



### REST ASSURED

Over the past nine years, I have truly enjoyed my job. Without a doubt, when I accepted this job I was answering a call into the ministry. A call that had been stirring in me for years. I knew this is where I belonged, I could use my connectional skills and the love I have for people to better the kingdom and share the love of Jesus. I also knew I could work with donors and assure them their gifts would honor their wishes and support the ministries they love.

Then one day, I received a phone call from the niece of a recent donor who had passed. The Foundation was one of the beneficiaries of his estate. She was in tears. She asked why we had only received such a small portion of the estate. She explained the greater share of her uncle's estate was to benefit the Dakotas Annual Conference. The donor did not have children and she was the executor of the estate. What we learned was very sad. Before he had died, another organization had visited him on his death bed and convinced him to change his will to increase his support to their organization. And he did. His niece was saddened by his decision to change his will from the Dakotas Foundation being the main beneficiary because she knew that his heart was with God and the ministries of the Church. Her hurt for him was deep. She knew this was not right and I continued to explain to her there was nothing she could do to change the will back to the original intent, unless she wanted to pursue a court order. She chose not to do so. As Matthew 6:21 states: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The niece of our donor knew that the greatest part of his heart was with the Church, but due to the changing of his will, most of his treasure would be benefiting the other organization.

I tell this story because it validates the values of the Foundation. When we are gifted money for an endowment, we will first and foremost honor the intent of the donor and invest the money responsibly. Not only do we follow this guideline on principle, we follow in accordance to The Donor Bill of Rights, "To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given." So, when you invest in the Foundation, know that we will honor, invest, and distribute funds to the ministries determined by the donor.

Please contact our office and we'll help you support the ministries you love.

**Sheri Meister**  
President/CEO



Stop by our table  
and say hi at  
Annual Conference!  
We would love to  
talk to you about  
what we offer,  
answer any  
questions you may  
have, or just visit.

### VANCO: INTRODUCTION TO VANCO ONLINE GIVING WEBINAR



The Dakotas | Minnesota Methodist Foundations are excited to announce their partnership with Vanco. We invite you to join us at our upcoming presentation where we will introduce you to Vanco and share how they provide congregations with tools for online giving, mobile app giving and engagement and much more. In this brief presentation, we'll show you...

- 1) Why the Dakotas | Minnesota Methodist Foundations has partnered with Vanco.
- 2) The reasons over 4,000 Methodist congregations use Vanco.
- 3) How Vanco helps you tell your story with your own photos and words on a giving page.
- 4) The ways Vanco enhances connections with your congregants – including a free app.
- 5) The significant price savings congregations associated with the Dakotas | Minnesota Methodist Foundations receive through our partnership with Vanco.

*\*Current Vanco customers are also eligible for cost savings through this partnership.*

Join us for this enlightening presentation on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 12PM CT. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6007532953184438101>

Questions? Contact us at [info@dkmnmf.org](mailto:info@dkmnmf.org)

## DAKOTAS BUILDERS CLUB ANNOUNCES SPRING 2023 CALL

Flame of Faith United Methodist Church in West Fargo, North Dakota was chosen as the grant recipient for the Spring 2023 Builders Club Call. Flame of Faith UMC is dedicated to speaking Christ's name and seeks to live out that calling. A huge focus of their ministry has been on making church friendly and accessible for all people, including neurodiverse and neurotypical people. Neurodiversity is the concept that people think, learn, process, experience, and interact with the world around them in unique ways that are outside the "norm". With so many things happening at the church, the need for accessibility and safety is essential. The gravel parking lot at Flame of Faith UMC has been a struggle for many years. The soft soil and subsoil shifting have left the gravel uneven, with dangerous angles in the winter and mud-soaked low spots in the spring. In order to fix the parking lot, the church leadership has a two-step plan. The plan is to dig out and re-fill the gravel parking lot with proper drainage and then increase the amount of paved parking spaces to make the parking lot more accessible and usable for everyone.



A parking lot is not seen as an exciting part of ministry, but it offers the first impression for everyone entering the building. Flame of Faith UMC is dedicated to sharing God's love and welcoming all people into God's family. "With a safe and accessible parking lot, we can truly be a place where loving our neighbor is as much a part of our architecture as it is our words," says Pastor Sara.

A brochure regarding the project and how to donate was sent to all Dakotas Builders Club members in mid-April. If you are not a Builders Club member and would like to receive Call information via mail or email, please sign up on our website at [www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/builders-club](http://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/builders-club).

