

Conference Workbook



**21st Session
of the Dakotas Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Rapid City, South Dakota
June 5-7, 2014**

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XI. RULES & POLICIES

Structure and Rules of Order DEFINITIONS

Section 1: Mission of the Annual Conference

1.1. Name. Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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 2012 Book of Discipline)

1.4. Viability of the Local Church. A viable congregation of The United Methodist Church in the Dakotas Conference makes disciples by intentionally and consistently doing these things:

- +Invites people to know Christ.
- +Includes people in the fellowship of the church.
- +Worships regularly.
- +Nurtures spiritual growth.
- +Prays for one another and the world.
- +Participates in local and global mission.
- +Meets financial obligations.
- +Shares in the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church including paying apportionments.

We expect every congregation to evaluate and apply these criteria to its ministry, and be accountable for showing progress in each area with the support of the District Superintendent. The work of a church is a labor shared by both its congregation and the clergy appointed to serve that congregation with the support of the District Superintendent. A church or clergy person that does not take specific, measurable steps to meet these criteria lacks integrity and/or vitality. Therefore, a congregation adjudged not to have made specific, measurable steps to meet the criteria of vitality should consider closing, allowing its members and constituents to be nurtured, grow, and be in a mission in a viable congregation.

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 equipping, connecting, stewarding, and visioning: 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. Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries-Director of Ministries

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 2012 Book of Discipline).

2.4. Conference Lay Leader. The Conference Lay Leader 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 2012 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. (§603.8 of the 2012 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 congregation. 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, so long as the functions of ministry are fulfilled and the connectional relationships are maintained. 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.

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 (§§611-620), or the Committee on Episcopacy (§637).

3.2. Equipping the Local Church Link. Developing Missional Leaders Link: “The local church provides is the most significant area through which discipleship occurs.” (§201 of the *Discipline*) A vital and viable local church is dependent upon the strength of its lay and clergy leadership.

3.2.1. Functions. The Equipping the Local Church Link The Developing Missional Leaders Link shall equip the local church by working with its leadership to provide encouragement, assessment, training, and resources by:

- a) ~~encouraging local churches to do ministry and be vital congregations.~~
- b) ~~helping local churches with needs assessments to determine viability and future direction using the viable church criteria in Section 1.4.~~
- a) identifying, recruiting, training, and developing current and emerging leaders of the local church.
- d) ~~resourcing local churches through people, programs, and financial support.~~
- e) ~~starting new faith communities.~~
- 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 Sanctuary 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,
- s) caring for the functions of young adult ministry as specified §650 of the *Discipline*.

3.2.2. Membership. The Equipping the Local Church Link Developing Missional Leaders 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 functions of this Link shall be voting members. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional~~ Director of Ministries, the Director of Leadership

Development, the Director of Camping and Youth Ministries and a District Superintendent.

3.2.3. ~~Standing Committees of the Equipping the Local Church Link- Developing Missional Leaders Link:~~

a) ~~Board of Ordained Ministry.~~ There shall be a Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as provided in ¶635 of the Discipline. The Board shall relate to the ~~Equipping the Local Church Link- 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 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 functions of this Link shall be voting members. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Bishop, the Director of Ministries, and each District Superintendent.

3.3. 3.4. ~~Extending the Local Church Link- 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.

3.3.1. 3.4.1. ~~Functions.~~ The Extending the Local Church Link- Extending Missional Impact Link shall provide communication and coordination of opportunities for participation among local churches, the Annual Conference, and the general church by: 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) providing generational ministries for all ages and genders, including through campus ministry.
- c) developing strategies for reaching new people.
- 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.
- h) providing a camping ministry for the Annual Conference.
- 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.
- o) 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.
- l) caring for the functions of a commission or committee on Christian unity and interreligious concerns as specified in ¶642 of the Discipline and maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the conference, district, and local church.
- m) caring for the functions of a commission on communications as specified in ¶646 of the Discipline.
- 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 a council on young-adult ministry as specified in ¶650 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.

3.3.2. 3.4.2. ~~Membership.~~ The Extending the Local Church Link- Extending Missional Impact Link shall have twelve members, who include one representative from each of the standing committees relating to this Link; in addition to these twelve 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 Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries, the Director of Camping and Youth Ministries Associate Director of Missional Impact, the Director of Ministries and a District Superintendent.

~~3.3.3-3.4.3. Standing Committees of the Extending the Local Church Link- Extending Missional Impact Link:~~

~~a) United Methodist Women.~~ There shall be a Conference United Methodist Women, auxiliary to the jurisdictional and national organizations organization of United Methodist Women and to the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, as provided in ¶647 of the 2012 Discipline. It shall relate to the ~~Extending the Local Church Link- 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 2012 Discipline. It shall relate to the ~~Extending the Local Church Link- Extending Missional Impact Link.~~

~~3.4- 3.5. Stewardship of Resources Link: 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 ministires including but not limited to leadership development, congregational vitality, and missional impact initiatives. The Link shall meet at the call of the Bishop.~~

~~3.4.1- Personnel Functions.~~ ~~The Stewardship of Resources Link shall be responsible for oversight of Annual Conference matters relating to:~~

- ~~a) creation, review, and updating of conference staff job descriptions;~~
- ~~b) hiring, discipline, supervision, and evaluation of conference staff;~~
- ~~c) provision of adequate health care coverage for qualifying employees;~~

~~3.4.2- Property Functions.~~ ~~The Stewardship of Resources Link shall be responsible for oversight of Annual Conference matters relating to:~~

- ~~a) purchase, maintenance, and sale of all Annual Conference property;~~
- ~~b) attitudinal and architectural accessibility of Annual Conference-owned property~~
- ~~c) investment and management of funds and accounts.~~
- ~~d) providing for the equitable compensation of pastors, including caring for the functions of a commission on equitable compensation specified in ¶625 of the Discipline.~~

~~3.4.3- Insurance.~~ ~~The Stewardship of Resources Link shall be responsible for oversight of Annual Conference matters related to insurance and bonding.~~

~~3.4.4- Related Institutions.~~ ~~The Stewardship of Resources Link shall be responsible for oversight of Annual Conference matters concerning institutions related to the Dakotas Annual Conference.~~

~~3.4.5. 3.5.1. Membership.~~ ~~The Stewardship of Resources Link. 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. The following shall be ex officio members without vote: the Director of Financial and Administrative Services, the Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Director of Ministries, the Director of the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation , and a District Superintendent.~~

~~3.4.6- 3.5.2. Standing Committees of the Stewardship of Resources Link- Generating Missional Resources Link~~

~~3.7.1. 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 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 ~~Stewardship of Resources Link- Generating Missional Resources Link~~, but as provided in ¶614.1d of the 2012 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 ~~Stewardship of Resources Link- 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 Discipline, by forming a subcommittee of HRC for equitable compensaton which shall include equal lay and clergy members plus one district superintendent named by the cabinet.~~ It shall be made up of the ~~Bishop's Assistant for Connectional 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 Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall be ex officio members without vote.

e) 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*. It shall relate to the Stewardship of Resources Link.

3.5. Visioning Link. The Visioning Link intentionally seeks God's guidance in extending the ministry of the Church in exploring new ideas, possibilities, and dreams, in order to discern God's will for our ministry together. The Link's responsibilities include discovery, assessment and interpretation of trends and factors that will shape the environment for ministry for the Dakotas Conference from a long-term perspective.

3.5.1. Functions

a) to envision future needs and ministry opportunities from the perspective of an "over the horizon" view (3-20 years), to work closely with the Bishop and the Common Table, and to assist the Annual Conference to discern and follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

3.5.2. **Membership.** No less than five and no more than seven members, who hold no other position within the Annual Conference. In addition the following shall be ex officio member without vote: the Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries. Members of the Link shall be nominated by the Bishop in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.

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 Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Director of Ministries, to be the keeper of the vision of the Annual Conference for the continual process of transformation and renewal.

b) to work collaboratively with the Visioning Link in discerning the long-term future for the Annual Conference while keeping the Common Table's focus on clarifying the current and near-term vision (0-3 years) for the Annual Conference.

b) in concert with the Bishop and the Focus Team 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 7.5.

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 Leader, Associate Lay Leader and District Lay Leaders according Rule 7.10.

e) to be amenable to the Annual Conference.

3.6.2. Membership. The Common Table shall have eight nine members: a representative of the cabinet; the conference lay leader or associate lay leader; the chairperson of the Visioning Link; a representative from CCFA; two three laypersons and two three clergypersons 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, the Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Director of Ministries.

3.6.3. Working Group Relating to the Common Table

a) Focus Team. The Focus Team functions in relationship to the Common Table and serves as a connecting point for the Links. The Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries convenes the Focus Team on a routine basis to ensure the alignment of the total resources of the conference to its vision. The membership includes, but is not limited to: the chair of the Common Table, the Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries, the chairperson of the Equipping the Local Church Link, the chairperson of the Extending the Local Church Link, the chairperson of the Stewardship of Resources Link, the conference lay leader or associate lay leader, the district superintendents, the directors and associate directors for the Annual Conference. The Bishop shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Focus Team.

3.7. Other Standing Committees

3.7.1. Conference Council on Finance and Administration. There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration as provide 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 Bishop's Assistant for Connectional Ministries shall serve the functions of the Director of Connectional Ministries.

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 (¶355), involuntary retirement (¶358.3), or administrative location (¶360) are properly followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change in conference relationship shall be reviewed by administrative review committee, and it. When necessary, the Committee shall report its findings directly

to the clergy session of clergy 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 (§362.2) 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. Committees on Investigation. There shall be Committees on Investigation until January 1, 2013 as provided in ~~¶2703.2 and ¶2703.3.~~

3.7.4. 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 ~~Equipping the Local Church Link, the Extending the Local Church Link, the Stewardship of Resources Link 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 7.5. The Committee on Nominations shall have twelve members, three from each district to be selected 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 the Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Secretary, the Director of Leadership Development and the ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional~~ Director of Ministries.

3.7.5. 3.7.4. Committee on Records, Rules, and Procedures.

Each year, the ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional~~ 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 ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional Ministries~~ Director of Ministries ad interim.
- b) Review and recommend action on proposed new structure, rules or changes in existing structure and/or rules.

3.7.6. 3.7.5. Committee on Episcopacy.

There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy as provided in ~~¶¶637-638 of the *Discipline*. It shall be related to the Stewardship of Resources Link, but 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)~~

3.7.7. 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. For the quadrennium ending in 2016, standing committees will include a Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries, and a Conference Council of Youth Ministries—each relating to the ~~Extending the Local Church Link. Developing Missional Leaders Link.~~ There will also be a Congregational Development Committee relating to the ~~Equipping the Local Church 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 Dakotas Annual Conference shall have four districts, each with a full-time District Superintendent. ~~with secretarial support laid out as such: one secretary for all four District Superintendents in a centralized location.~~

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 the ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional~~ Director of Ministries and the Director of Financial and Administrative Services.

4.3. Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional Ministries Director of Ministries

4.3.1 The ~~Bishop’s Assistant for Connectional~~ Director of Ministries 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 Director of Financial and Administrative Services, and District Superintendents.
- b) to resource the ~~Extending the Local Church Link. Equipping Missional Congregations Link.~~
- 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 link 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.

4.4. Director of Leadership Development

4.4.1 Responsibilities:

a) to relate to the ~~Equipping the Local Church Link~~ Developing Missional Leaders Link through attending meetings, helping with research, and providing information and resources.

b) to work with members of the ~~Equipping the Local Church Link~~ Developing Missional Leaders Link in developing a leadership education plan that focuses on the needs of the local church.

c) to manage the process for assessing the viability of the local church (collection of the data, implementing strategies for responding to assessment tools)

d) to provide, coordinate, and oversee the training, curriculum, and trainers, for developing strong, principled Christian leaders within the local churches of the Dakotas Conference, including lay servant leaders.

e) to resource the Board of Ordained Ministry and candidates for ministry.

f) to link to the general church through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Discipleship, and other appropriate denominational connections related to leadership development.

g) to participate in the life and ministry of the conference office.

h) to raise up and develop current and emerging leaders across the conference.

li) to care for other duties relating to leadership development as appropriate or delegated by the Bishop.

4.5. Director of Financial and Administrative Services

4.5.1 The Director of Financial and Administrative Services shall be nominated and ~~hired~~ elected by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration as provided for in the *Discipline*.

4.5.2 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 ~~Stewardship of Resources Link~~ Generating Missional Resources Link through attending meetings, helping with research, and providing information and resources.

4.6. Director of Camping, Retreats, and Youth Ministries

4.6.1 Responsibilities:

a) to care for the program, leadership development, promotion, and administration relating to conference-wide programming relating to camping, retreats, and youth ministries.

4.7. Evaluation of Conference Staff. Evaluation of all conference staff shall be done in accordance with policies established by the Human Resources Committee.

Section 5: Ministry Teams

Clergy Ministry Teams. Recognizing that The United Methodist Church is a community saved by grace through faith, centered in Christ, grounded in Scripture, and connected with one another, the clergy under appointment within the bounds of the Dakotas Annual Conference affirm the Wesleyan heritage of covenantal relationships by participating in the Ministry Team to which they are appointed by the Bishop.

5.1.1. Purpose. The purpose of the Clergy Ministry Team is

a) to provide fellowship and support.

b) to encourage spiritual and personal growth.

c) to coach and to nurture each other in working through the joys, challenges, and transitions of ministry.

d) to help one another become more effective in ministry.

e) to discern opportunities for shared ministry and mission.

f) to hold each other accountable to the covenant of the Clergy Ministry Team, including mandatory participation.

5.1.2. Each Clergy Ministry Team is responsible for determining how it will fulfill the stated purpose of the Clergy Ministry Team.

5.1.3. Organizational Clarifications

a) Each Ministry Team will be lead by a Presiding Elder appointed by the Bishop.

b) The Dakotas Conference shall provide annual training for the Presiding Elder.

c) Retired clergy appointed to serve a local church are also appointed to a Clergy Ministry Team.

d) Clergy Ministry Teams shall gather regularly, with monthly meetings being the norm.

e) Exceptions shall be negotiated among the Presiding Elder, the Clergy Ministry Team, and the District Superintendent.

f) District Superintendents shall meet periodically with each Clergy Ministry Team to build relationships, share information, and enjoy fellowship with its members.

5.1.4. Expectations of Clergy Ministry Teams. Faithful attendance and participation of all appointed Team members.

5.1.4.2. Each member shall exhibit a high level of professionalism by:

a) respecting confidentiality.

b) holding one another accountable to the professional responsibilities and expectations of pastoral ministry.

c) speaking and acting out of mutual respect and courtesy.

- d) modeling Wesley's "Three Simple Rules."
- e) affirming the core values of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.
- f) strengthening connectionalism within the covenant community.
- g) nurturing relationships that will support team members in times of personal, family, and professional transition and crises. Mutual care shall be extended in the critical times of appointment changes.
- h) Presiding Elders shall share pastoral care concerns with the District Superintendent with the consent of the Team members.

5.2. Lay Servant Leader Teams. We affirm the value of United Methodist connectionalism by encouraging laity to work together in mission and ministry beyond the local church, including but not limited to the Ministry Team's area. Some ways in which laity have already chosen to share in ministry are: training events, combined confirmation classes or Bible study groups, mission events, shared mission projects, outreach, marketing, and worship. As the Dakotas Annual Conference, we already have a rich history of working together through United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Annual Conference youth events, camps, Lay Servant Leaders, ~~Ingathering Dakota Marketplace~~ /Mission in Motion, and so forth.

5.2.2. Recognizing laity as a vital part of the ministry of the local and global church, Lay Ministry Teams are urged to strengthen connections and alliances for the purposes of:

- a) fostering relationships.
- b) improving communications.
- c) encouraging spiritual growth.
- d) promoting personal and leadership growth.
- e) exploring joint ministry opportunities.
- f) advocating community and global action to meet the ever changing needs in and beyond our local communities.

5.2.3. To allow flexibility for each Team's circumstances, each Team may establish its own organizational and leadership procedures. By sharing leadership and resources, and by providing mutual support and accountability, we do ministry better when we do it together.

5.2.4. Lay Servant Leader Team Coordinators shall be selected by the District Superintendent in consultation with the District Lay Leader. Training will be provided for the Lay Servant Leader Team Coordinators through the District Superintendent and District Lay Leader.

Section 6: District Agencies

6.1. 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 district superintendent) and three professing members of local churches.

6.2. 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 eleven members as specified in that paragraph.

6.3. 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 district superintendent. Each Board shall be constituted as specified in ¶2519, and consist of six to nine members.

Section 7: Standing Rules

7.1. 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.

7.2. 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.

7.3. Limitations. No person shall serve on more than one agency of the Annual Conference with the exception of ex officio members. ~~Membership on the Committee on Investigation, the Joint Review Committee, The Administrative Review Committee, Committee on Episcopacy, Sessions Committee, Rules, Records and Procedures Committee, Disaster Response or Task Force for Missional Appointments, or a district agency shall not be counted towards this limit. Changes to this rule adopted at the 2012 Annual Conference shall take effect with new terms beginning July 1, 2012.~~

7.4. Contact Information. Complete mailing addresses and phone numbers shall be submitted to the ~~Conference Secretary and 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.

7.5. 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.

7.6. 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 7.5.

7.7. General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Elections

7.7.1. 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.

7.7.2. A general ballot will be taken early in the Annual Conference session 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 Lay Leader will take responsibility for this task.

7.7.3. 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.

7.7.4. 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.

7.7.5. 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.

7.7.6. 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.

7.7.7. The counting of ballots shall be undertaken by a team of tellers as directed by the Annual Conference Secretary.

7.7.8. When all elections are completed, the Annual Conference Secretary shall send certification of election to the General Conference Secretary.

7.7.9. 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.

7.7.10. 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.

7.7.11. 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*.

7.8. 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 cof the *Discipline*, there shall be a ballot cast in that category, with the five persons receiving the most votes being elected in that category.

7.9. Conference Lay Leader. The Conference Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader 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 7.2 in instances where the person was elected to complete half or less of an unfinished term. In such cases, the Conference Lay Leader and / or Associate Lay Leader 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 Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader.

