

Thrive on the Move

September 2017

Thrive implementation builds

Thrive is a capital campaign to start new churches, strengthen existing churches and raise up the next generation of leaders. Over the next years, the gifts to the campaign will enable the conference to: start 10 new faith communities, assist over 100 churches in revitalizing their ministries and develop leaders for the future.

Thrive fundraising has been a success. Over \$220,000 of Thrive funds are available in 2018, over and above the apportionment budget, to spend on establishing new churches (\$155k), coming alongside existing churches to enter a new era of growth (\$32k), and raising up and developing leaders (\$33k).



The Plan:

Expenditures:

10 new churches and / or multi-site ministries	\$ 5,000,000
Over 100 churches strengthened and revitalized through MCCI and Journey Renewal	\$ 1,000,000
Leadership development and coaching	\$ 1,000,000
Total seven-year plan expenditures	\$ 7,000,000

Funding:

Apportioned budget—\$500,000 per year	\$ 3,500,000
Thrive Funding	\$ 3,500,000
Total seven-year plan expenditures	\$ 7,000,000



“It has been great to be here and work under some great senior pastors. I have been able to discover who I am as a pastor.” —Rev. Peggy Hanson, elder Dakotas Conference, ordained 2015, serving Lead Trinity UMC.



Dakotas United Methodist Foundation takes the lead for Thrive

“We are grateful for the leadership of Deb Kjerstad and Taya Swanson in the efforts to launch the Thrive Campaign. The foundation looks forward to continuing the journey.”
—Sheri Meister, Dakotas UM Foundation

**Total Amount Pledged:
\$3,591,287.52**

**Total Collected as of
August 15:
\$1,365,726.50**

**89 churches have made a
commitment to Thrive.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

Has your church heard the Thrive story? To set up a time contact:
Sheri Meister
Executive Director
Dakotas UM Foundation
605-990-7790
sheri.meister@dakotasumf.org

ReNewing lives in Kenmare

Kenmare, North Dakota sits on the eastern edge of the Bakken Oil Rush. ReNew Church in Kenmare, a new church start of the Dakotas Conference, is reaching out to those who are looking to connect and renew their lives with God. "We are a casual church with a contemporary attitude," said Pastor Joddy Meidinger, ReNew UMC. "We welcome you in your jeans and comfy clothes."

"Our church is full of misfits. Because we have people that say, I am not the church type. I am not a religious person. We are all just misfits. We are just a bunch of broken people," said Rachel Edwards, ReNew UMC Dream Team leader. The Dream Team is the group that is driving the vision to reach out to the least, lost and lonely in the area.



The biggest challenge for ReNew has been the acquisition and remodeling of the 1907 building. "We met in a local cafe, bar and the city hall before purchasing this 110 year old building, gutting it and remodeling it," described Meidinger. A former store in Kenmare, North Dakota, was purchased in the summer of 2015. Worship was held in the building as it was being remodeled. Remodeling efforts included demolition of walls, building bathrooms and installing heating and new electrical systems.



Everyone stepped up to the challenge of the remodel. "God always had the right person stop in at the right time to make things happen," said Meidinger.

ReNew UMC averages 60-75 people in worship each week. They are reaching out to the community and those without a church home in unique ways: through small groups like "a safe place to talk" group, soup and other community events, an afterschool program and more.

The family atmosphere is inviting and reaching the people in Kenmare who do not know the promises of Christ.

MCCI fourth cohort begins

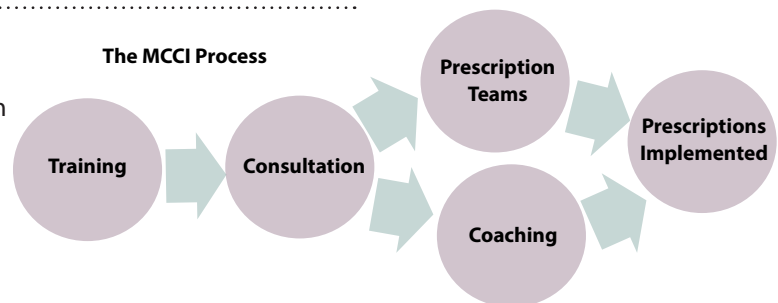
MCCI is Missional Church Consultation Initiative and is a program for congregational intervention where the Conference partners alongside a church to help them launch a new life cycle of ministry.

The fourth cohort of churches has been announced and has begun the MCCI journey for: Dickinson, Fargo Calvary, Harrisburg, Jamestown St. Paul's, Mitchell First and Rapid Valley. Churches in the fourth cohort attended an invitational meeting and then made a decision to sign a covenant agreement to be part of the MCCI process.

MCCI is comprised of a flight of churches each year that have been recommended by the cabinet as meeting specific criteria, and are then prayerfully selected and invited by the Bishop to participate. For congregations that sign the MCCI covenant, a 2-3 year process is launched, involving:

- Concentrated new ministry leadership skills training each month for the pastors in the Initiative (80 plus hours total throughout the year, along with accountability for implementation back home at their churches) that includes starting a congregational Break-through Prayer Initiative.
- "Undercover Worshipers" who visit and worship at each of the churches in the MCCI, and then provide extensive feedback about their experiences.

The MCCI Process



- A thorough self-study by each church, including history, finances, staffing, organization, ministry activities and demographic setting.
- A three-day MCCI on-site weekend provided by the MCCI Consultation Team that culminates in a consultation report with five unique "prescriptions" (recommendations), or next steps the church needs to take to move from plateau/decline into jumpstarting new fruitfulness.

If an MCCI church votes 70% or better to accept its prescriptions (via an official church conference), the decision is made to go forward. The pastor leads the implementation of the prescriptions, with the assistance of "prescription coaches" (ministry leaders who already have a successful track record in their own setting with that prescription) to help guide and advise. The prescription coaches are underwritten by the conference, and continue to guide the pastor and congregation for up to two years.