Thank you for those who supported Grace UMC in Piedmont, SD during the Winter 2023 Builders Club Call. Grace UMC was awarded a grant of \$7,600.

If your church is doing a building or remodel project and looking for funding, we encourage you to visit our website for more information about the Builders Club along with the application form. Please contact Diane Weller at [diane.weller@dknmf.org](mailto:diane.weller@dknmf.org) or 605-990-7790 if you have any questions.

## COON RAPIDS UMC SERVES COMMUNITY THROUGH MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY

In the Fall of 2020, during the height of the pandemic, God led the people of Coon Rapids UMC to a new way to express their love for God and neighbor. Having been inspired years before by Spirit River in Isanti, Minnesota, many people longed to serve the community in a more tangible way. When the need in our community became great, God's compassion opened our hearts and minds. With the hard work of a few dedicated volunteers, Matthew 25 Food Distribution began in January of 2021.

Spirit of Matthew 25 is a volunteer-based ministry intent on sharing the generosity in our community with people of all ages and backgrounds who are in need. With donations of resources, time, and energy, we share food, supplies, and support with compassion, dignity, and joy. Between our monthly Second Sunday Drive-Thru Food Distribution, weekly Friday Food Give-Away, Dignity Pantry, Community Garden, partnerships with two subsidized apartment complexes, three local schools, and various other organizations, (including Every Meal) we are serving over 1000 households each month. Because of the generosity of multiple organizations and area businesses, and many volunteers, we are on track to move more than a million dollars of food and supplies per year.

"We are deeply grateful of God's provision, including our partnership with the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation," comments Pastor Dianna Dunham Foltz. "Their help is amazing and has already opened new pathways for grants and funding that we would not have access to otherwise. We look forward to many more years of serving together."



## VANCO PARTNERSHIP OFFERS FREE ONLINE GIVING SERVICES TO CHURCHES

The Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations are excited to announce their partnership with Vanco to provide online giving services to churches in the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences. As part of the partnership, Vanco will offer churches served by DMMF affordable rates and knowledgeable 24/7 live customer support, facilitating a successful giving experience for both churches and their members.

With secure, easy-to-use giving tools including online donations, text-to-give and mobile giving, Vanco strengthens churches to fulfill their missions through a simplified giving process. Vanco's unique online giving tools allow members to see the impact their gift will have on the ministry of their choice, inspiring generosity and driving engagement.

Churches served by DMMF who partner with Vanco will receive 24/7 access to helpful marketing support, including webinars and content for emails, newsletters and social posts. These valuable tools facilitate effective communication for churches, keeping members connected to their church's work.



"We want our churches to have the tools they need to grow and thrive. Based on their years of experience working with a variety of churches throughout the United States, we know Vanco understands the needs of churches, specifically when it comes to online giving, and we're looking forward to seeing the positive impact their resources will have for our churches," Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations President and CEO, Sheri Meister said.

If your church is interested in partnering with Vanco for online giving services contact the Foundations. Churches who are already using Vanco are welcome to partner with the Foundations to save on the cost of the subscription. Contact Lisa Schultze at [lisa.schultze@dkmmf.org](mailto:lisa.schultze@dkmmf.org) to learn more.

We invite you to join us at our upcoming webinar where we will introduce you to Vanco and share how they provide congregations with tools for online giving, mobile app giving and engagement, and much more. Join us on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 12PM CT. More information on this webinar can be found on the front page of the newsletter.

*Vanco has worked with Methodist congregations since their founding 30 years ago. As a Ministry Partner, they serve over 4,000 Methodist congregations every day. They offer congregations everything they need to successfully connect with their worshippers, spread their message, grow giving and share their mission.*

## MINNESOTA UNITED METHODIST BUILDERS AWARDS SPRING CALL

Cross Winds United Methodist Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota is the recipient of the Spring 2023 Minnesota United Methodist Builders Call. Cross Winds UMC is following Christ's example to be a fully inclusive, diverse, grace-filled, and compassionate church. Wanting to welcome others as Christ does, Cross Winds UMC realized that caring for their church building was a priority. Having a fully licensed commercial kitchen will allow them to create new opportunities and expand their food ministries. This will offer a new space for community meals, allow them to prepare meals in service with local non-profit partnerships, provide new space for community gatherings, support the development of community groups, and more.