7.10. District Lay Leader. In the same year as the Conference Lay Leader is elected, the Common Table shall determine the method for the lay members in each district to nominate and elect a district lay leader. District lay leaders serve a quadrennial term and may succeed themselves once, except according to Rule 7.2 in instances where a person was elected to complete half or less of an unfinished term.

7.11. Lay Members of Annual Conference and Lay Equalization

In accordance with section VI of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, Paragraph 32, Article I, of the *Discipline* (2012), the lay membership of Annual Conference shall be elected as follows:

A. According to the *Book of Discipline* (2012), 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 preceeding 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 preceeding their election.” (Paragraph 32, Article I)

-Diaconal ministers

-Active deaconesses

-Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference

-Conference lay leader

- District lay leaders
- Conference president of United Methodist Women
- Conference president of United Methodist Men
- Conference director of Lay Speaking 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." (Paragraph 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):

- Associate lay leader
- 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 board or agencies
- Chairs of Conference Boards/Agencies who are lay
- Conference Director of Finance and Administrative Services
- Conference Secretary
- Conference Historian
- Dakotas United Methodist Foundation Director
- Director of Leadership Development
- Associate Director of Communications
- Associate Director of Missional Impact
- Conference Statistician
- Conference Journal Editor
- Camping and Youth Ministries Director
- ~~Bishop's Assistant for Connectional~~ 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.
- Lay Servant Leader Team Coordinators

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 members of the Dakotas Annual Conference is 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 7.11.a. and b. (by virtue of office)

Illustration of this formula:

Total Dakotas Conference Membership reported in the 2010 Journal = 38,602

Total Number of Pastoral Charges reported in the 2010 Journal = 172

$38,602/172 = 224$ average members per charge

Examples:

Sioux Falls First – 1229 members/224 = 5.48 or 5 additional lay members
Bismarck McCabe – 1072 members/224 = 4.78 or 5 additional lay members
Mitchell First – 829 members/224 = 3.71 or 4 additional lay members
Pierre First – 708 members/224 = 3.16 or 3 additional lay members
Winner – 452 members/224 = 2.02 or 2 additional lay members
Williston – 336 members/224 = 1.51 or 2 additional lay members
Celebration – 328 members/224 = 1.46 or 1 additional lay member

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 7.11.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.

7.12. Financial Year. January 1 to December 31.

7.13. 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.

7.14. Conference Journal

7.14.1 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.

7.15. 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.

7.16. Definitions of and Changes to the Structure, Rules, and Policies

7.16.1. 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 6 of these Structure and Rules, may be modified by a simple majority vote of the Annual Conference.

7.16.2. 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.

7.16.3. 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.

7.16.4. Ex-Officio. Membership by virtue of office is voice with vote unless otherwise specified.

Section 8: Rules of Order

8.1. 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.

8.2. 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 Bishop 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.

8.3. 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.

8.4. All Motions in the Affirmative. All motions brought to the floor of the Conference shall be worded in the affirmative.

8.5. Business Items

8.5.1. 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.

8.5.2. Any item not meeting the requirements of Rule No. 8.5.1 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.

8.5.3. Appropriate items submitted by the Dakotas Youth Annual Conference will be reviewed by the Sessions Committee for possible consideration by the Annual Conference.

8.5.4. 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.

Conference-Wide Capital Campaign for Congregational Development Feasibility Study

Submitted by: Common Table, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Equipping Link (Missional Congregations Group), Extended Cabinet

Contact Person: Greg Kroger, Director of Ministries (605) 996-6552, greg.kroger@dakotasumc.org

Specific Action For Annual Conference Approval: The Dakotas Annual Conference will initiate a conference-wide capital campaign feasibility study to undergird our vision pathway of “Equipping Missional Congregations” through ministries of innovation, renewal and growth. The conference will contract with Tyler Associates of Irving, Texas to conduct the feasibility study. Professional consulting services will be provided for a fee of \$48,000. The Dakotas Annual Conference will be responsible for the cost of printing and distribution of written materials. Tyler Associates will share equally with the Conference costs related to travel and lodging for the Tyler Associates team to implement the feasibility study. The feasibility study will be submitted to the Common Table, the Equipping Missional Congregations Link, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Extended Cabinet for review and approval. With approval from each of these groups, the capital campaign may commence.

Supporting Information and Background

Relationship to the Scriptural Imperatives and rationale: Congregational development reaches new people by cultivating spiritual vitality and cultivates spiritual vitality by reaching new people. The responses of new and existing faith communities to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission are never for their sole edification, but for making new disciples and focusing outward to heal a broken world. Starting new churches, resourcing existing churches and recruiting, developing and deploying passionate, purposeful leaders for faith communities of diverse models, constituencies and mission fields is a primary role of the Dakotas Annual Conference. The apportioned budget cannot adequately provide for congregational development. While supplemental revenue from invested funds designated for congregational development is waning, our Dakotas Annual Conference strategic plan and goals require investment of even greater resources for growth. Remaining balances of asset accounts available for congregational development are depleted or are nearing minimum levels. Since the year 2000, our investments in planting new churches and in targeted revitalization of existing congregations have resulted in an increase of in average weekly worship attendance of approximately 2,045 people (about 10% of our total attendance). Currently, areas of the Dakotas are experiencing rates of population increase that are among the highest in the nation. By 2023 North Dakota’s population is projected to increase by 111,447 and South Dakota’s by 88,280.

Feasibility Study Implementation:

The objectives of the feasibility study are:

1. Work with congregational development and conference leaders to create a compelling, inspirational case statement to communicate the conference’s vision and plans.
2. Raise awareness among constituents of missional needs inspiring this process and build momentum for a potential conference-wide initiative.
3. Provide a confidential forum for constituent input regarding the vision cast for congregational development and potential support through conversations and online response.
4. Discern interest, concern and special factors in the life of the Dakotas Annual Conference that would influence a conference capital campaign (assets and obstacles).

5. Determine readiness of laity and clergy to support the campaign initiative to achieve stated objectives.
6. Identify leaders among laity and clergy who can assist in telling the story, including potential campaign leadership.
7. Evaluate financial potential to determine challenging and attainable financial goals for the campaign.
8. Identify prospective major donors.
9. Establish specific dates and timelines for a conference-wide campaign.
10. Identify infrastructure of staff support needed for a successful campaign.
11. Establish a budget for a potential capital campaign.

Anticipated Timeline

June, 2014

- The Dakotas Annual Conference contracts with Tyler Associates, Inc. to conduct the feasibility study.

June 15-July 15, 2014

- A Capital Campaign Task Force will be established by the Bishop, in consultation with the Common Table, Equipping Missional Congregations Link, and the Extended Cabinet

June, July, August, September, 2014

- Prepare feasibility study set up guidebook to use in orientation and plan development
- Tyler Associates designs calendar for feasibility study tasks and implementation to discuss with staff
- Three-day visit with Tyler Associates to initiate planning with conference staff and congregational development team – staff orientation and to develop communications plan for the feasibility study
- Establish lines of communication, schedule for counsel, calendar and tasks necessary for coordinating the development of a case statement
- Form congregational development plan concepts to be vetted by conference leaders and ultimately included in the feasibility study
- Schedule conference calls with logistics team to collaborate on calendar and task implementation
- DAVID system calls to key conference leaders to gather feedback and consensus for case statement development
- Tyler Associates meets with Bishop Ough and Extended Cabinet to vet case statement, refine and finalize
- Tyler Associates begins developing questionnaires and correspondence needed to support the feasibility study

- Identify target list of constituents to participate in personal conversations
- Enlist host churches in geographical areas for Tyler Associates visits
- Implement protocol to enlist constituent participation in the feasibility study

October, 2014

- Meet with Extended Cabinet to vet case statement to refine and finalize
- Distribution of case statement project information to constituents in late October or early November
- Implement protocol to enlist participation in personal conversations
- Open period for invitees to sign up for visit appointment slot
- Telephone calls are made to those who do not respond to online sign up
- Confirmation cards mailed or emailed
- Weekly conference calls with logistics team to collaborate on calendar and task implementation

November, 2014 – Feedback

- Promotion continues to encourage constituent feedback through the online questionnaire
- Tyler Associates onsite for 7-10 days or more to conduct personal conversations with constituent groups and conference leaders
- An additional week set aside for phone conversations to wrap up feedback and information gathering

December, 2014 – Compile and Evaluate Data

- Conference call with Bishop Ough and congregational leaders for early glimpse of feasibility study findings
- Tyler Associates compiles input and prepares report

January, 2015 – Report

- Tyler Associates onsite to meet with Extended Cabinet and various groups to present and interpret feedback and report observations and recommendations
- Other opportunities for conference-wide presentation of feasibility study findings will be determined in collaboration with conference leaders

If the feasibility study indicates a capital campaign could be successfully undertaken, the following is a possible sequence of steps to implement the campaign:

January, 2015

- Common Table, the Equipping Missional Congregations Link, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Extended Cabinet vote on moving forward with a capital campaign. With majority approval from each of these groups, the capital campaign may commence.

- These groups, on behalf of the Dakotas Annual Conference, select and contract with a firm to conduct the capital campaign. This would likely be Tyler Associates, but this is not an obligation created by virtue of the agreement to conduct the feasibility study

January-February, 2015

- Internal organizational tasks

February-June, 2015

- Leadership enlistment and preparation

Annual Conference 2015

- Formal launch of campaign
- Organizational plan activated

June, 2015–April, 2016

- Conference-wide sharing of story and commitments sought

Annual Conference 2016

- Celebration of commitments
- Follow up for closure continues and a follow up plan is established to help assure the highest level of collection of commitments

Outcome: Resources will be used to implement targeted strategies for addressing the following vision pathway goals:

- *Strategically identify the congregations best positioned to engage their communities, multiply ministries, and make new disciples:* By October 2014 a demographic and cultural analysis of the Dakotas is created. Key communities/churches for future growth and development are identified.
- *Invest and partner with those congregations most ready for the next steps to increase congregational vitality, especially those ready to form second campuses or new faith communities:* New faith community planters are deployed to reach new people for Jesus Christ. Abundant resources are available to support new faith community development. Policies to guide the stewardship and allocation of these resources are clear, sound and effective in supporting new faith community development.
- *Develop and implement for the Dakotas Annual Conference a Missional Church Initiative (MCI) for targeted congregations:* The Dakotas Annual Conference will develop the capacity to provide the majority of support and delivery for all the training, consultation, and prescription coaching elements of MCI through conference financial resources, and conference clergy and laity.

Resources required:

- Allocation of existing staff hours for personnel of the Extended Cabinet.
- Allocation of additional volunteer hours for people affiliated with the Capital Campaign Task Force and potential, future capital campaign leadership teams.
- \$25,000 added to the 2015 Equipping Missional Congregations apportioned budget.
- The remaining funds needed for conducting the feasibility study, up to \$41,000, drawn from assets designated for congregational development.
- Negotiated fees for capital campaign (if implemented) for fundraising consultant services.

Necessary portion of capital campaign receipts (if implemented) for administrative, staffing, marketing, promotional and program expenses

**Organizational Resolutions for Dakotas Annual Conference Session
June 5-7, 2014**

1. The printed agenda becomes the official agenda, with adjustments as necessary. All requests for additional items to be placed on the agenda shall be given to the agenda coordinator.
2. There will be seating on the conference floor for clergy and lay members of Annual Conference. Signs for churches/groups will be available on Friday morning. To accommodate guests for the teaching sessions, tables will not be available Thursday.
3. The boundaries of the Annual Conference shall be the round tables marked for clergy and lay members. Voting members only are to be seated in this area. During Plenary Sessions all non-voting persons, including spouses of clergy and lay members, are to be seated in the area designated for visitors.
4. 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.
5. Requests for personal points of privilege shall be submitted to agenda coordinator.
6. The following persons shall be given the privilege of voice and vote on the Conference floor:
 - Clergy persons related to other annual conferences or denominations but who serve United Methodist Churches or who are affiliate members of the Dakotas Conference. Such clergy shall be granted the same rights and privileges as Associate Members of the annual conference.
 - United Methodist Churches or who are affiliate members of the Dakotas Conference.
 - Associate Members of the annual conference.
7. Persons in the following categories shall have privilege of the floor without vote:
 - Retired clergypersons who have served churches of the Dakotas Conference but who are members of other annual conferences.
8. Announcements shall be written legibly and submitted to registration desk.
9. Conference agencies are responsible to distribute printed reports prior to the plenary session in which they are used. Advance permission must be secured from the Agenda Coordinator before any other printed materials may be distributed. Every agency is responsible for their items.
10. The consent calendar shall be those items listed on the consent calendar Section 2 of the Conference Workbook. Written request to lift an item from the consent calendar must be submitted to the Conference Secretary by noon on Friday.
11. Lay and clergy members shall fill out church information for journal records (forms in registration packet). Any changes in JOURNAL information for clergy or churches should be at the registration desk by the end of Annual Conference.
12. We recommend using the strikethrough feature for removing information from conference policies and underline new items that are being placed in conference policies. This should be done for items being considered by the Annual Conference.
13. During debate to be recognized to speak you must select the card that represents your position on the item being considered.
 - Green card is an affirmative position.
 - Red card is a negative position.
 - White card is a question.
 - When recognized state your name, church, and clergy or laity.

2015 Budget Recommendation

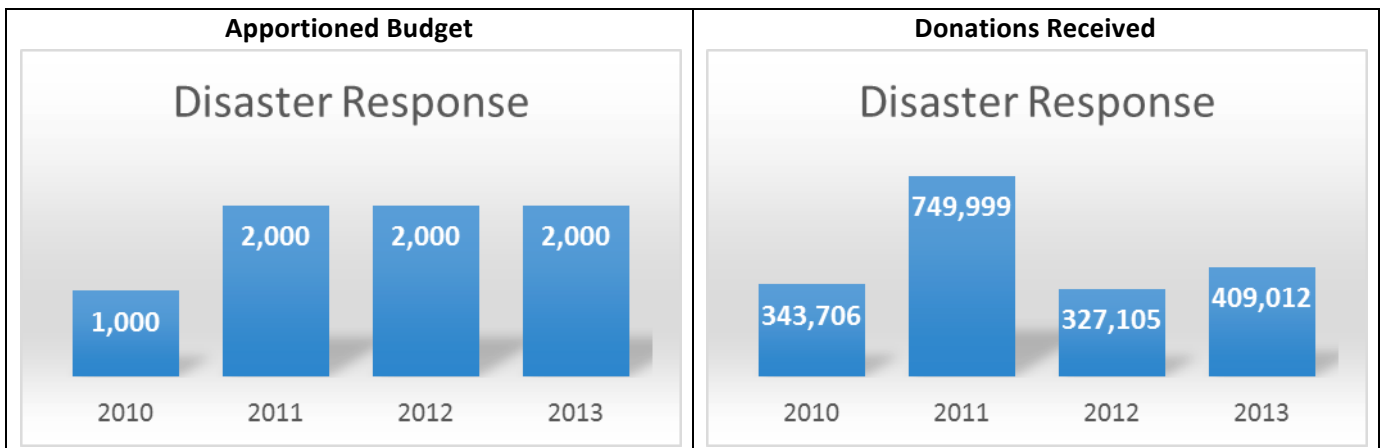
Treasurer's Discussion & Analysis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

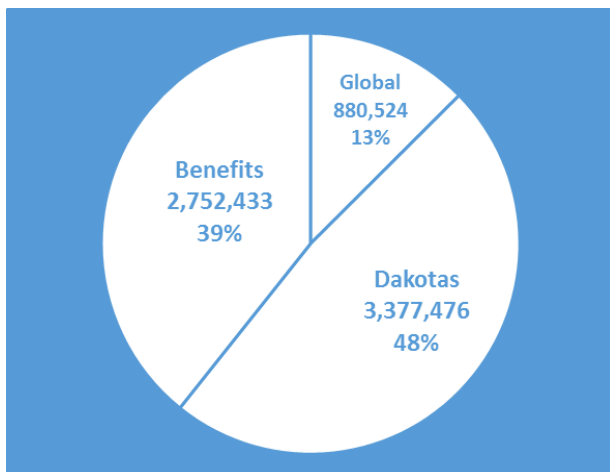
The purpose of this document is to provide an overview and identify the highlights of the 2015 budget for those who will be voting on it.

COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES

I enjoy charts and graphs. Part of the reason I enjoy charts and graphs is that they show us simply and clearly in one picture what otherwise we would have to try to decipher from pages and pages of data. If I had a complaint about charts and graphs, it would be that sometimes they don't show the whole picture because they are often limited to only the data that is readily available. A good example would be Disaster Response. For a long-time we have included \$1,000-\$2,000 in our apportioned budget for this purpose (chart on the left). It could be assumed that Disaster Response is not important to the Dakotas, but that is because the chart isn't showing everything. The chart on the right shows the gifts the Conference has received from churches primarily in the Dakotas for Disaster Response. If we put this amount into the apportioned budget, it would make up close to 10% of our budget. Even this is not the whole amount as many churches and individuals give directly to respond to disasters as well as volunteer with the response.



Sometimes, especially in early June, there is the perception that United Methodist ministry in the Dakotas is confined to the Conference budget. In 2015, the Conference budget is \$7,010,433. You can find the details in the pages that follow and see the breakdown below. What you don't see is the roughly \$23 million



that will be spent by churches to minister to their communities. What you don't see is the additional \$2.5 million that our churches give to support other ministries in the Dakotas and around the world. Of the \$32.5 million spent by the local church, 79% is used for ministry in their community (assuming pastor benefits is included here). 10% is used to fund the work of the Conference. 3% is used to fund the work of the General Church. The remaining 8% given away to support various benevolent causes.

