group discussions and workshops, and created new or deeper connections with fellow United Methodists.

"This experience has changed me in many ways. I now know that after I graduate, I want to stay involved in the mission ministry and help in the youth ministry as many ways as I can." - Rylee Honomichl, Brookings First UMC

Wespath

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENTS

- Over \$23 billion in assets managed through Wespath Benefits and Investments and its subsidiaries, including Wespath Institutional Investments.
- Unique Product and Service Offering with Daily Liquidity: funds are comprised of well-diversified, global portfolios, offering clients daily liquidity.
- Access to Highly Respected Investment Managers: funds provide exposure to world-class investment managers that investors would be unlikely to economically secure on their own.
- International Recognition as a Sustainable Investment Leader: Wespath is positioned to use its voice to influence changes that it believes will enhance long-term corporate performance and create positive impacts on society and the environment.
- Team of Industry Professionals Here to Service You: experienced team of 23 tenured investment industry professionals brings strength of experience and service to our clients including timely, transparent reporting.
- Cost-Effective Bundled Service that Provides Administrative Simplicity: unique investment offering is an efficient and cost-effective way to obtain competitive returns with fewer administrative burdens.

Wespath Mission

"We care for those who serve by providing investment and benefit services that honor the mission and principles of The United Methodist Church."

CONNECTING THE DAKOTAS BY REACHING PEOPLE IN NEW WAYS



The Vital Connection is a monthly podcast to equip leaders and congregations with the resources found throughout the Dakotas Conference. While United Methodists in the Dakotas have a certain connectionalism, we have discovered that all too many pastors are feeling like they are doing ministry alone. There are many talents, abilities, and strengths spread throughout the churches in the Dakotas, and the podcasts are a way to connect people with these resources in order to encourage a deepening of faith and growth in ministry. Our hope is that you will be able to relate to the people we interview, because they are part of our Conference - they are us.

Check out our website to find past podcasts. Topics range from raising up the next generation of leaders, using social media to reach people for Jesus, advice for pastoral transitions, facing anxiety in ministry, financial leadership, and more.

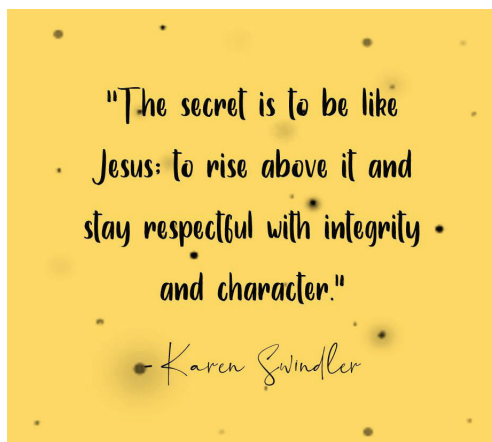
The Dakotas United Methodist Foundation and the Dakotas Conference Finance Office started hosting quarterly Financial Foundations webinars and workshops this past year. The purpose of these webinars/workshops is to help our churches in the Dakotas Conference to have more money for ministry.

This year's Financial Foundations Webinars and Workshops covered the topics of how to incorporate principles of stewardship and generosity in the life of the church, the importance of building relationships to create generosity, working with the finance team, how to make the ask for large gifts, and online giving.



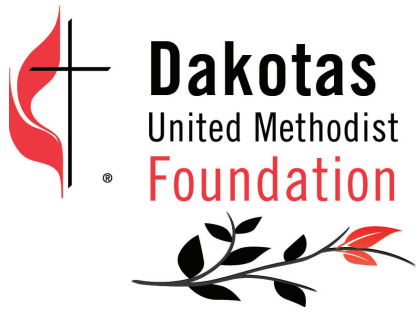
If you or your church are interested in joining one of our webinars or hosting a workshop, please contact our office. Pastors, treasurers, finance committee members, and anyone interested in stewardship and generosity in the church are welcome to join.

Get your daily dose of inspiration from our [#inspiredaily](#) posts on our Facebook page.



Thank you!

Thank you to our retiring Board Members! In 2019, Kathy Roll and Tom Heck finished their terms of serving on our Board of Directors. Your years of support, guidance, and service is greatly appreciated in helping the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation reach new heights. We are grateful for your commitment to the Foundation and the ministries of the Dakotas Conference.



PO Box 460
Mitchell, SD 57301

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MITCHELL, SD
57301
PERMIT NO. 54

OUR STAFF

Sheri Meister
President/CEO

Diane Weller
Donor Relations and
Development Coordinator

Kelsey Morgan
Office Assistant



OUR BOARD

Jeff Nelson, Chair - Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. Sharla McCaskell, Vice Chair - Rapid City, SD
Scott Jones - Pierre, SD
Dave Page - Milbank, SD
Steve Pietila - Yankton, SD
Richard Platt - Mitchell, SD
Rev. Bob Ruedebusch - Sioux Falls, SD
Eric Walth - Bismarck, ND
Jeff Pospisil, Treasurer, Ex-Officio
Bishop Bruce Ough, Ex-Officio
Sheri Meister, Ex-Officio