"We look forward to expanding our partnerships with community groups, building relationships with our neighbors, and creating new opportunities in the Maple Grove area for healthy, affordable, community-based meals and beyond," says Pastor Stina Koppes.

A brochure regarding the project and how to donate was sent to all MN UM Builders members in mid-April. If you are not a MN UM Builders member and would like to receive Call information via mail or email, please sign up on our website at [www.mnumf.org/mn-um-builders](http://www.mnumf.org/mn-um-builders).

Thank you to those who supported Redwood Falls UMC in Redwood, MN during the Fall 2022 Builders Call. Redwood Falls UMC was awarded a grant of \$3,600.

More information about the MN UM Builders along with the application form can be found on our website. In addition to UMC Builders Grants, we also offer loans to churches for capital improvements or repairs. Please contact Diane Weller at [diane.weller@dkmmf.org](mailto:diane.weller@dkmmf.org) or 612-230-3337 if you have any questions.

*\*For more information on Minnesota Builders East grants and loans, contact Brent Holmberg at [brenth3514@earthlink.net](mailto:brenth3514@earthlink.net) or call 612-940-4303.*



**MINNESOTA METHODIST BUILDERS CLUB**  
*Together in Mission*





Dakotas | Minnesota  
**METHODIST  
FOUNDATIONS**

*developing relationships  
cultivating resources  
embracing ministry*

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 Dakotas & Minnesota  
Methodist Foundations

**WESSINGTON SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BENEFITS FROM ENDOWMENTS**

Wessington Springs United Methodist Church in Wessington Springs, South Dakota receives annual distributions from several endowments that were established by faithful individuals who were impacted by the life and ministry of Wessington Springs UMC.

One endowment was established to help maintain, upkeep, and repair the church building to enable the church to provide faithful ministries for years to come and another undesignated endowment can be used at their discretion. They also have an endowment that provides scholarships for individuals and families from Wessington Springs UMC to attend Dakotas Conference camps, retreats, trainings, and mission trips as well as provides funds for various mission projects and a third endowment to assist with funding mission projects. The annual distributions from these endowments help keep the church and its ministries going strong year after year.



Over the years, they have used the funds from the endowment designated for missions in a variety of ways, both locally and beyond. During the pandemic, they used funds to provide relief for the hardworking staff at the medical centers in Wessington Springs. At Christmas time, Wessington Springs UMC selects several local businesses to provide meals to as a token of appreciation for their service throughout the year. Another local project the congregation does is to prepare frozen meals for those in need. The church has also hosted the Dakotas 38+2 riders as they have come through on their memorial route to Mankato.

Beyond their local community, Wessington Springs UMC has supported several missions and projects. They have sent money to Tree of Life Ministry in Mission, SD to help purchase needed equipment, and have sent diapers, clothing, food, household items, and more to people in need in Fort Thompson, SD. Members of the congregation put together care packages for service members deployed overseas. Wessington Springs UMC also provides support for a couple from their church who are lead campus ministry at Black Hills State University. The endowment funds have also been used to send kids to various camps and retreats throughout North and South Dakota.

“We here at the United Methodist Church in Wessington Springs have been blessed with a couple of members that started endowments,” comments Randy Burnison, member at Wessington Springs UMC. “All of these are so amazing and help our church to do missions in our community. This gives many people joy in our church and also blesses those who receive these gifts.”

*An endowment is a great way to provide funding for the ministries of your church. We are thankful to Wessington Springs UMC for sharing their endowment impact story.*

**A NEW INVESTMENT STATEMENT PORTAL LAUNCHING SOON**

We are thankful for our churches and organizations who choose to invest their funds with the Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations. The Foundations’ portfolios are invested with Wespath Institutional Investments (WII). WII has managed Methodist Clergy pension funds for over 115 years, specializing in long-term investing. Their long-term perspective, diversified funds, active management and sustainability aligns well with our mission to assist churches in funding ministry.



To better serve our churches and organizations, we are happy to announce the launch of our new distribution system and statement delivery portal. Through our partnership with Stellar Technology Solutions, this new portal allows for a more seamless delivery of statements while also providing more account detail. Stellar Technology has served non-profit organizations, providing technology and financial management solutions, for over 20 years. In the coming weeks, churches and organizations with Foundation accounts will receive an email with instructions on how to set up individual portal access.

We value the trust our church and organization clients have in us to steward their investments and we look forward to continuing to provide the best service possible. If you have questions regarding the new portal system or are interested in learning more about investing with the Foundations, please contact us.