I bring all this up as a reminder that the bulk of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ is

2015 Budget Recommendation

Treasurer's Discussion & Analysis

accomplished at the local church. That being said, the bulk of our resources should also be used at the local church level. That is why we have been saying for years that the Conference budget needs to be affordable. The Conference budget also needs to be aligned with this fact. There has been an increasing effort to develop missional leaders. You are now going to see increasing effort to equip missional congregations which includes not only our 243 existing congregations but also the scores of new congregations waiting to be planted.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Here is a list of the items that you should be aware of:

- **Missional Church Initiative (MCI) Gains Momentum** – In 2014, we kicked off the MCI program. Initially we committed \$55,000 to this program with the expectation that we will see churches breakthrough into a new era of vitality and growth. In 2015, we would like to commit \$97,000 to this program. Much of the increase will be that we need a consultant to guide us.
- **Capital Campaign for New Congregations** – \$25,000 is being allocated for a feasibility study for a capital campaign to support the work of planting new congregations. We've had a boom of activity that has consumed a large portion of what we had laid aside for this work plus we hadn't been budgeting nearly enough to keep up with the need. The feasibility study will let us know whether or not to go forward with a capital campaign.
- **Bakken Zone Coordinator** – Beginning with the miracle offering last Annual Conference, we have seen a lot of resources and effort poured into the Bakken. The scope of the work has grown from primarily Watford City and Williston, to include Dickinson, Kenmare, Tioga, and Stanley. We believe we need a designated person to coordinate this effort. The approximate cost is \$25,000.
- **Culture of Call** – In developing missional leaders, one of our primary concerns is creating a culture of call. \$24,000 is being allocated to develop the Leadership Incubator, which will focus on youth in grades 6-12. Camping has contracted with a consultant to help them align their ministry with focus of creating a culture of call and developing missional leaders. In the Board of Ordained Ministry budget, there is an expansion of the internship and recruitment efforts. Under College-Age Ministries, there is a \$25,000 increase in the Campus Ministry Grants, which have been awarded to primarily churches to aid them in reaching out to this population.
- **Budget Freeze** – With the change in apportionment method, the Council on Finance and Administration voted for a 0% increase in the 2015 apportioned budget. After 2014, we will have a much better idea of how much will be received through the new apportionment method.
- **0% Premium Increase in HealthFlex** – Great market returns and, on average, low claims have resulted in a 0% increase in HealthFlex premiums.

CLOSING COMMENTS

If you have any questions or concerns, remember you can contact me either by phone (605-996-6552) or email (jeff.pospisil@dakotasumc.org).

-- Jeff Pospisil, Treasurer

2015 Budget Recommendation

Budget Summary

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
Developing Missional Leaders	832,529	946,739	1,034,748	1,039,000
Equipping Missional Congregations	500,557	417,998	413,243	531,000
Extending Missional Impact	1,014,581	1,036,653	1,222,151	1,224,000
Generating Missional Resources	289,147	323,723	354,992	304,000
Support Services	425,285	382,450	503,860	490,000
Cabinet	706,649	691,130	721,006	670,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>3,768,748</i>	<i>3,798,693</i>	<i>4,250,000</i>	<i>4,258,000</i>
Pension & Insurance	1,776,545	1,616,327	112,000	103,731
Direct Bills to Churches	1,247,683	1,245,505	2,523,895	2,573,702
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>3,024,228</i>	<i>2,861,832</i>	<i>2,635,895</i>	<i>2,677,433</i>
Total	<u>6,792,976</u>	<u>6,660,525</u>	<u>6,885,895</u>	<u>6,935,433</u>

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICE				
Compensation & Benefits	146,265	154,420	155,397	137,169
Travel Expenses	14,688	14,864	22,250	10,500
Office Expenses	1,485	2,070	3,300	2,913
Workshops/Dues	1,301	2,454	7,300	2,800
Equipment	1,529	515	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	165,268	174,322	190,247	155,382
MISSIONAL LEADERS LINK				
Meeting Expenses	337	1,788	8,200	2,500
Resources/Administrative Expenses	641	18	1,900	500
Workshops/Dues	33	650	2,000	1,000
Events/Seminar Expenses	199	-	500	3,300
Resource Library Operations	13	1,598	5,000	4,000
TOTAL	1,224	4,054	17,600	11,300
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING				
Training Events	3,944	4,190	20,000	-
Leadership Incubator	-	-	-	24,000
Lay Servant Ministries	6,834	11,195	29,500	30,000
Safe & Sacred Spaces	740	6,073	9,200	6,000
TOTAL	11,518	21,458	58,700	60,000
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE				
	965	679	1,500	1,700
LAY LEADER				
	1,330	450	5,100	3,100
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY				
Meeting Expenses	16,384	19,003	20,200	20,200
Training Expenses	8,371	11,733	10,000	10,000
Licensing School	3,777	1,947	5,000	5,000
Workshops/Dues	1,548	1,571	2,000	2,000
Spiritual Care and Formation	-	-	2,500	2,500
Resources/Administrative Expenses	1,371	1,866	2,100	9,300
Candidate/Provisional Member Review	13,255	12,148	16,000	16,000
Recruiting/Internships	-	3,000	20,000	20,000
Commercial Travel	2,331	810	3,000	3,000
Event/Seminar Expenses	3,666	6,366	7,000	10,000
Quadrennial Training Event	-	2,129	2,000	2,000
Endowment Income	-	(5,416)	-	-
TOTAL	50,703	55,158	89,800	100,000
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND				
	32,855	33,387	38,740	40,018

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
COLLEGE-AGE MINISTRIES & HIGHER ED				
Campus Ministries Grants	211,316	105,000	50,000	75,000
Ministry Administration	-	-	-	5,000
Training Events	-	-	-	5,000
Investment Income/Transfer	(22,462)	(40,610)	-	(20,000)
Campus Ministries Property	(162,753)	20,179	5,750	-
Support for Dakota Wesleyan University	76,500	76,500	76,500	76,500
TOTAL	102,601	161,069	132,250	141,500
CAMPING & YOUTH OFFICE				
Compensation & Benefits	139,670	140,543	143,301	144,947
Office Expenses	4,722	4,313	6,100	6,800
Travel Expenses	15,938	16,610	17,950	19,965
Workshops/Dues	705	1,763	1,250	2,000
Tech Support	239	-	1,000	788
Resources	80	-	3,000	3,000
Equipment	1,364	39	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	162,717	163,268	174,101	179,000
CAMPING & RETREAT MINISTRIES				
Camping Operations Support	138,000	144,900	130,410	138,000
Camping Capital Support	120,000	120,000	108,000	115,000
Property Taxes/Assessments	19,229	18,666	20,000	24,000
TOTAL	277,229	283,566	258,410	277,000
COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES				
Meeting Expenses	12,049	13,706	12,000	14,000
Supplies	1,173	4,551	1,800	2,000
Copies	1,441	2,923	1,800	2,500
Background Checks	866	800	1,500	1,000
Publicity	791	1,927	1,500	2,000
Journey (Senior High)	5,438	5,600	-	-
Crossing (Junior High)	3,568	6,584	-	-
Combined Senior/Junior High Event	-	-	30,000	27,400
Winter Connection	755	3,721	-	1,400
Registrations/Other	(5,331)	(3,571)	1,000	(600)
Leadership Training for Youth	-	350	2,000	-
Sanctuary Events	-	6,899	5,000	8,000
Leadership Training Camp	2,105	470	4,000	5,000
Adult Training and Academy	2,121	4,868	4,000	5,000
District Programs	549	-	3,000	1,600
Website	544	499	700	700
TOTAL	26,068	49,328	68,300	70,000
TOTAL MISSIONAL LEADERS	826,105	946,739	1,034,748	1,039,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
<i>DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES OFFICE</i>				
Compensation & Benefits	95,040	149,623	150,243	160,601
Office Expenses	3,411	2,934	5,300	4,349
Travel Expenses	12,958	21,200	22,500	16,000
Workshops/Dues	679	615	1,250	1,250
Equipment	0	785	1,800	1,800
Transfers from Area Office/Cabinet	(1,833)	(30,000)	(30,000)	-
TOTAL	110,256	145,157	151,093	184,000
<i>MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS LINK</i>				
Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	2,500
Resources/Administrative Expenses	-	-	-	500
TOTAL	-	-	-	3,000
<i>NEW CHURCHES</i>				
Investment Income/Transfers & Donations	(67,364)	(7,647)	-	(140,000)
Administration	-	10	3,300	3,300
NCJ Network Dues	500	-	500	500
Training Expenses	15,157	-	5,000	10,000
Revitalization Funding	102,139	77,107	40,000	39,000
New Faith Community Funding	269,800	134,800	120,850	250,200
Bakken Planting Zone Coordinator	-	-	-	25,000
Capital Campaign Feasibility Study	-	-	-	25,000
TOTAL	320,233	204,270	169,650	213,000
<i>MISSIONAL CHURCH INITIATIVE</i>				
MCI Contractor	-	-	-	25,000
Pastoral Training	-	-	7,500	11,000
Church Consultations	-	-	17,500	21,000
Prescription Coaching	-	-	30,000	40,000
Tools for Equipping Churches	6,883	9,223	10,500	8,000
Education/Training for Churches	15,847	6,000	16,000	16,000
Predecessor Programs	43,652	49,979	6,000	5,000
Pre-Lenten Retreat	3,687	3,369	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	70,069	68,571	92,500	131,000
TOTAL MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS	500,557	417,998	413,243	531,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
GENERAL APPORTIONMENTS				
Episcopal Fund	120,108	109,887	131,797	139,841
Ministerial Education Fund - Gen Church	98,182	100,237	116,220	120,054
General Administration	45,028	45,103	54,471	56,280
Interdenominational Cooperation	10,334	10,414	12,113	12,525
Black College	52,214	53,296	61,809	63,854
Africa University	11,723	11,946	13,832	14,288
World Service	394,843	394,204	451,362	466,259
North Central Jurisdiction	7,274	7,423	7,423	7,423
TOTAL	739,706	732,510	849,027	880,524
UNITED METHODIST MEN	-	347	250	-
MISSIONAL IMPACT LINK	1,705	3,552	4,700	2,700
CONNECTIONAL MISSIONS				
Donations/Other Income	(14,699)	(8,200)	(6,750)	(16,500)
Meeting Expenses	1,234	1,007	3,150	1,600
Dues	1,650	1,525	2,250	2,250
Compensation & Benefits	144,583	155,516	215,824	183,796
Travel Expenses	14,246	14,162	18,500	16,000
Missionary Program Support	33,200	43,470	33,200	35,200
Grants to Related Mission Organizations	87,500	87,000	87,000	87,500
Mission Congregation Grants	-	-	-	20,000
Local Church Mission Incentive	-	-	-	2,000
VIM Scholarships	1,500	4,600	3,500	3,800
Background Checks	-	45	1,000	-
Hunger Events	3,956	1,118	6,000	4,500
Other Expenses	-	-	4,500	630
TOTAL	273,170	300,243	368,174	340,776
TOTAL MISSIONAL IMPACT	1,014,581	1,036,653	1,222,151	1,224,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
FINANCE OFFICE				
Compensation & Benefits	192,974	199,383	207,185	208,767
Travel Expenses	6,006	3,428	5,600	5,500
Office Expenses	8,054	6,904	9,100	8,233
Workshops/Dues	690	600	400	500
Audit	14,374	16,048	15,000	17,000
Equipment/Maintenance	(10)	-	1,000	500
TOTAL	222,088	226,363	238,285	240,500
MISSIONAL RESOURCES LINK	244	292	3,100	-
BUILDERS CLUB	1,415	1,612	2,300	2,000
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION	38,700	40,950	50,000	50,000
DAKOTAS UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION	13,500	12,500	-	-
DIRECTOR'S AND OFFICERS WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	11,966	6,176	10,000	7,500
COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	1,234	2,303	4,000	4,000
CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDING	-	33,526	47,307	-
TOTAL MISSIONAL RESOURCES	289,147	323,723	354,992	304,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

SUPPORT SERVICES

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
CONFERENCE SECRETARY & JOURNAL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE				
Stipend	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Clerical Support	1,832	2,214	1,950	2,025
Journal & Workbook Production	8,804	7,997	12,000	10,000
Journal Sales	(10,154)	(9,263)	(10,800)	(10,800)
Office Expenses	2,037	1,302	575	1,875
Equipment	-	-	2,900	2,900
TOTAL	5,520	5,160	9,625	9,000
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION				
Registrations	(41,829)	(40,175)	(36,000)	(42,000)
Travel Expenses	20,125	18,892	28,000	23,000
Banquet & Refreshments	37,436	22,874	25,000	25,000
Conference Speaker	2,137	5,605	3,000	5,000
Audio/Video Rental	17,489	13,284	12,000	14,000
Child Care	696	-	1,400	1,500
Office Expenses	11,507	7,992	12,000	12,000
TOTAL	47,560	28,472	45,400	38,500
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE				
Grants and Donations	(9,008)	(76,450)	(20,000)	(32,000)
Compensation & Benefits	45,616	48,846	55,735	85,778
Office Expenses	1,661	2,860	1,800	2,100
Travel Expenses	4,835	14,163	5,500	10,500
Events/Seminar Expenses	318	9,538	1,000	1,600
Multimedia Projects	885	796	10,000	1,522
DAVID System	27,513	69,694	43,000	48,000
Website	6,208	7,406	3,500	7,500
Tech Services	-	436	3,000	3,000
DAVID Expansion / Bridge Replacement	25,828	38,634	-	15,000
TOTAL	103,856	115,922	103,535	143,000
CHANCELLORS	6,699	4,883	8,000	10,000
COMMON TABLE				
Meeting Expenses	4,192	2,343	15,000	7,500
Taskforces	-	-	10,000	5,000
Leadership Event	-	4,411	7,500	7,500
General Conf / Jurisdictional Conf	15,503	-	-	-
TOTAL	19,695	6,754	25,000	20,000
WINDS OF THE SPIRIT	4,057	25,000	-	-
HUMAN RESOURCES	12	47	1,500	1,500
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE	6,909	3,329	4,500	4,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
ARCHIVES & HISTORY				
Archivist Support	22,350	24,500	24,823	25,350
Space in McGovern Library	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Meeting Expenses	2,425	1,778	1,677	2,525
Dues	75	-	-	-
Archives Program Materials	1,000	750	750	750
Registrations	301	250	300	375
Publication of Conference History	500	1,000	500	500
Matching Grant Initiative	-	-	-	2,500
TOTAL	36,651	38,278	38,050	42,000
VISIONING LINK	182	-	6,000	-
CONFERENCE CENTER OPERATIONS				
Postage	420	406	500	500
Equipment	888	3,126	5,000	3,000
Equipment Maintenance	50	-	500	500
Postage Machine Expenses	3,990	3,462	4,000	4,000
Technical Support	702	6,594	2,000	7,000
Miscellaneous Office	590	311	-	500
Internet	706	150	1,000	500
Service Agreements	10,074	11,690	10,000	12,000
TOTAL	17,420	25,738	23,000	28,000
TRUSTEES				
Investment/Other Income	(22,760)	(46,583)	(10,000)	(3,000)
Administrative Expenses	1,901	2,122	2,500	2,500
Conference Center Operations	34,147	34,203	30,000	30,000
Leadership Housing Maint. & Util	102,855	51,141	130,000	98,500
Insurance	60,064	52,947	60,000	57,000
Repair & Replacement Fund	0	35,007	25,000	8,000
Other Property Disbursements	517	30	1,750	1,000
TOTAL	176,723	128,867	239,250	194,000
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	425,285	382,450	503,860	490,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY				
	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Recomm
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS				
Compensation & Benefits	368,414	381,068	397,096	385,705
Clerical Support	-	30,978	30,000	-
Travel Expenses	87,118	93,902	95,000	95,000
Office Expenses	17,826	16,874	17,700	17,700
Office Rent	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Workshops/Dues	4,262	65	2,000	2,000
Equipment	4,656	2,456	5,000	5,000
Shared	4,129	5,387	6,910	6,910
District Resources	4,077	5,881	13,500	13,500
TOTAL	494,083	540,212	570,806	529,415
PRESIDING ELDERS	3,029	2,126	6,000	6,000
CABINET DISCRETIONARY FUNDS	9,825	23,990	30,200	20,000
INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS	9,131	5,200	8,000	8,000
MOVING FUND	185,814	118,727	100,000	100,585
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY COMMITTEE	679	834	1,000	1,000
DISTRICT CHURCH BUILDING & LOCATION	534	20	1,000	1,000
RESPONSE TEAMS	3,554	21	4,000	4,000
TOTAL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY	706,649	691,130	721,006	670,000

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

BOARD OF PENSIONS

	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Request
1 HEALTH BENEFITS				
HealthFlex Premiums - Actives	2,749,501	1,855,710	1,889,628	1,880,688
HRA Contributions - Retirees	-	415,283	497,587	539,098
HRA Admin Expenses	-	8,518	8,000	9,000
Medicare Part B	47,226	49,039	50,000	55,000
Disability Claims	-	20,843	-	-
Transfers to Reserve Funds	486,977	-	-	-
Allowance for Uncollected (2%)			29,099	32,000
<i>Expenses Subtotal</i>	<u>3,283,704</u>	<u>2,349,393</u>	<u>2,474,314</u>	<u>2,515,786</u>
Apportionments	(624,907)	(159,592)	(87,000)	(93,731)
Direct Bill Churches	(1,247,683)	(1,245,505)	(1,417,320)	(1,410,516)
Direct Bill Participants	(763,820)	(488,797)	(472,407)	(470,172)
Retiree Health Fund Transfer	-	(415,283)	(497,587)	(539,098)
Investment Earnings - Deposit Acct	(5,992)	(1,787)	-	-
Wellness Rebate / Performance Dividend	(486,977)	-	-	-
Medicare Part D Rebate	(104,727)	(19,239)	n/a	n/a
<i>Offsets Subtotal</i>	<u>(3,234,106)</u>	<u>(2,330,203)</u>	<u>(2,474,314)</u>	<u>(2,513,517)</u>
Expenses Less Offsets	<u>49,598</u>	<u>19,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,269</u>
2 PENSION BENEFITS				
CPP (<i>Death/Disability Insurance</i>)	216,716	218,677	222,753	230,431
CRSP-DC (<i>Pension Based on Compensation</i>)	232,873	238,651	240,436	249,206
CRSP-DB (<i>Pension Based on Years of Service</i>)	993,855	1,002,257	774,094	797,959
Allowance for Uncollected (2%)			24,000	25,000
<i>Expenses Subtotal</i>	<u>1,443,444</u>	<u>1,459,585</u>	<u>1,261,283</u>	<u>1,302,596</u>
Apportionments	(1,049,699)	(1,450,903)	(15,000)	-
Direct Bill Churches	-	-	(1,106,575)	(1,163,186)
Direct Bill Transition Grants	-	-	(100,000)	(75,000)
CPP Holiday	(216,716)	-	-	-
Conference Budgets	(48,784)	(45,531)	(30,708)	(39,410)
Endowment / Investment Earnings	(9,220)	(2,753)	(9,000)	(9,000)
<i>Offsets Subtotal</i>	<u>(1,324,419)</u>	<u>(1,499,187)</u>	<u>(1,261,283)</u>	<u>(1,286,596)</u>
Expenses Less Offsets	<u>119,025</u>	<u>(39,602)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,000</u>

2015 Budget Proposal

Detailed Budget Information

3 BENEFITS OFFICE / GRANTS

Medical & Retiree Premium Grants	21,046	13,224	50,000	50,000
Programs, Events, Etc	8,111	3,479	6,000	10,000
Benefits Office	55,261	58,010	77,000	93,000
<i>Expenses Subtotal</i>	84,418	74,713	133,000	153,000
Transfer from Endowment	(84,418)	74,713	(133,000)	(153,000)
Expenses Less Offsets	-	-	-	-

4 Funding Plan

Transfer to Retiree Health Fund	646,535	36,220	56,689	56,420
Active Participant Contribution - 3%	(17,808)	(36,207)	(56,689)	(56,420)
Lynch Trust Transfer	(532,471)	-	-	-
Apportionments	(96,256)	(13)	-	-
Expenses Less Offsets	-	-	-	-

5 Board Administration

Board Expenses	5,370	621	10,000	10,000
Apportionments	(5,683)	(5,819)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Expenses Less Offsets	(313)	(5,198)	-	-

Total Pension & Insurance Expenses	5,463,471	3,920,532	4,035,286	4,037,802
Total Offsets	(5,295,161)	(3,946,142)	(4,035,286)	(4,019,533)
Balance	168,310	(25,610)	-	18,269
Apportionments	1,776,545	1,616,327	112,000	103,731
Direct Bill to Churches	1,247,683	1,245,505	2,523,895	2,573,702
Total to Churches	3,024,228	2,861,832	2,635,895	2,677,433
HealthFlex Participant's Share	781,628	525,004	529,096	526,592

SECTION 2: CONSENT CALENDAR

Dakotas Cabinet Resolutions 2014

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:

Prairie Hills

Iona

Eastern Sunrise

Fargo Edgewood

Sakakawea

Guelph

Glacial Lakes

None

2. That July 1, 2014 be designated as the beginning of all new appointments for 2014-2015, unless prior arrangements have been made. The moving pastor's current charge shall pay the compensation, health, pension and other benefits through June 30, 2014.
3. That the moving schedule be flexible enough to consider the need of the pastors and 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 pastor 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.

Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations

Found on Pages 194-197 of the 2013 Journal

II. Budgeting and administration of funds by any committee or group that is funded through the apportionment system.

E. CCFA Apportionment Payout Policy: The Conference Policy allows funds to be paid out at 85% of budget (~~Fund 1— Ministerial Support and Administration and Fund 2—World Service and Conference Benevolences~~) for specific ministries until the last 120 days of the year. During the last 120 days, the accounts are reviewed and if the income is less than the expenditures, payments are stopped until income exceeds expenditures. As soon as funds are available, additional payments are sent. Pensions and Insurance is paid out monthly at 90% of the budget until the last 90 days of the year. During the last 90 days, the accounts are reviewed and if income is less than the expenditures, payments are stopped until income exceeds expenditures. As soon as funds are available, additional payments are sent. Compensation packages provided by the Annual Conference will be paid at 100%-100% of budget. Pensions and Insurance is paid out or passed through monthly. All organizational units of the conference shall adhere to their approved budgets and/or adopted spending plans.

V. Special Offerings

A. We recommend that every church, after having made arrangements to meet ~~World Service and Conference Benevolences in full, accept and support Advance Special projects as outlined and approved by the Board of Global Ministries of the Annual Conference.~~ 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 Director of Finance and Administrative Services: Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday, Children's Education Sunday, Rural Life Sunday and Disability Awareness Sunday.

C. Offerings received at the Annual Conference Session will be used at the discretion of the ~~Conference Board of Global Ministries for special mission projects~~ Annual Conference Sessions Committee and the Bishop.

D. Golden Cross Sunday: ~~The Conference Board of Global Ministries is granted permission to have a Golden Cross Sunday. Receipts from the offering shall be used at the discretion of the Conference Board of Global Ministries.~~ The Conference is granted permission to have a Golden Cross Sunday. Receipts from the offering shall be used to support Parish Nurse Programs.

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
PROPOSED MISSION CONGREGATION SUPPORT POLICY
THE DAKOTAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The declaration of the “mission congregation” status according to the *Discipline* (2012) 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* (2012) 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* (2012) 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.

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.

Resolution Submission for 2014 Dakotas Annual Conference Session

Title: *Authorize the Sale of Campus Ministry Property in Fargo*

Submitted by and contact information: *Conference Board of Trustees; Contact Jeff Pospisil (605-996-6552 | jeff.pospisil@dakotasumc.org)*

Action: *The Conference Board of Trustees are requesting authority to sell real estate located at 1239 North 12th Street in the city of Fargo in the state of North Dakota on behalf of the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.*

Relationship to the Scriptural Imperatives and rationale:

The property had been used by the corporation known as United Campus Ministry at the North Dakotas State University. In the summer of 2013, that entity discontinued using the building and vacated the property. Over the last five years, the Conference Board of Trustees has spent in excess of \$100,000 in repairing and maintaining the property. The property would be more usable in reaching college students and cultivating spiritual vitality if it were liquidated and a portion of the proceeds used for campus ministry grants to local churches in the Fargo area.

Implementation:

Upon approval, the Conference Board of Trustees will immediately put the property up for sale. Any two officers of the Conference Board of Trustees will be authorized to execute the sale. If needed, the North Dakota Chancellor will be contacted on legal matters.

Following the sale of the property, 50% of the proceeds will be deposited into the Trustees Repair and Replacement Fund which is held by the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation. The other 50% will be deposited in a new investment account with the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation. This new account will be managed as if it were an endowment with annual distributions being made in the form of campus ministry grants to churches in the Fargo area. Distributions will be made at the direction of the Missional Leaders Link.

Outcome: *The property in Fargo is currently a liability in that it consumes ministry dollars and is not being used for ministry. The result would be to convert that liability into an asset that will annually produce ministry dollars to support the ministry of local churches.*

Resources required: *Already included in the budget of the Conference Board of Trustees. If the property sells in a timely manner, the amount of staff time will be minimal.*

Equitable Compensation Policy

Effective January 1, 2013

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 (UMPIP) in No. 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/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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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

Equitable Compensation Policy

Effective January 1, 2013

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
2015	59,970 x 65% = 38,981	59,970 x 62% = 37,181
2014	58,094 x 65% = 37,761	58,094 x 62% = 36,018
2013	58,724 x 65% = 38,171	58,724 x 62% = 36,409
2012	57,158 x 65% = 37,153	57,158 x 62% = 35,438
2011	55,606 x 65% = 36,144	55,606 x 62% = 34,476

The charges which received Equitable Compensation support in 2013 were:

Belle Fourche, Beresford Zion, Eureka, Faulkton, Hazen/Beulah, Langdon, Lisbon/Lisbon PC-USA, Enderlin, Mandan, McClusky/Goodrich/Chaseley, Pierre Southeast, Wall/Wasta, Webster/Bristol-Butler, and White River/Mission

Housing/Parsonage Allowance for Ordained Conference 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 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 parsonage allowances are hereby designated for the calendar year 2015 and for all future years unless otherwise provided:

- Roy Caudill - \$13,000
- Keith Nelson - \$8,800
- Michael Flowers - \$7,000
- Brandon Vetter - \$7,000 (7/1/14)
- Randolph Cross - \$8,800
- Russell Masartis - \$7,000
- Rebecca Trefz - \$8,800 (7/1/14)

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 2015 and all future years unless otherwise provided:

- Roy Caudill - \$18,000

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.

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons 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 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the calendar year 2015 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 the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB 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.

Board of Pensions Recommendations to the 2014 Annual Conference

1. The Budget:

The Board recommends that the 2015 Board of Pensions Budget be adopted as proposed (detail outlined in the budget section of the JOURNAL) with the total apportionment request of \$103,731.

2. Clergy Medical Leave:

Glen Saylor and James Waisanen are approved to continue on medical leave and to receive CPP Disability Benefits for the conference year of July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015.

3. The Pre-82 (Past Service) Annuity Rate:

The Board recommends that the 2015 Past Service Annuity Rate (effective 1/1/2015) be set at \$645.00 for each year of pre-82 service in the Dakotas Conference. This is a 3.5% increase over 2014.

4. HealthFlex Issues:

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For 2015, the annual Direct Bill for premiums to “active” participants will be 28% of the total active HealthFlex premium. Of this 28%, 25% will be used to offset the current premium while 3% will be deposited into an account for our retiree health funding plan. This 25% portion will be Direct Billed to the active participants in two parts:

- a) A stated amount of \$1,015 for participant+1 coverage and \$1,470 for family coverage, plus
- b) An amount determined by the ratio of the previous year’s participant’s total compensation in their current place of work and ministry to the total compensation paid to all active participants in the Conference. (See Active Participant Premium Table) This “participant’s share” calculation applies to the position, not to the individual occupying the position, as long as the position’s compensation is within plus or minus five (5) percent (%) range of the previous compensation, for the purpose of calculating the amount to be paid after a move/change in personnel.

The actual amount to be paid directly by active participants in 2015 is approximately \$470,172. Eligibility to participate will be as specified in the HealthFlex Plan Documents and Conference Policy.

Premiums will be paid in accordance with Conference policies regarding such payments (see Policy section of this Journal).

5. Pensions and Health Benefits Guidelines:

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits affirms the Pension and Health Benefits Guidelines found in the Journal.

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- d. Participants appointed to medical leave and receiving CPP disability benefits and are Medicare Part B eligible may participate in the Conference Health Plan for retirees through One Exchange. If eligible, the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) will be based on age 65 and their number of years of service. Those not eligible for Medicare Part B 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 2015 and forward: 28% of participant’s actual premium, whether single or participant-plus-one or family) will be paid to the conference office.

6. Conference Health Benefits Plan Eligibility to Participate for Retirees, Spouses & Survivors (clergy or lay):

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- 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.

7. Administration of all plans and work of the Board:

The Board recommends that the following be authorized to sign necessary documents relative to the Dakotas Board of Pensions for 2014-2015: The Board Chair, the Conference Benefits Officer and the Treasurer of the Board.

8. 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 merger total \$84,646.59. The Corpus of the Endowment is \$1,084,646.59, as of 3/22/14. The Corpus is not viewed as a "target balance". It is the "foundation" of all Dakotas Pension and Health Plans and cannot be expended for any reason.

The Board of Pensions has adopted a strategy of "reserve savings" with accompanying policies endorsed by the Conference Council on Finance and administration which will enable the Dakotas Conference to "weather" large 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 Annual Conference upon request.

9. Regarding Lynch Trust Funds:

The Board of Pensions has adopted a policy regarding Lynch funds as the successor to the Conference Claimants Fund and therefore the entity responsible for administering funds today that are dedicated to the same purpose as the "Conference Claimant Fund" of the Methodist Episcopal Church [and the Methodist Church] as outlined in the will of Frank Lynch. See the pension report for full details.

10. RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED AND DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS are found in the "Resolutions" section of this Journal. The Board recommends adoption of these resolutions for calendar year 2015.

SECTION 3: ELECTED LEADERSHIP

II. ELECTED LEADERSHIP (draft)

*(Please contact nominations for changes:

Bill Hoffman 605-840-1801 or revwilly3@gmail.com)

The Common Table (CT)

Chairperson: Ray Baker

Class of 2015: *Sheri Meister*,

Class of 2016: Steve Behrens

Class of 2017: Rich Zeck

Class of 2018: Ray Baker, *Sheila Dailie*

Ex officio members (with vote):

Conference Council on Finance and Administration: Karl Kroger

District Superintendent: Keith Nelson

Conference Lay Leader or Associate: *Blaine Wilson / Jerry Botger*

Ex officio members (without vote):

Bishop: Bruce Ough

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS

Missional Leaders Link

Chair: Kori Lehrkamp

Class of 2015:

Class of 2016: Sally Wickware-Thompson 13, Gwen Mader 10

Class of 2017: Peggy Stempson 14, Kori Lehrkamp 14

Class of 2018: Steve Schlasner 14, Molly McCaskell 14

Standing Committees (membership with vote):

Representative from Board of Ordained Ministry: Jenny Hallenbeck

Chair from CCYM: Kris Mutzenberger

Chair from Camping: Nancy Trefz

Chair of Nominations: Bill Hoffman

Representative from Congregational Development Committee: Scott McKirdy

Ex officio (without vote):

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

Coordinator of Clergy Services: Doug Diehl

Equipper of Lay Servant Ministries: Steve Trefz

Director of Camping: *Becky Holten*

District Superintendent: Randy Cross

Standing Committees under Missional Leaders Link

Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) (*Nominated by the Bishop*)

Chair: Doug Diehl

Vice Chair: Jenny Hallenbeck

Secretary: Bill Gran

Registrar: Theta Miller

Registrar/Local Pastors/Associate Members: Kris Larson

Conference Relations Chair: Gary Ball-Kilbourne

Continuing Education Coordinator: Lori Broschat

Mentoring Coordinator: Dan Bader

Coordinator of Clergy Services : *Doug Diehl*

Retired Liaison: Howard Grinager

Local Licensed Pastor Liaison: Kris Larson

Deacon Liaison: Michelle Brennan

Extension Ministries Liaison: Bill Gran

Eastern Sunrise Committee Chair: Howard Baird

Glacial Lakes Committee Chair: Jan Gross

Prairie Hills Committee Chair: Eric Grinager

Sakakawea Committee Chair: Marty Toepke-Floyd

2004: Bill Gran

2008: Doug Diehl, *Bill Waugh*, Gary Ball-Kilbourne, Eric Grinager, Dean Trapp

2009: Theta Miller

2010: Jenny Hallenbeck, Dan Bader, Marty Toepke-Floyd, Mina Hall, Michelle Brennan, Kris Larson

2011: *Ernie Wight, Judy Christy*

2012: Chang Yi, Lori Broschat, Andy Bartel, Dave Andrews, Brandon Vetter,

Kathy Hartgraves, *Janelle Jones; Doug Erickson*

2013: Kathy Hammond, Howard Grinager

Ex Officio (with vote):

District Superintendent: Randy Cross

Ex Officio (without vote):

Coordinator of Clergy Services: Doug Diehl

School of Ministry

(Subsidiary of Board of Ordained Ministry-not a conference agency)

Chair: Russell Stewart

Registrar: Tim Vorlage

Secretary: Jeff Adel

2015: Tim Vorlage

2016: Lou Whitmer, Jeff Adel

2017: Kenrad Pederson, Jeri Burns, Russell Stewart

BOM Representative: Kathy Hartgraves

Committee on Nominations

Chairperson: Bill Hoffman 10

Sakakawea District: *Louise Braton 14*, Hazel Behrens 12, Dave Birkeland 13

Eastern Sunrise District: *Fern Bailey 10, Pat Siefken 11*,

Glacial Lakes District: Russell Stewart 12, Mary Lee Lint 12, *Sarah Hock 13*

Prairie Hills District: Bill Hoffman 10, Linda Baldock 10, Val Rush 10

Ex officio members (without vote):

Conference Lay Leader: *Blaine Wilson*

Conference Secretary: Mark Ellingson

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

Equipper of Lay Servant Ministries: Steve Trefz

Coordinator of Clergy Services: Doug Diehl

Non-Permanent Standing Committees under Missional Leaders

Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries (BCRM)

Chairperson: Nancy Trefz

Secretary: *(Rotated among board membership)*

2015: *Sherry McGuire 08 WAC,*

2016: *Lyll Workman 12, Marty Warns 12, Jeff Nelson 14*

2017: *Mark Johnsen 12 LPC, Peter Jones 14, Clay Lundberg 14*

2018: *Theresa Whetsel 14, Sean Binder 14, Nancy Trefz 14*

Ex Officio:

Executive Director: *Becky Holten*

Director of Finance and Administration: *Jeff Pospisil*

District Superintendent: *Randy Cross*

Auxiliary/Invited (without vote):

Site Directors/Assistant Directors: *Lake Poinsett: Kyle Sachs; Storm Mountain: Scott Jensen;*

Wesley Acres: Christy Heflin

Conference Council of Youth Ministries (CCYM)

Conference Coordinator of Youth Ministries: *Kris Mutzenberger 04*

Chair: *Layne Droppers 13*

Vice-Chair: *Stephanie Anderson 13*

District Coordinators:

Eastern Sunrise: *Matt Richards 08*

Glacial Lakes: *Diane Kisch 08*

Prairie Hills: *Brenda Swanson 04*

Sakakawea: *Lisa Rhodes 06*

Adults elected At Large: *Jeff Lathrop 14, John Britt 14, Brenda Lint 10; Wade Miller 11; Virg Whetsel 10;*

District Youth Representatives:

Prairie Hills: *Shelby Stotz; Nathan Bader; Samantha Nash*

Glacial Lakes: *Alison Uecker; Madeline Gould; Alleysia Ugofsky*

Sakakawea: *Rydel Samuelson; Katie Clark; Robby Samuelson*

Eastern Sunrise: *Jessica Higgins; Danielle Schinkel*

At Large Youth Representatives:

Alyssa Jensen; Natalie Hilton; Emily Warns; Allison Jensen

Ex-Officio:

Director of Camping and Youth Ministries: *Becky Holten*

Task Force for Missional Appointments

(from 2012 General Conference) (not Conference agency)

Named by Conference Lay Leader: *Janelle Jones, Kay Becker, Howard Grinager, Carol Knodle*

Named by Board of Ordained Ministry: *Gary Ball-Kilbourne, Dan Bader, Mina Hall*

District Superintendent: *Marilyn Spurrell*

EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS

Missional Congregations Link

Chair: Scott McKirdy

Class of 2015: *Dave Lambert 13*, Joel Higgins 10, Scott McKirdy 10

Class of 2016: Adam Weber 12, Dan Freed 12, *Greg Ewing-Lee 12*, *Connie Maxwell 10*

Class of 2017: *John Srstka 10*, Thom Bowsher 11, Jenene Earl 10

Class of 2018: *Tom Hall 10*,

Ex officio (without vote):

Bishop: Bruce Ough

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

Eastern Sunrise DS: Marilyn Spurrell, Roger Spahr

Glacial Lakes DS: Roy Caudill

Prairie Hills DS: Randy Cross

Sakakawea DS: Keith Nelson

EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT

Missional Impact Link

Chair: Lou Whitmer

Class of 2015: Jen Tyler 12, Mark Ehrmantraut 12

Class of 2016: *Elizabeth Ewing Lee 12*, Ron Olson 12, Lou Whitmer

Class of 2017: Keihwan Ryoo 10, *Jerilyn Hansen 13*

Class of 2018: *Cindy Nelson 10*, *Sheila Freed 12*

Standing Committees (membership with vote):

United Methodist Women: *Bonnie Ostenson*

United Methodist Men: _____

Ex Officio (with vote):

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries: Bobbie Larson

UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action: *Shirley Weese*

UMW Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation: *Sue Chaplin*

Ex officio members (without vote):

Associate Director of Missional Impact: Mike Flowers

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

District Superintendent: Keith Nelson

Standing Committees under Missional Impact

United Methodist Women (UMW)

President: *Bonnie Ostenson*

Vice President: *Colleen McKirdy*

Secretary: *LaVina Kleese*

Treasurer: *Irma DeSmet*

Social Action: *Shirley Wiese*

Membership, Nurture and Outreach: *Mary Lee Nielson*

Education and Interpretation: *Sue Chaplin*

Spiritual Growth: *Connie Smith*

Secretary of Program Resources: *Marsha Timm*

Communications Coordinator: *Janet Madsen*

Committee on Nominations: *Kay Harr, Chair, Robyn Nadvornik, Betty Brosz
Bobbi Larson, Marsha Martin*

United Methodist Men (UMM)

President: _____

Vice President:

Treasurer: *Robert Schultz*

Prayer Advocate: _____

GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES

Missional Resources Link

Chairperson: _____

Class of 2015: *Richard Craig 11, Steve Eliason 13*

Class of 2016: *Laurie Langland 10, _____*

Class of 2017: _____, *Pat Mersch 13*

Class of 2018: *Terry Nebelsick 10, Kip Roozen 10*

Standing Committees (with vote):

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits: *Marilyn Perry*

Board of Trustees: *Ron McLean*

Human Resources Committee: *Barry Whipkey*

CCFA Representative:

Ex officio members (without vote):

Director of Financial and Administrative Services: *Jeff Pospisil*

Executive Director of Dakotas UM Foundation: *Bruce Blumer*

District Superintendent: *Roy Caudill*

Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CCFA)

Chair: *Bob Duemig*

Vice Chair: *Bob Ruedebusch*

Secretary: *Jeff Adel*

Judy Banwart 06, Rod Buck 06, Roberta Drew 07, Robert Duemig 09, Perry Schnabel 09, Warren Wenzel 09,

Jeff Adel 09, Arlyn Coalter 10, Robert Ruedebusch 12, Karl Kroger 13, Dave Page 13, Ruth Barrett 13

Ex Officio (without vote)

Bishop: *Bruce Ough*

Director of Ministries: *Rebecca Trefz*

Director of Finance and Administration: *Jeff Pospisil*

Executive Director of Dakotas UM Foundation: *Bruce Blumer*

Board of Pensions Chair: *Marilyn Perry*

District Superintendent: *Roy Caudill*

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (BOPHB)

Chair: *Elaine Roberts 11*
Vice Chair: Peary Wilson 07
Recording Secretary: *Eric Walth 11*
Frank McKeehan 03, John Price 03, *Marilyn Perry 03, Dennis Evenson 04,*
Elmer Brinkman 07, *Joanne Ottmar 07,* Peary Wilson 07, *Don Armstrong 09,*
Elaine Roberts 11, Richard Wahlstrom 11, Eric Walth 11, Anne Osborne 12
Sara McManus 13, Al Roll 14, Jack Erickson 14, Alona Burtz 14

ND Registered Agent: *Joanne Ottmar*
SD Registered Agent: *Jeff Pospisil*
Ex officio (without vote)
Executive Secretary/Conference Benefits Officer: *Leana Stunes*
Board Treasurer: *Jeff Pospisil*
Assistant Board Treasurer: *JoAnn Schlimgen*
BOM Representative: Jan Gross
CCFA Representative: Bob Ruedebusch
CCFA President: Bob Duemig
District Superintendent: Roy Caudill

Board of Trustees (BOT)

Chair: *Ron McLean*
Vice Chair:
Secretary: *Rita Greer*
Class of 2015: Jerry Stolp 07, *Bob Cappel 08,* Rod Tkach 09, *Kevin Meisek 09,*
Class of 2016: Deb Mack 12, Marvin Winstryg 12; *Mark Stearns 12*
Class of 2017: *Merril Knodle 09,* Boyd Blumer 13
Class of 2018: *Rita Greer 06, Ron McLean 06, Alan Thornberg 10*
Ex Officio (without vote):
Director Finance and Administrative Services: *Jeff Pospisil*
Conference Chancellors: *Tim Ottmar, Nancy Oviatt*
District Superintendent: Roy Caudill

Human Resources Committee (HRC)

Chair: Barry Whipkey
Lay: *Nancy Bohlen 13, Dulci Stewart 13*
Clergy: Barry Whipkey 10, Jan Price 10
Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz
Missional Leaders representative: Kori Lehrkamp
Missional Congregations representative: Scott McKirdy
Missional Impact representative: Lou Whitmer
Missional Resources representative: Laura Borman
Common Table representative: Ray Baker
Ex Officio (without vote):
Bishop: Bruce Ough
Director of Finance and Administration: *Jeff Pospisil*

SUPPORT SERVICES

Commission on Archives and History (CAH)

Chair: Duane Coates

Vice-Chair: *Cheryl Finney*

Secretary: *Betty Testerman 13*

Class of 2015: *Tom Thaden 09*

Class of 2016: *Betty Testerman 12*

Class of 2017: *John Anderson 09*, Steve Trefz 12

Class of 2018: *Cheryl Finney 06*, Duane Coates 06

Ex Officio (with vote):

Conference Historian: Charles Finney

Ex Officio (without vote):

Archivist: *Laurie Langland*

Archivist emeritus: *Pat Breidenbach*

Annual Conference Sessions Committee (by Bishop) (not Conference agency)

Chairperson: Ryan Mutzenberger

Bishop: Bruce Ough

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

Associate Conference Lay Leader: *Jerry Bottger*

Host Superintendent: Randy Cross

Host Pastor/Lay Person: *Sharla McCaskell/Scott Sturlaugson*

Conference Office Staff: *Sharon Blumer*

Worship Coordinator: Jenny Hallenbeck

Communications Coordinator: *Doreen Gosmire*

Agenda Coordinator: Lee Gale

Site Coordinator: Dayne Zachrison

Conference Chancellors

North Dakota: Tim Ottmar

South Dakota: Nancy Oviatt

Administrative Review Committee (2013-2016) – Clergy

(Nominated by the Bishop-not a conference agency)

Clergy: Stephen Perry-Chair, Peg Zerface, Gary Rae

Alternate Clergy: Jeff Adel, Jerry Bass

Committee on Episcopacy (COE) (not a conference agency)

Chair: Rebecca Trefz

Vice Chair: Dar Berkenpas

Secretary: *Blaine Wilson*

Lay Members: *Jennifer Larsen 10, Janet Madsen 11*

Clergy Members: Dar Berkenpas 10, Kris Larson 10

Conference Lay Leader: *Blaine Wilson*

Members appointed by Bishop: *Jim Dustin 07, Cody Schuler 12*

Members from Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy: Rebecca Trefz, *Janelle Jones*

Historical Society Chair: Darwin Kopfmann

Records, Rules and Procedures Committee (not Conference agency)

Director of Ministries: Rebecca Trefz

Members: *Lazann Caudill*, Duane Coates, Mark Ellingson

Conference Disaster Response (not a conference agency)

Leadership (appointed by the Bishop): Lee Gale (ND) Kathy Chesney (SD)

Planning: Debra Ball-Kilbourne, Mark Ellingson, Linda Baldock

Consultants: *DeKaren Weemers*, Red River Resiliency

Logistics: *Merle Rubish*, *Jim Dustin*

Operations: *Jim Unkenholz*, Mike Flowers, *Libby Flowers*, *Jerry Bottger*, *Gary Fisher*,

Mary Hayenga, *Bruce Blumer*,

Administration and Communication: *Jeff Pospisil*, *Doreen Gosmire*, *Kathy Nelson*

Dakotas United Methodist Foundation Board (not a Conference agency)

President: *Tom Dravland*

Vice President: *Mike Goos*

Secretary: *Kay Werremeyer*

Executive Director: *Bruce L. Blumer*

Treasurer: *Jeff Pospisil*

Class of 2013: *Libby Flowers 08*, *Al Vanderlaan 05*, *Bob Westall 09*, *Jennifer Larsen 09*

Class of 2014: *Linda Inniger 06*, *Kay Werremeyer 06*, *David Nash 09*, Howard Grinager 10

Class of 2015: *Richard Platt 11*, *Tom Dravland 07*, *Kathy Roll 11*, *Don Caine 09*

Class of 2016: *Mike Goos 08*, *Sharla McCaskell 12*, *Taryce Malnaa 12*, *Don Bradley 12*

DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

Glacial Lakes District

District Lay Leader: *Nancy Hallenbeck*

Glacial Lakes District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Clergy: Jan Gross – Chair: Dean Trapp, Kris Mutzenberger,
Bob Ruedebusch, Barry Whipkey, Nancy Manning

Laity: *Troy Hansen, Dave Holzwarth*

District Superintendent: Roy Caudill

Glacial Lakes Committee on Building and Location

Clergy: Gary Rae, Barry Whipkey, Roy Caudill

Laity: *John Claggett, Cortland Carnes, Beth Niemeyer*

Glacial Lakes District Superintendency Committee

District Lay Leaders: *Nancy Hallenbeck*

Lay Women: *Diane Kisch,*

Lay Men: *Charles Schnabel,*

Clergy: *Kathy Hartgraves-chr*

Members at Large: *Arlayne Ruhack*

Glacial Lakes District Committee on Nominations

Sara Hock, Mary Lee Lint, Russell Stewart

Ministry Team Presiding Elders/Lay Servant Ministry Coordinators

Brookings: John Price (Canistota)/*Chad Hansen* (Dell Rapids)

Huron: Stephen Perry (Redfield)/*Laura Hemenway* (Huron)

Sioux Falls: Ross Reinhiller (Sioux Falls Southern Hills)/*Nancy Olsen* (Sioux Falls First)

Mitchell: R. Duane Coates (Wagner/Tyndall)/*Betty Janke* (Olivet)

Yankton: Steve Ziebarth (Canton)/*Dave Stephenson* (Wakonda)

Eastern Sunrise District

Co-District Lay Leaders: *Melanie Reiners, Jerry Nankivel*

Eastern Sunrise District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Clergy: Chair: Joel Winckler; Tom Haggar, Lori Broschat, Nancy Manning,

Marilyn Spurrell, Steve Olson, Jerry Bass

Laity: *Yvonne Smith, Don Larson, Gerald Fields*

Eastern Sunrise District Building and Location Committee

Clergy: Mina Hall, Mark Ellingson, Marilyn Spurrell

Laity: *Roger Parkinson (Chair), Neil Jordheim, Barb Pharis*

Eastern Sunrise District Superintendency Committee

Laity: *Kay Braun, Jerry Nankival, Katherine Tweed, Melanie Reiners, Clark Moeckly*

Clergy: Lee Gale, Dave Motta, Kevin Kloster, Chair, Joel Higgins, Theta Miller

Eastern Sunrise Committee on Nominations

Fern Bailey, Pat Siefken,

Ministry Team Presiding Elders/ Lay Servant Ministry Coordinators

Aberdeen: Eldon Reich(Aberdeen First)/*Vicki Renner* (Britton)

Watertown: Joel Higgins (Watertown First)/*Melanie Reiners* (Milbank)

Wahpeton: Michael Ward (Milnor)/*Mike Beeson* (Wahpeton)

Fargo: Kevin Kloster (Fargo Faith)/*Frank Kratky* (Fargo)

Upper Valley: Lori Broschat (Cavalier)/*Kevin Wold* (Holmes)

Sakakawea District

District Lay Leader: *Iva Wenzel*

Sakakawea District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Clergy: Marty Toepke-Floyd (Chair), Kenrad Peterson, Michelle Brennan, David Birkland, Keith Nelson

Laity: *Dave Reeves, Ike Aichele, Janet Thielman*

Sakakawea District Locations and Building Committee

Clergy: Rick Craig, Steve Behrens, Perry Schnable, Art Scanson, Keith Nelson

Laity: _____, *Rick Ennen, Cliff Jacobson*

Sakakawea District Superintendency Committee

Clergy: _____

Laity: *Scott Schaar, Ken McDougal, Roger Caine, Barb Winger, Iva Wenzel (District Lay Leader)*

Sakakawea Committee on Nominations

Iva Wenzel

Ministry Team Presiding Elders/ Lay Servant Ministry Coordinators

Jamestown: Kenrad Pederson /*Anne Osborne* (Wimbledon)

Spirit Lake: Judy Banwart (Langdon) /*Sharon Duval* (New Rockford)

Dickinson: Steve Behrens (Hazen)/*Holly Seifert* (Dickinson)

Minot: Gary Ball-Kilbourne (Minot Vincent)/*Lisa Endresen* (Minot Faith)

Bismarck: Perry Schnabel (Bismarck)/*Carolyn Desper* (Mandan)

Prairie Hills District

District Lay Leader *Bob Wik* (Gregory)

Coordinators for Lay Servant Ministries: *Larry Cass* (Pierre); *Myrnaloy Smith* (RC South Maple); *Larry Madsen* (Gettysburg)

District Mission Secretary: *Sue Chaplin* (Sturgis)

Prairie Hills District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Eric Grinager (Rapid City) Chair

Howard Baird (Piedmont) Secretary

Clergy: Eric Grinager (RC Canyon Lake); Linda Baldock (White River); Mark Phillips (Trinity

Lead/Deadwood); Mary Ann Sheldon (Spearfish); Howard Baird (Piedmont); Scott McKirdy (Spearfish)

Laity: *Andrea Seeley* (Piedmont); *Bob Drabek* (RC Canyon Lake); *Larry Madsen* (Gettysburg)

District Superintendent: Randy Cross

Prairie Hills District Committee on Building and Locations

Clergy: *Sharla McCaskell* (Rapid City), *Gordon Higgins* (Spearfish), *Jeff Adel* (Wheatland Parish/Gettysburg);

Darwin Kopfmann (Wall/Wasta)

Laity: *Robert Puffer* (Hot Springs), *Jean Kroger* (Rapid City), *David Bonde* (Pierre) *Eileen Wilson* (Pringle)

District Superintendent: Randy Cross

Prairie Hills District Superintendency Committee

District Lay Leader: *Bob Wik* (Gregory)

D.S. Appointment: Dan Bader (Pierre), *Jerry Laird* (RC First)

Lay Women: *Ashley Alsup* (Sturgis), *Geniece Gebhart* (Winner),

Lay Men: *Everett Follette* (Spearfish), *Larry Madsen* (Gettysburg)

Clergy: Jenene Earl (Sturgis); Val Rush (Winner)

Members at Large: John McKnight (RC South Maple); *Bonnie Ping* (Highmore)

Prairie Hills Committee on Nominations

Bill Hoffman (Faulkton), Linda Baldock (White River/Mission); Val Rush (Winner)

Ministry Team Presiding Elders/Lay Servant Ministry Coordinators

Prairie Harvesters: Julie Nygaard (Cresbard/Tolstoy)/*Nancy Trefz* (Tolstoy)

Northern Hills: Howard Baird (Piedmont)/*Jim Hoff* (Lead)

Winner: Val Rush (Winner)/*Vicki Dobesh* (Burke)

Pierre: Linda Baldock (White River/Mission)/*Penny Galinat* (Pierre)

Rushmore: Keihwan Ryoo (Rapid City First/Rapid City Korean)/*Justin Trent* (Prairieview)

RELATED AGENCIES

Wesley Center of Religion

President: *Rex Huss*

Vice President: *Deb Glennen*

Secretary: Jerry Bass

Treasurer and Bishop's Representative: *Jeff Pospisil*

Class of 2013: *Rex Huss, Dale Taylor*

Class of 2014: *Janette Yaeger, Judy Christy*

Class of 2015: Jerry Bass, *Deb Glennen*

Annual Conference Representatives: Lori Broschat, Lee Gale

Tree of Life Ministry

President: *Tom Gilmore*

Vice President: Linda Baldock

Secretary: Sheila Richards

Treasurer: *Jeff Pospisil*

Executive Director: Russell Masartis

Members: Linda Baldock, *Jeannine Carpenter, Tom Gilmore, David Hansen, Allen Herrboldt, Phil Lint, John Stearns, Peary Wilson*

Ex Officio:

Bishop: Bruce Ough

Prairie Hills District Superintendent: Randy Cross

Open Door Community Center Board of Directors

Chairs: *Jean Newborg, Marilyn Johnson*

Secretary: *Linda Suko*

Treasurer: *Derrick Hobein*

Trustee Representative: *Jerry Suko*

Director: *Jolene Stading Puhalla*

Members: Art Scanson, *Carrol Burchinal, Carol Desper, Jim Unkenholz, Phil Sjursen, Kermit Culver, Nyla Switlick, Joel Winckler, Ross Reinhiller, Steven Johnson, Myrna Petermann*

District Superintendent: Keith Nelson

Parent Representative: *Lana Roaldson*

Haiti Solar Oven Partners Advisory Board

Glacial Lakes District: *Gene Bethke*, President

Prairie Hills District: *Trina Miller*

Sakakawea District: *Dave Silbernagel, Karen Workman*

At Large Member: Phil Lint

Expertise: *Diane Rieken*, Secretary

CCMP Representative: *Gloria Borgman*

Missionary and Director: *Rick Jost*

Spirit Lake Ministry Center Advisory Board

President: Jerry Bass

Members: Kathy Hammond, *Tom Hall, Jim Dustin, Gary Osborn, Jake Roemmich*

Ex Officio:

Mike Flowers, *Libby Flowers*

SECTION 4: CONFERENCE REPORTS

Common Table Report

I am honored to work with talented and dedicated members of the Common Table. Their faithful approach to ministry and dedication to the teachings of our Living Christ are genesis of our efforts.

The Common Table works with the Bishop to guide the vision of the Conference. The leadership of the conference carries the vision forward and looks for ways to make it become a reality. I offer my thanks and praise to the people involved in the Links and Task Forces working throughout the Annual Conference. They are the hands and feet of our ministry that will help us achieve vitality in our Conference ministries.

Our Conference is maintaining our commitment to the Four Areas of Focus and the Four Pathways of Ministry. This work is being done throughout our Conference Links and our local churches.

Four Areas of Focus:

- Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations.
- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.

Four Pathways of Ministry:

- Developing Missional Leaders
- Equipping Missional Congregations
- Extending Missional Impact
- Generating Missional Resources

In September 2013 , the Common Table hosted a leadership event to help embrace the vision of the Conference. Bishop Scott Jones, from the Great Plains Conference led our event and walked us through the importance of focusing on the Four Pathways for Ministry. The Common Table will offer another leadership event on September 26-27, 2014; in Fargo, ND.

The Dakotas Platform for ministry was approved a September 2009, during a special session of the Annual Conference. Living into this new model for ministry has been a challenging process. Many aspects of the Platform have gone smoothly. There is a need to clarify the language in our conference structure. The language that needs clarification is being proposed at this annual conference session.

Rev. Ray Baker, Chair of the Common Table

Director of Ministries Office

Two words summarize my reflections about this past year in the Dakotas Conference – **forward** and **transition**. Here's some of my "forward" thinking. Out of the tremendous spiritual energy of last year's conference session and miracle offering, we danced forward with momentum on our Journey Toward Vitality. Our strategic plan was fleshed out in greater detail so that the Vision Pathways were developed further with specific, strategic initiatives. We then focused on defining expected outcomes, along with steps and sequencing to achieve the desired results. We are going forward in the implementation of those next steps.

In September the Common Table hosted a leadership convocation around the theme of **Forward: Bold Spirit, Leaders**. Lay and clergy leaders from across the conference gathered for worship, teaching, presentations, and conversations around the direction and priorities of the Dakotas Conference. The outcome of this event was enhanced understanding and alignment of our efforts to live into the Journey Toward Vitality.

As we entered 2014, we moved forward with a new apportionment formula. I'll let Jeff Pospisil and others from our Conference Council on Finance and Administration cover the nitty gritty of how things are going, but suffice to say this shift to a formula based on local church offerings is a bold, forward looking approach... an approach that reframes many of the old debates about apportionments so that we can keep clearer focus on our mission of making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

And now as we prepare for the annual conference session in Rapid City, we look forward to discussion and decision about a feasibility study for a capital campaign for congregational development. The geographic bounds of our conference contain areas of dramatic population growth. From the Bakken Oil Region, to the I-29 corridor, and west again to the Black Hills region – we face an opportunity to plant new faith communities perhaps unprecedented since the early days of pioneer settlement. But to face that reality and ponder the future with a faith-filled response, we need to step forward in gathering the resources God is providing for this exciting work. It may just be that a capital campaign will be the means through which God delivers many of those resources.

Now a word about that other word – transition... Forward movement cannot be accomplished without change and transition. The external factors or circumstances constitute the changes along the way. What we experience on the inside is the transition. The Journey Toward Vitality has created change, change that has strong continuity with our past, but is change, nonetheless. This is change leading to a season of transition. Our internal response might be a sense of loss or anxiety. But this is also a time of fresh possibilities, God-inspired, God-sized possibilities. We are forming a new set of lenses through which to evaluate the effectiveness of our ministries. Given this new perspective we will begin to see our current outputs and outcomes in a different way. This view will grow more distinct as the Common Table leads us this coming fall through an in-depth assessment of the alignment/non-alignment between our current budget and ministries and the Journey Toward Vitality. This discipline will help us be better stewards of the resources of the annual conference and most importantly, be more accountable to the conference's mission and vision.

For me, transition is also occurring in a more personal aspect. For the past 4 years I have had the holy privilege of serving in the conference center office. I have enjoyed the company of the conference staff and the cabinet. I have learned much from the leadership of Bishop Kiesey and Bishop Ough. I am thankful and humbled by their trust and the responsibilities they have placed in me. There is a wealth of experiences, wisdom gained through relationships across the annual conference and beyond, and gratitude for the ways in which I have been equipped for this next phase of pastoral ministry. As I return to a local

church appointment at Rapid City First UMC, I am also grateful that this office will have a most capable leader at the helm. Please join me in surrounding Rev. Rebecca Trefz with prayer, and extending to her our encouragement in this time of transition for her.

Greg Kroger
Director of Ministries

Communications

Conference communications continues on the journey of creating virtual and digital frameworks to tell the great ministry stories of the Dakotas. Three major activities occurred this year: the Dakotas Video Conference system (DAVID) was updated and expanded, a new e-mail communication platform was designed, and an electronic database for the clergy, church and laity directory was implemented.

Six new DAVID sites have been added across the Dakotas Conference at the following locations:

- Aberdeen First United Methodist Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota
- Grand Forks Wesley United Methodist Church, Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Vincent United Methodist Church, Minot, North Dakota
- Pierre First United Methodist Church, Pierre, South Dakota
- Watertown First United Methodist Church, Watertown, South Dakota
- Faith United Methodist Church, Williston, North Dakota

These sites supplement the current sites at Bismarck, Fargo, and Jamestown in North Dakota and; Mitchell, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls in South Dakota. Two of these sites Mitchell and Sioux Falls received updated high definition equipment.

One of the key communication tools for the Dakotas Conference is an e-mail platform that allows for e-news to be sent. This platform is utilized for Mondays @ Dakotas, Pastors @ Dakotas, death announcements, and other special announcements. A new platform that interacts with the Conference website www.dakotasumc.org was implemented in August 2013. The new system allows for calendar and news items posted on the website to be placed directly into an e-mail template that is sent out to various e-mail groups. The new e-mail platform allows the website to serve as the base for all electronic communications.

The Dakotas Conference office now utilizes an online database system for the clergy, church, and laity directory that interfaces with the website. The database can be downloaded and utilized for various functions throughout the Conference such as mailings, The Journal, e-mail groups, etc.

Dakotas Conference communication purchased a high definition video camera for the purposes of filming informational and promotional videos to be used by churches, offices and agencies throughout the Conference. Since the purchase of the camera in mid-February 2014 over 100 hours of video have been shot and a total of 90 minutes of production video, well over 10 videos are available for use. Videos can be viewed and downloaded at www.vimeo.com/, search for Dakotas UMC.

One of greatest joys of communications is that there are awesome ministry stories to tell throughout the Dakotas Conference. This past year over 16 stories about ministries in the Dakotas appeared in major denominational and nationwide news venues. Stories featured included: the Bakken Oil Rush Ministry, Embrace Church as one of the fastest growing churches in the U.S., Dakotas Conference's growth in church attendance, Shoebox Christmas at Spirit Lake Ministry, Haiti Solar Oven Partners, and a whole lot more.

I thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to tell the stories of how the Dakotas Conference is making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Doreen Gosmire
Associate Director of Communications

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS

(Equipping Link – Missional Leaders Group)

Most significant about our Conference pathway to “developing missional leaders” is placing within our common vocabulary the phrase “effective, missional leaders.” That phrase has been a large part of our conversation on many levels within the Dakotas Conference impacting our planning, our relationships, our expectations and our tasks.

This phrase has brought uneasiness, as we have had to ask ourselves, “Am I an effective, missional leader?” At the same time, it has also challenged us in working out our God-given call as lay and clergy.

This phrase has impacted the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry in:

- looking for effectiveness in those entering the process towards ordained ministry
- helping to cultivate effectiveness and a missional focus in those who are in the process towards to ordination through their three year
- continuation of our own Licensing and Lay Ministry School for those becoming Local Pastors and Certified Lay Ministers
- training events for the District Committees on Ministry and Mentors
- a new emphasis towards raising up and cultivating young clergy with such events as EXPLO and the Elisha Project internship program
- defining the standards of effectiveness for active clergy
- being more relational with our clergy at all stages of ministry.

Another phrase that has become predominant in our conversation is “culture of call” as we ask how we can be more effective in creating an environment in which all people, especially our young, open themselves up to the possibility of God’s call into ministry. This means we identify the gifts and graces of one another and invite persons to walk into God’s call on their lives.

The phrases “effective, missional leaders” and “culture of call” are more than just words. They will guide our work and our prayers. With reliance on the Holy Spirit, cooperating with the Holy Spirit’s work that transcends anything we do, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our communities, the Dakotas Conference, and out into the world.

Doug Diehl, Coordinator of Clergy Services

Camping and Retreat Ministry

Bishop Ough reported several weeks ago after his attendance at the Ordinands' Retreat that of the five individuals being commissioned at Annual Conference this year all shared they first heard their call to ministry at camp or that call was nurtured at camp. The Dakotas Conference has a rich history with the camping ministry and many individuals have strong emotional ties with the camping ministry because of life changing, transformational experiences at camp. What a gift to celebrate, but also a gift that should not be taken for granted but nurtured well in the midst of our changing world.

The statistics from this year's ordinands clearly proves that camping is helping develop bold, spirit, missional leaders. And yet as we strive to intentionally align the camping ministry with the four strategic pathways of the Dakotas Conference Journey to Vitality we need to look more carefully at how this happens. What can we be doing in the Camping Ministry to further enhance the leadership opportunities we offer? What are the outcomes of the camping ministry that can be measured as we seek to provide opportunities for individuals to be open to a life call in ministry and to develop as fully as possible into the individuals God created them to be? How does the work of the Camping Ministry impact the ministries of the local churches and the ministry of the Conference? How do we communicate our vision and outcomes to individuals and to the local church? How do we stay relevant and focused on the work we are called to do? The changing world around us presents both opportunities and challenges.

The Dakotas Conference Camping Ministry has been working with consultant Jody Oates of Kaleidoscope, Incorporated since November. Jody is a United Methodist pastor that has been a part of the camping ministry most of his life. Jody grew up in the camping ministry, has served as the executive director of several conferences and then came on board with Kathy Trotter of Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope, Inc. worked with the Dakotas Conference in the late 1990's to develop the master plan for camping. That plan was then updated in 2005. Our current work with Kaleidoscope though does not focus primarily on facilities but on the following four outcomes:

1. Discernment and alignment with Conference initiatives as we claim a clear role for the future within the Conference
2. Identifying the ministry vision and goals for participants including measurable outcomes for participants and impact on local churches
3. Developing a sustainable operational model that moves toward an acceptable balance of fees and gifts in the future
4. Developing a structure that can be nimble, empowered and active; a governance policy board

The consultant's report was just received by the Camping Task Force on April 28th and forwarded to the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries where it was formally accepted. The consultant recommends the following five key areas of growth for future long-term health of the Dakotas Conference Camping Ministry.

1. Develop shared outcomes for the camping ministry across the Conference
2. Create a staffing model to enact initiatives which will involve ongoing communication, education, and training
3. Focus the operating model and niche of each site
4. Construct a financial model to fund all areas of ministry
5. Empower a policy governance board with strategic leaders

While these five areas of growth are easily stated they will require a great deal of on-going prayer, self-reflection, time, energy and hard work. The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries is currently waiting for another proposal for continued work with Kaleidoscope. Outgoing members of the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries will meet with incoming members in early June to facilitate the transition to the new board and make plans to continue the work already begun. Our first task will be to develop shared and measurable outcomes for the camping ministry. Please know we will continue to share information with you about this important ministry in the Dakotas.

The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministry appreciates your passion and partnership in the camping ministry. Please continue to share the word about the life changing experiences camping provides and hold the ministry in prayer as together we seek to grow bold, spirit, missional leaders who are open to a call for life ministry.

*Together in ministry,
Becky Holten, Director
Camping and Youth Ministries*

Conference Council on Youth Ministry

*Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches,
letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights. ~Pauline R. Kezer*

The Dakotas Conference Council on Youth Ministry has been in the process of making changes in ministry over the last several years. We have been evaluating our ministries to the youth and youth workers of the Dakotas. Taking a careful look at involvement, programming, communications, event quality, expressed needs and visions, we brainstormed and have formulated new ways to carry out our mission statement: to offer Christ to the youth of the Dakotas Conference.

Our evaluative efforts and goal setting have required us to make difficult, yet exciting decisions about our future ministry. So it is with resolve, excitement, and hope that we report:

- We are currently deep in the planning of the first ever **Dak Youth** event for grades 6-12 which will occur July 14-16, 2014.
- Training, supporting and equipping the paid and volunteer youth workers across our conference is a recognized and valuable part of our ministry.
 - **Youthworker Academy** – A training event held May 2-4, 2014, at Lake Poinsett Camp and remotely for most workshops in Bismarck and Rapid City, featured Andrew Zirschky, as our teacher. He spoke about the era of social media and how it effects youth ministry.
- CCYM election process continues to be tweaked as our CCYM schedule changes.
- **Winter Connection** was expanded to include Middle School Students. Winter Connection is an overnight event was held simultaneously at 3 regional locations (this year: Storm Mountain Center, Bismarck McCabe UMC, and Brookings First UMC). Fun, fellowship, prayer stations, mission projects and worship were the body of this event in 2014.
- **Leadership Training Camp** continues to be a place in which the youth leaders elected to the CCYM practice leadership. Staffed by CCYM adults and other conference leaders the youth in attendance select classes to attend daily, learn about, plan, and lead worship, enjoy fun and fellowship, build lasting friendships and study biblical themes each day in large and small groups.
- We continue to promote our events through the Mondays at Dakotas Email list, paper mailings and continual revisions and additions to our website: www.dakyouth.com

- The CCYM continues to be an important area in which young leaders discern a call to the ordained ministry. As leaders, we take this responsibility seriously, as well as the responsibility to educate and nurture leaders for the future of the church. As we continue to work more closely with the Board of Ordained Ministry, we hope to strengthen their process of encouraging and connecting with those discerning a call into ministry, both as laypersons and as clergy.

Submitted by:

Rev. Kris Mutzenberger

Conference Youth Coordinator

Laity Report

Greetings to the laity of the Dakotas Conference in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This has been a busy year for the laity as they have done an enormous amount of work on a couple of fronts. This has also been a busy year for me as I continue to learn and grow in this position. My current committee assignments remain unchanged, but I have learned a great deal this past year.

First, our laity have worked very hard on their efforts to alleviate hunger both on a local and global level. The Dakota Marketplace continued to grow in its second year at its new home, raising over \$200,000 from the Marketplace, the Auction and cash donations. Also, over 7,000 UMCOR kits were assembled and over 400 Shoebox Christmas packages were sent to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota. The value of the UMCOR kits was a little over \$105,000.

The Laity also continued to grow their faith through the area of Leadership Development. In this past year we conducted 5 Basic and 7 Advanced Lay Servant courses throughout the Conference. 4 Module 1 Events were held with almost 50 participants attending. We are once again looking forward to the LLP/CLM Licensing School to be held at Living Waters Retreat in late July. The Leadership Development Team is also looking at ways to improve and streamline the training process, including looking into the possibility of conducting a Basic Lay Servant Course via the DAVID system. Our 20 Lay Ministry Team coordinators have also been surveying 2013 Annual Conference lay delegates for exciting congregational practices and future training needs, with the goal of planning Basic and Advanced training events for Fall 2014/Winter2015 in each ministry team area.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Jodi Cataldo for her great work on behalf of lay servant ministries, and send her prayers as she now works on behalf of the globe's laity with the General Board of Discipleship! We are excited that she will still be a part of our conference as well. In addition, Steve Trefz began working "officially" as Equipper of Lay Servant Ministries in November 2013, and will continue to serve in that role on a part-time basis. He will be charged with networking and organizing the trainings and vision of lay ministry along with Conference lay leaders and Conference staff.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Laity of the Dakotas Conference in this role. I ask for your prayers as we move forward to do even greater things to advance the Kingdom.

Blaine Wilson, Conference Lay Leader

Young Adult and Campus Ministry

Young Adult and Campus Ministries in the Dakotas have changed much in the last year. After the budgeting changes in the area of Campus Ministry, the Missional Leaders Link asked for applications from differ-

ent ministry opportunities. Young Adult and Campus Ministries works to support the local ministries in churches and on campus that help to create younger Missional Leaders. The Link reviewed and accepted four grant applications for ministries involved with Young Adults and Campuses, those grants include:

- Christ on Campus, is an outreach ministry of Faith UMC in Fargo on the campus of North Dakota State University. Christ on Campus, a student-led organization, at Faith UMC exists to:
 - Make disciples that transform the world
 - Strengthen the revitalization effort at Faith by bringing in younger, more diverse people.
- United Campus Ministries at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is:
 - inspiring faith IN ACTION
 - advancing love of God and humanity; diversity and inclusiveness
 - informed by a spirit of courage, compassion and collaboration
 - United Campus Ministries works with the local churches throughout Rapid City, including Canyon Lake UMC and First UMC
- Rapid City South Maple is in ministry with the Football Team at the campus of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.
 - Providing opportunities for the Football Team Members and partners to come to events at South Maple and to get to know the members and ministries.
 - Providing opportunities for worship and study.
- Spearfish UMC is in ministry with the young adults on the Black Hills State Campus beginning with a small group Bible Study and expanding and connecting the young adults within the congregation and those on campus.

These ministries are just the beginning of the new and fruitful connections of the Dakotas Conference with Campuses and Young Adult Ministries. Other local congregations are working with campuses and young adults without the benefit of conference grants. Including bible studies and small groups specifically geared toward young adults and college students. New worship services directed toward college age adults. Conversations and events happening throughout the conference as churches focus on an age group often left forgotten. The Missional Leaders Link will continue to explore and equip these ministries.

Rev. Sara McManus, Young Adult and Campus Ministries

EQUIPPING MISSIONAL CONGREGATIONS (Equipping Link – Missional Congregations Group)

The specific strategies and steps to Equip Missional Congregations have focused on supporting development of new faith communities and targeted revitalization of existing congregations. A significant trend in starting new faith communities or congregations is based on multiplying the ministry of a parent congregation. This can take form through the creation of an off-site worship setting or second campus. At times video and audio technologies link the sites together allowing for streaming of worship content, such as the sermon. These technologies also increase the capacity for establishing more than one off-site campus. In other settings, everything is “live” at each site with music and preaching provided directly at that location. Over time a second campus may remain connected with the parent or the new faith community may develop along the track of becoming a separately chartered congregation.

The Dakotas Conference considers multiple models and options when it comes to starting new congrega-

tions. The decision around which model to utilize is connected to the context of a planting environment (the mission field); the vision, resources, and character of a parent congregation; the leadership available, and the conference resources available.

The Equipping Link – Missional Congregations Group has been working primarily with these new faith community developments this past year:

- **Fusion** – Worshiping on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University, Fusion began as a second site of First UMC, Mitchell and is now on track to become a second, chartered UM congregation in that community. Fusion has the unique distinction of being a faith community formed in direct relationship with a university while seeking to reach the broader young adult community in the Mitchell area.
- **The Gathering** – With a focus on reaching young adults in the Fargo/Moorhead area, The Gathering meets in a theatre in downtown Fargo. The ministry was initiated as a partnership between Fargo First UMC and the Dakotas Conference. The Fargo/Moorhead region is one of the fastest growing areas in the country among communities of similar size, plus it has a young adult population that is vibrant and burgeoning.
- **Encounter** – This is a second campus of Cornerstone UMC in Watertown. While there is no direct conference funding going into this effort, the experiences of this highly fruitful multi-site venture are providing valuable learning for further church plants elsewhere in the Dakotas.
- **Embrace** – In just over seven years Embrace in Sioux Falls has not only grown to be the highest attended congregation in the Dakotas Conference, but also Embrace has been recognized this past year as the 4th fastest growing church in the country. Embrace received additional conference resources in 2013/2014. The purpose of these supplemental investments was to create the technological capacity for Embrace to go multi-site. In April 2014 a new worship site was successfully launched in Tea. Through the technology platform now created other new locations are possible.
- **Rapid City Korean Church** – As a “church within a church,” the Rapid City Korean Church is a fellowship that meets and worships at Rapid City First UMC. This past year marked the end of the structured, financial support agreement between the congregation and the Dakotas Conference. Options for the future include possible designation as a Mission Congregation.

An essential foundation for future new faith community development is found in the **identification, recruitment, training, and deployment of persons with a calling and gifts to be a church planter**. A very small percentage of clergy, as well as other laity in leadership demonstrate the required calling and competencies to be an effective planter. This makes the search all the more challenging. Several months ago 17 persons from the Dakotas joined colleagues from Minnesota in a church planter assessment experience. Already, that training has strengthened our planter identification efforts. Most of the participants will not go on to plant churches, but for the few potential planters identified thus far it has been very worthwhile. We need to be always on the lookout for the persons that God is calling to this specialized ministry.

We face a critical need for additional financial resources. Starting new churches, resourcing existing churches and recruiting, developing and deploying passionate, purposeful leaders for faith communities of diverse models, constituencies and mission fields is a primary role of the Dakotas Conference. The apportioned budget cannot adequately provide for congregational development. While supplemental revenue from invested funds designated for congregational development is waning, our Dakotas Conference

strategic plan and goals require investment of even greater resources for growth. Remaining balances of asset accounts available for congregational development are depleted or are nearing minimum levels. A **feasibility study for a capital campaign for congregational development** will move in the direction of addressing our critical need.

Since the year 2000, our investments in planting new churches and in targeted revitalization of existing congregations have resulted in an **increase of an average weekly worship attendance of approximately 2,045 people (about 10% of our total attendance)**. Currently, areas of the Dakotas are experiencing rates of population increase that are among the highest in the nation. By 2023 North Dakota's population is projected to increase by 111,447 and South Dakota's by 88,280.

Supporting revitalization of existing congregations has taken shape in several ways over this past year. **Salary support grants** were provided to Flame of Faith UMC, West Fargo; Rapid Valley UMC, Knollwood Heights UMC, Rapid City; and Southern Hills UMC, Sioux Falls. This assistance equipped each of these congregations to grow in vitality, in part through the leadership of a strategically appointed missional leader placed according to the congregation's missional potential.

Coaching/Consultation agreements have been helpful to a number of congregations in the Dakotas. Knollwood Heights, Rapid Valley, and South Maple – all Rapid City area UM congregations, continued their work with Paul Nickerson. Under a similar agreement that has now ended, Paul consulted at Sioux Falls Hilltop UMC and Dell Rapids UMC. Elsewhere, a consultation with follow-up coaching was put in place for Faith UMC in Williston. A similar process is planned for the Dickinson UMC later this year.

For almost two years we worked with the Williston congregation and the General Board of Global Ministries to bring a **church and community worker** to that congregation and community. **Katie Peterson** has now joined our efforts in the Oil Rush Ministry. Her position is supported through funding from Faith UMC, GBGM, and apportioned dollars designated for congregational development.

The strongest lever in our inventory of revitalization methods is the **Missional Church Initiative (MCI)**. MCI is an extremely intentional approach to providing leadership development and creating congregational transformation. A major outcome sought in MCI is the launch of a fresh, new lifecycle of fruitfulness within a local congregation. Elements of MCI include: pastoral training, congregational self-study, mystery worshiper reports, a resource refocusing seminar, a weekend consultation, consultation report, report adoption through a special, church conference, and prescription coaching. This year Bishop Ough and our congregational development team have partnered with 8 congregations in the initial cohort of MCI churches. These include: Sioux Falls First UMC, Fargo First UMC, Watertown First UMC, Pierre First UMC, Huron First UMC, Celebration UMC, Spearfish UMC, and West Fargo Flame of Faith UMC. In future years, approximately 5-8 additional congregations will join annually in this process. While it is too early to give results for the Dakotas, those being reported elsewhere, especially in the West Ohio Conference, have proven to be outstanding.

Greg Kroger

Director of Ministries and Lead Staff Resource for Equipping Missional Congregations

EXTENDING MISSIONAL IMPACT

The Extending Link has found its calling as the place where the *Missional Impact* of Dakota's Conference congregations will be encouraged, reviewed and grown. With this new identity and more intentional goal

we gained a Conference Associate Director in the person of Mike Flowers. Mike will work directly with our Link as we work to grow the impact of our churches. One of our main goals is to grow the monies available to assist local churches with beginning new ministries and missions. Our first effort in that area is the opportunity of winning a \$500 grant for your church! Any church in the Dakotas Conference UMC is entered into the drawing simply by going to the Dakotas Conference website and completing the online survey. The drawing will be held in June at Annual Conference. We are excited to hear about the current missional impact across the Conference and finding ways to connect churches with a view toward greater impact as we work to offer ministries of hope, mercy and transformation.

Lou Whitmer, Chair

Disaster Relief for North Dakota

In 2011, Minot was hit with a devastating flood. The Dakotas Conference in partnership with UMCOR has been and will continue to be a vital part in the rebuilding process. It's normal in a disaster situation of this magnitude for volunteers and organizations to flock to the rescue to assist those in need. But during the time of clean-up and recovery there were more disasters in the United States and the world which pull volunteers to other areas. This is a normal progression and is always expected. The faith-based organizations that remain are there for the long term until funding runs low and volunteer numbers begin to drop.

The main facility for volunteer housing, Hope Village, announced they would begin closing their doors at the end of October 2013. When this was announced many of the faith-based organizations chose to end their rebuilding operations also. Some just didn't have the funding to continue or smaller amounts of dollars that if not combined with another faith-based organization would not meet the cost of rebuilding. The materials warehouse would also close. This would leave some 20 homes in various stages of repair and some that had not yet been touched that met qualifications for rebuild assistance. Two of these untouched homes were homes of disabled veterans financially unable to leave their property. In a face-to-face conversation with Bob Lower, it was decided that the Dakotas United Methodists in partnership with UMCOR would not leave Minot until the last nail has been driven and the last family back in their home. Informing UMCOR of this decision followed by a detailed document as to why this is necessary, UMCOR has granted the Dakotas Conference more funding so this project can be completed. Other faith-based organizations hearing of our intentions have entrusted their remaining funding for Minot to us allowing us, in our estimation, the money needed to complete the job. There are several NOMAD groups scheduled in for this summer and groups from South Dakota and Virginia to do specialized work. State entities and FEMA are aware of this and have indicated that when the job is done they wish to be in celebration along with us when this ministry is finished.

Ada Lower, Rev. Debra Ball-Kilbourne and Rev. Gary Ball-Kilbourne along with several volunteers have worked diligently in case management to make sure that everyone who qualifies for assistance have received it or will receive it. This is time consuming and very emotional work. I've read through several of the closed files and have found myself in tears at the devastation that has been experienced. Bob Lower has been a God-send to the disaster response mission. His communication and his ability to plan, review and analyze have been an important part of this mission. His willingness to do whatever needs to be done is a true gift to us. His ability to guide volunteers and arrange for their needs has been difficult at times but he has come through. His dedication is a blessing. Greg Kroger has been a source of inspiration in his dedication to disaster mission and I thank him as well as those names I have neglected to include. UMCOR has audited our disaster funding and expenditures and have given us a clean audit thanks to the hard work of Jeff Pospisil and JoAnn Schlimgen.

This past summer (2013) the Walsh County and Pembina County areas of North Dakota experience significant flooding and evacuation. Along with other faith-based organizations, the Dakotas Conference was there with volunteers from South Dakota and Minnesota to help muck out and disinfect homes and basements.

During this winter we were contacted by the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Center that Spirit Lake Reservation was having issues with frozen pipes. Over 20 homes had no drinking water. Along with the American Red Cross we were there. We supplied electrical tape to help thaw frozen pipes and purchased every gallon of drinking water available in Devils Lake to make sure these families had water.

I said in this report last year that none of this could be accomplished without you, the people of the United Methodist Church. This is a vital ministry for the church and we are well respected among the other organizations we work with in times of disaster. We are the Dakotas Conference United Methodist Church in partnership with UMCOR!

*Grace and Peace,
Lee Gale
Disaster Relief Coordinator for North Dakota*

Disaster Relief for South Dakotas Conference UMC

The 2014 disaster response efforts in South Dakota centered on the October 4-6 "Blizzard Atlas" recovery. This storm hit western South Dakota dropping inches of rain followed by 12 to 40 inches of snow. Electricity was out for as long as 2 weeks in some areas and untold number of trees and branches were downed. Hardest hit were the ranch families. There were approximately 200,000 direct livestock deaths due to Blizzard Atlas. The spring calving season has been impacted with numbers far less than the average.

Our Conference teamed with other VOAD agencies and the South Dakota Stock Growers Association and other agricultural organizations to create a joint response effort. The money raised through the Dakotas Conference was and is being used to assist with immediate living needs such as propane and electricity. This has been a very different disaster response and we have had to think outside the box in our response efforts. Thank you for your compassionate outreach to western South Dakota.

*Kathy Chesney
Disaster Relief Coordinator for South Dakota*

Haiti Solar Oven Partners

With a firm goal to manufacture and ship 2,300 solar ovens to the impoverished and underserved families of Haiti in 2014, please consider our capacity to do so. During the calendar year 2013, HSOP actually provided training for and distributed 2,292 ovens! While some of 2013 distribution was carryover from 2012, performance in 2013 clearly demonstrates the capacity to achieve our goal. A key challenge to reaching this goal in 2014, and subsequent years, is fundraising. With capacity having been demonstrated, the HSOP Advisory Board is redoubling efforts to secure increased funding.

HSOP's Haitian-directed training program continues to motivate and inspire more and more people, through education. Demand by families for the training and a solar oven provided through HSOP is huge. In light of the demand for, need of, and proven capacity to distribute solar ovens in Haiti, our **Dakotas Conference** should do no less than lead the charge to grow this ministry from 1,150 (one sea container load) to 2,300 (two sea container loads) solar ovens distributed to trained users annually.

Highlights of 2013 were the opening of an additional shop facility (in Moffit, ND) to manufacture the anodized aluminum reflector (significant oven upgrade), and the physical expansion (60% more square feet in Volga, SD) of our primary shop facility to accommodate growth. In 2014, by the end of April, we shipped our first container (1150 ovens, plus other critical project materials and spare parts) to Haiti. With work already underway on the next container, cash flow and staffing will be the determining factors in achieving our goal of 2 containers in 2014. **Your help** will make it happen!

HSOP's Advisory Board has recognized that reaching our goal will also require the addition of a full-time staff person. Fundraising and preparation have been underway for some time, with the goal of securing an Associate Director during the summer of 2014. The Dakotas Annual Conference employs Rick Jost as a Conference Missionary through apportionments.

As a key step in fundraising for needed growth, HSOP hired a professional, part-time grant writer/fundraiser in August of 2013. An immediate undertaking was the planning and implementation of a Major Donor Campaign to raise and save the equivalent of one year's salary & benefits for the Associate Director—before advertising and hiring for that position. This campaign has been successful and HSOP anticipates celebrating available funding and announcing the position for hiring at the 2014 Dakotas Annual Conference.

Grant writing to Methodist, Christian, and public foundations also began immediately in August 2013. This was understood to be and is a long-range fundraising strategy. Our grant writer has a great start on identifying, connecting, and building relationships with foundations. To date, three grants have been approved for a total of \$16,500 in awards, with other grant proposals pending and/or in various stages of preparation.

Another major accomplishment in 2013 was the relocation of our container storage/staging site in Haiti where we warehouse solar ovens and assemble them for distribution. We needed to vacate our previous site due to church construction plans, but were almost immediately blessed with a 7-year lease agreement for a new site on land owned by our Haitian Project Director.

Our ministry has been blessed by volunteer expertise in areas such as manufacturing, personnel, grant writing, communications, and long-range planning that have opened doors and provided real services to fuel growth. Utilizing this expertise has been a matter of welcoming and coordinating the gifts and graces of many who yearn to serve.

Partnership with the people of Haiti to help meet basic needs is life-changing, game-changing ministry. As to how and why HSOP dares to envision the possibilities, much is revealed through an appreciation for the Haitian Proverb: "Lespwa fe viv," or "Hope lets you live."

Rick Jost, Missionary/Director

Spirit Lake Ministry / Children of the Harvest

The Children of the Harvest (COH) funds the food pantry at the Spirit Lake Ministry Center. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center food pantry operates all year and has regular set hours and acts as an emergency source of food. The food pantry distributes in excess of \$11,000 in food per year and met the needs of more than 605 families last year on and around the Spirit Lake Reservation. This was an increase of 10 families. The food pantry depends on the funds from the Common Table, donations from churches and individuals, state and local agencies and food drive items. Recipients of the food pantry receive more than just physical sustenance. They are given the opportunity to leave prayer requests and fellowship with the missionaries. This helps grow the faith community of The United Methodist Church on the reservation. Our goal for 2014 is to reach an additional 10 families. We have made contact with Tribal Social Services, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Hope Center in Devils Lake and the Dakota Prairie Community Action Organization for referrals for peoples in need.

The Children of the Harvest provided Shoebox Christmas Gifts for 5,652 children in poverty and need in 2013. The Shoebox Gifts were distributed to five reservations in the Dakotas Conference and the Red Lake Reservation in MN. We were able to provide gifts to the Standing Rock Reservation for the first time in 2013. The gifts provide the children with the story of Jesus' birth, warm hats, scarves, mittens/gloves and fun toys. The gifts share the love of Jesus Christ and plant seeds of faith with the children who receive them. Shoebox Christmas gifts are donated by churches from all over the country with the 52% of the gifts coming from the Dakotas Conference. Some churches and individuals donate funds to help with the purchase of Shoebox "Filler" and to provide for the printing costs of the story of Jesus birth. The program is outlined in emails, on Facebook, meetings, speaking engagements and the Mondays in the Dakotas. Children of the Harvest provides spiritual follow-up with the children we come in contact with. Last year the program costs exceeded \$2,200.

The Community Children's Fund provided emergency clothing and temporary housing for 115 children affected by a life-changing events. The Community Children's Fund was used to purchase winter coats, hats, gloves, blankets, clothing, toys and other items lost in fires or any other major event that occurs in the child's life. We take items from the food pantry/clothing closet when available, but on occasion must purchase these types of items. The program depends on funds donated from the Common Table, churches and individuals to help defray the cost of these items. Last year we spent in excess of \$4,600.

Sidewalk Sunday School provided a fast paced Vacation Bible School experience for our Dakotas Conference communities in June, July and August of last year. We visited 17 different sites including the Bakken Oil Field and were open to all peoples of the community. In most cases Sidewalk Sunday School was held in local parks to encourage participation of all children in the community. This week long, 3-hour program teaches basic Bible knowledge and prayer utilizing exciting child friendly songs, stories and crafts to reinforce the lessons. This program is designed to begin the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ and bring un-churched families to the congregations that sponsor the program. The program provided fun and spiritual learning to more than 450 children in the Dakotas Conference last year.

The Sidewalk Sunday School program also provides the children of the Spirit Lake Reservation the opportunity to participate in the same fast-paced programs that minister to the children of our Dakotas Conference Churches. Last year the second trailer visited 6 different local communities on the reservation and shared the love of Jesus Christ with more than 300 children each week during a 10 week period. We hired an Sidewalk Sunday School Coordinator for the reservation and were able to begin and reinforce basic spiritual learning to more than 1,800 children on the reservation. The success of this program can be seen in the interaction with the missionaries outside the program boundaries. The children see us in their local schools, on their playgrounds and in public areas on the reservation. They greet us and ask questions about

the program and some of the older children seek spiritual advice. This program is a tremendous success and will continue to be a part of the Sidewalk Sunday School program in the upcoming years.

The Spirit Lake Ministry Center hosted more than 460 Volunteers in Mission last summer. The volunteers from across the country built 7 wheel-chair ramps, 2 decks, roofed 18 houses, sided 1 house, painted 2 houses and provided spiritual fellowship to untold numbers of local residents. The focus of our teams is to build. We build relationships that are meant to last a lifetime and longer. We are building a faith community that allows the local residents to regain trust in the church and to bridge the gap of cultural differences. We focus not of the difference, but on the similarities of our cultures. Those being our faith and trust in God. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center provides a place for children and adults alike to come and feel comfortable. We sponsored the annual Culture Camp, the Equine Diversion Program and the Wellness Ride. These three programs brought more than 175 children and adults to the Ministry Center. More than 450 individuals from all over the reservation attended our annual August give-a-way. This year two semi trailers of goods were donated. One trailer of furniture and another of clothing, toys, books and household items were emptied and given away in the two-day event. The programs at the Spirit Lake Ministry Center continue to grow and are developing a faith community that will one day become a congregation.

Mike and Libby Flowers

Tree of Life Ministry

Tree of Life is not a church, but a year-round Relief Agency of the Dakotas United Methodist Church, that serves the Sicangu Lakota nation in 5 counties of South Dakota. Our ministries include;

Ministry #1 Building a bridge of respect and compassion between cultures.

As children of God, it is our duty to break down racial prejudice and distrust, and establish an harmonious relationship. Working together with tribal agencies, learning the culture, and acting only in partnership, we meet the needs of the poorest racial group in the United States.

Ministry #2 Feeding the Hungry.

With more than 50% of the Lakota people living under the poverty level, and the severe effect that has on the children, Tree of Life gathers and distributes over 1,500,000 pounds of groceries every year. We are serving about 52,000 free hot meals each year at our Warm Welcome food pantry.

Ministry #3 Clothing those without the means to purchase new.

With an average household income of under \$8,000, and with many households numbering 10 or more family members living there, seldom can these families afford decent clothing. A staff of 5, working with VIMs, provide used and new clothing in a manner that minimizes the begging-experience and highlights a shopping-experience. All donated clothing is inspected and displayed as it would be in a department store. Some items are offered for sale at bargain prices, while other items are offered in "The Free Room". We have had much positive feedback from our customers; as one grandma said, "I purchased a school outfit for every grandchild in my family and spent only \$5."

Ministry #4 Providing safe, comfortable homes for impoverished families.

With 80% unemployment on the reservation, there is seldom money to be found for basic home repairs. There are families that have been without running water in their homes for years. One family had a hole in the room, and the rain had destroyed the ceiling of the kitchen, so that you could look up and see the clouds while sitting at the table. There are many such stories, and every year Tree of Life makes repairs to at least 50 of these homes. Building materials are expensive, but how can we allow children to grow up in such unsafe housing?

Ministry #5 Education

One of the important tasks undertaken by Tree of Life is to show Native Americans what Christians are really like. Our witness is demonstrated by teams working together cheerfully, showing Christ-like compassion, and offering respect and love to all people. And it is also our task to educate the many volunteers that come from 25 different states, 12 different denominations, and 7 universities, the culture, history, spirituality and friendliness of the Lakota nation. This builds a bridge between our cultures, destroys prejudice and distrust, and advances the cause of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Russell Masartis, Director

GENERATING MISSIONAL RESOURCES

(Stewardship of Resources Link)

The Generating Missional Resources Link continued to fulfill our duties relating to oversight of the budgeting process for the standing committees that relate to the link. We also cared for the duties relating to equitable compensation.

Besides our regular duties, the Generating Missional Resources Link Link was also able to see the new apportionment method approved by the 2013 Annual Conference by a wide margin. The Generating Missional Resources Link Link and others were diligent in their work of refining and communicating the proposal prior to Annual Conference which made for an informed discussion and a fairly quick decision.

The Generating Missional Resources Link Link made a presentation in the fall at a leadership event held on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University. The purpose of the presentation was to communicate to the leadership of the Dakotas Conference the strategy for Generating Missional Resources. Oftentimes finances can be a hindrance to vital ministry at both the local church level and the Conference level. The result of the policies and programs of the Conference should be that each church and the Conference are more able to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we make disciples of Jesus Christ. The new apportionment method is hopefully an example of this.

Laura Borman, Chairperson

Commission on Archives and History Annual report 2014

Fearless, spirit-led people are the ancestors of our faith in the Dakotas. From the very beginning, the people called Methodists who came to this territory in 1860 were fearless and spirit-led people who eventually established fearless and spirit-led churches. Some of these churches survive today, having weathered many adverse circumstances, some of them worse than those we might face today. How did they do it? Some say they had “missionary zeal,” like the apostles and other first believers in the Book of Acts. But what constituted that zeal? What did it produce? What motivated and funded their ministry? How did they keep the faith in the face of adversity? These are important questions that are answerable because of the work of your Commission on Archives and History (CAH) and the corresponding history committees in your local churches. The answers to these questions can help us all better answer the ancillary question: “How can we recapture in the present some of that past missionary zeal so that we can have a brighter future?” Since that is a question that seeks to align us with our mission, the answers that the archives can provide allow your CAH to participate in the conference’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

With that mission ever before us, your CAH met three times in the past year (once in person and twice by phone), beginning each meeting with a time for devotion and/or prayer, followed by a discussion of: “How are we intentionally reaching new people for Jesus Christ through our ministries?” and “How are we help-

ing new people grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ through our ministries and areas of responsibility?" These are questions the General Conference envisions each Annual Conference agency asking at each meeting, as directed by ¶610.

Your CAH, which comprises seven voting and three non-voting members, is charged with pursuing at least 12 mandated Disciplinary provisions. (¶641). Our highest priority, and more than 92% our 2013 expenditures, went to support the archives space and its personnel costs. (The 2015 request envisions those items representing 84.2% of the budget.) Archivist Laurie Langland holds an earned doctorate and has a dual role as Dakota Wesleyan University staff and non-teaching faculty. We share half of her time with the university. Her conference time is busy with an increasing number of research requests and processing donations of materials, including records from closed churches. Compiling memoirs for annual conference and the journal is another regular task. Langland also stands ready to assist local churches as they develop their own history committees or conduct the ministry of memory at the local level. Furthermore, those looking for guidelines on what to save, may go to the conference website at http://www.dakotasumc.org/media/files/Doreen/Guidelines_1_page_May_2010.pdf for a summary of some of the more common records. For a more extensive listing, go to the web site for the General Commission on Archives and History at http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Resources/Guidelines_Publications/ConfRetSched.2013.pdf

As a conference agency, we exist, in part, to assist the annual conference in equipping local churches. So, to that end, our 2015 budget proposes spending \$2,500 on grants to local churches to assist in preserving or making accessible your local history. Details are still being worked out, but if you, the Annual Conference so elect, we could make a handful of grants available during 2015.

Two of our members, Betty Testerman and the Rev. Dr. Steven Trefz, attended the "Forward Bold Leaders" event in Mitchell in September; and the CAH has been briefed on the vision-pathways restructure proposal that, at this writing, we hear is coming. We accept the conference's promise to make us more autonomous and yet have a "champion" at the table where leadership decisions are made.

While that meeting was going on, our chairman, the Rev. Duane Coates, was attending the annual meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, at the General Commission's expense. While there, he had an audience with the general secretary and the general commission staff. He also heard reports from archives and history commissions in each jurisdiction and central conference.

Another priority is attendance at the annual North Central Jurisdictional Convocation on Archives and History, the site of which rotates throughout this jurisdiction's episcopal areas. In 2013, the convocation was held in Canton, Ohio, at the home church of President William McKinley (who was Methodist Episcopal). Rev. Duane Coates attended, representing the Dakotas CAH. This year, the convocation is planned for Petoskey, Michigan. As of this writing, CAH member Betty Testerman and her husband, Wayne, plan to attend. Our conference makes annual reports to this group, which elects members to the General Commission on Archives and History. Our conference delegates then hear reports back from that general agency and from commissions in each of the conferences in this jurisdiction. Thus, members are informed and connected to the work of archives and history throughout the connection. Therefore, attendance at these meetings serves the conference's purpose of "providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church" (¶601).

The CAH is also preparing for the 2017 publication of an update to our conference history. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Perry has been researching this since 2004 and updates the CAH annually.

The CAH is responsible for recognizing jubilee clergy. The CAH annually re-examines the published ser-

vice records of retired clergy and makes appropriate changes in our records.

Furthermore, the CAH buys the grave markers presented by the Cabinet to the families of our conference's clergy members at the clergy's individual memorial services.

R. Duane Coates, Chairman

Builder's Club

The Finance Office currently is overseeing the administration of the Builders Club. The Cabinet reviews the completed applications quarterly and determines the next Call.

In 2013, Builders Club funds supported the following projects:

- Call 2013-01: \$9,679.07 for White River UMC
- Call 2013-02: \$10,043.00 for Southeast Pierre UMC
- Call 2013-03: \$10,930.00 for Hettinger UMC
- Call 2013-04: \$11,026.22 for Jud UMC

Applications, guidelines and information on becoming a part of Builders Club are available on the Dakotas UMC website.

Sharon Blumer, Financial Assistant

Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA)

The CCFA continues to be blessed with our Director of Finance, Jeff Pospisil assisted by JoAnn Schlimgen and Sharon Blumer. Jeff continues to stay in touch with local congregations through face-to-face meetings and messages delivered during worship to help churches understand our budgets, missions and apportionments.

Our primary work is and continues to be the budget. Since we are in our first year of our new Apportionment Formula, we do not have a benchmark of receipts for this year. Without such a benchmark, we decided increasing the budget would not be prudent, so we worked to bring the requested budget back into the past year's budget.

We have also worked with the cabinet on a policy for the funding mission churches within our conference. The policy will be presented at Annual Conference for approval.

We have continued our work to increase reserves. A benchmark for reserves is around 10% of the annual budget. Our reserves as of December 31, 2013 are as follows:

Unrestricted Reserves	\$	15,584
Designated funds	\$	1,187,592
Permanently restricted Funds	\$	120,000
Temporarily Restricted	\$	899,411

General Conference apportionments paid continues to remain at about 89%.

The audited financial statements will be included in the 2014 Journal and the audit report will be found online.

Bob Duemig, Chair Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Dakotas United Methodist Foundation

The Dakotas United Methodist Foundation exists to multiply gifts for the Kingdom of God and to be faithful partners on the journey. This is accomplished by providing services and educational and financial resources to individuals, ministries, and churches affiliated with the Dakotas Annual Conference. In addition, the Foundation invests funds for churches and agencies, assists local churches in their financial and stewardship efforts, provide funding for churches and ministries through endowment funds, and assists individual donors in their financial planning and charitable giving.

At the end of 2013, the Total Assets of the Foundation were \$17,148,805 and Contributions & Revenue for the year totaled \$2,861,945 – both records for the Foundation. Simply this was due to God. Gifts. You.

What's going on at the Foundation?

- ☐ We are very excited to have Rev. Jerry Bass join the team as the part-time Associate Director for North Dakota. Contact Jerry at jbass@DakotasUMF.org.
- ☐ We are piloting a Church Financial Planning Process. Many of us go through Personal Financial Planning and we want to make that same process available to churches. But no current models exist. So we are working with a small group of churches to help us refine a process. The goal is to get churches to match their assets and expenditures to where God is leading them to make a difference!
- ☐ We have two new workshops that are available to churches at no charge.
 - A New Look at the Offering Plate: Practical Stewardship Ideas
 - Don't Leave Me this Way: Planning your Estate
 - Other Ways to Give is also popular, showing alternative giving ideas
- ☐ Our grant programs have continued to expand. Ministry Development Matching Grants deadline is August 1 and Bremer Family Mission Grants deadline is February 1. Click on Grants button on our website for more information! www.DakotasUMF.org
- ☐ We assisted three churches in successful Miracle Sundays.
- ☐ Unlike many foundations, we have Investment Accounts. After one year, any or all of the account may be withdrawn on a monthly basis.

Representing the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation,

Mr. Mike Goos, President and Dr. Bruce Blumer, Executive Director

www.DakotasUMF.org or 800-224-6552

Human Resources

The Human Resources Committee has been working with Greg Kroger and Bishop Ough on a number of issues concerning staffing and compensation. With the resignation of Jodi Cataldo as Director of Leadership, Doug Diehl will continue to work with the Board of Ordained Ministry and Steve Trefz will continue to work with Lay Servant Ministries and Sue Nilson Kibbey will be contracted to work with the Dakotas Conference a few months a year coaching particular pastors and churches. Sue's focus will be a Missional Church Initiative. We are working on a revised plan of compensation for our staff. The current salary schedule in the journal does not represent and reflect the realities of the workplace today. We have approved compensation and benefits for our conference staff for 2015. We look forward to continuing to plan and help equip our staff for an ever-changing environment of ministry and outreach.

Barry Whipkey, Chairman, Human Resources Committee

**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, annual conference, and other UM related entities).

The Board has adopted as our guide a purpose statement which reads: The purpose of the Board of Pensions of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church 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. 639.1 in the 2012 Book of Discipline).

Today, there is much uncertainty as to our nation and world's economic situation. Also, much is still unknown as to the future of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its implication for how health care benefits will be received. In the midst of these unknowns, the Dakotas Conference Board of Pensions with the guidance and support of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and in partnership with the Dakotas Annual Conference, are committed to providing full funding for a pension plan, providing access to health benefits, and providing funding for all unfunded liabilities.

In order to keep the promises of our pension plan, the Dakotas Board of Pensions in partnership with the Dakotas Annual Conference has undertaken and will continue a program of long-term planning. We are working with actuaries from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) to set target balances for each of our obligations that will ensure a sufficient cash flow for present and future needs and will provide a "cushion" for apportionment stabilization.

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 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board recommended effective 1/1/2013, providing retirees with access to coverage through Extend Health One Exchange which will be facilitated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This was voted on and approved at Annual Conference June 2012.
- **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 the General Board, "Clergy who retire under the 20 year rule are not eligible for CPP death benefits."
 - Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) premiums for eligible active clergy serving less than full time under "Special Arrangements" will be required to be paid directly to the Dakotas Conference at a rate of 4.4% of the current year Denomination Average Compensation (DAC) by the clergy or the church/

salary paying unit that the less than full time clergy is serving. This will need to be paid by the 30th of each month. To enroll in this benefit the clergy person must contact the Conference Benefits Officer within 30 days of appointment.

- **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). The annuity rate has a Disciplinary minimum of no less than 0.8% of the CAC.
- **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 to UMPIP, his or her CRSP DC contributions will be 3% as was under the 2007-2013 CRSP plan. This plan change is 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 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits monthly on the employee’s behalf. **However, 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 into their UMPIP account.**

UPDATES TO THE CRSP AND CPP PLAN

Effective 1/1/2014 the CRSP benefit formula for determining the Defined Benefit (DB) component will change from 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement to 1.00% multiplied by years of service after December 31, 2013. The clergyperson must be serving a minimum of half-time. The 2007-2013 CRSP benefit formula will remain effective for all covered service prior to January 1, 2014.

Effective 1/1/2014 the Defined Benefit component of CRSP will change. The Church/salary paying unit will contribute 2% of the clergyperson’s compensation. The clergyperson must be serving a minimum of half-time. In addition, the Church/salary paying unit will match clergyperson’s contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) up to 1% of compensation and deposit those matching funds into participant CRSP DC account. Therefore, if a clergyperson contributes at least 1% of compensation to UMPIP, his or her CRSP DC contributions will be 3%, under the 2007-2013 CRSP Plan.

Approved by 2012 General Conference full time clergy are eligible to earn benefits. Annual Conferences may also elect to cover clergy who are appointed three-quarters time and half-time. Clergy who are appointed one-quarter time are no longer eligible. The Board recommends that effective 1/1/2014 the Conference continue to cover those clergy appointed to three-quarter time and half-time in addition to full-time for CRSP benefits. Those clergy that are appointed to one-quarter time effective 1/1/2014 will no longer be covered for CRSP benefits due to the changes passed at General Conference in 2012. Any

pension benefits will need to be decided and funded by the local church served by the one-quarter time appointment.

Approved by the 2012 General Conference, CRSP provides two levels of benefits for clergy: a) a "Defined Benefit" (DB) component equal to 1.00% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement for each year of credited service 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 to UMPIP, his or her CRSP DC contributions will be 3% as was under the 2007-2013 CRSP Plan. This plan change is effective January 1, 2014. The Board is now notifying the church/salary paying unit that it must pay 1% of clergy compensation into the clergy's CRSP DC account when the clergy contributes 1% or more into their UMPIP account.

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.

UPDATES ON THE HEALTHFLEX PROGRAM:

HealthFlex is offered to Annual Conferences through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). This plan is specifically designed for active and younger than age 65 retired United Methodist clergy and lay employees. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois is the health insurance carrier which has been contracted to administer the plan and process claims.

Beginning in 2013 the Dakotas Conference discontinued providing the HealthFlex Medicare Companion Plan for retirees and began working with ~~Extend Health~~ One Exchange through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to provide access to health coverage for our retirees, spouses and surviving spouses in the individual open market.

The HealthFlex insurance plan has strict guidelines regarding payment of premiums. In order for the Conference to have some perspective on the actual health insurance bill for our participants, the following numbers are the actual cost for each category of participant enrolled in HealthFlex for 2015:

ACTIVES:

Single	\$ 8,076
Participant plus one	\$15,324
Family	\$19,380

UPDATES ON EXTEND HEALTH FOR RETIREES:

There were 195 retirees, spouses and surviving spouses eligible to enroll in a Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage Plan through ~~Extend Health~~ One Exchange in October of 2013 for the 2014 year. 62 Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) accounts rolled over excess funds from 2013 to 2014. 30 HRA accounts were within \$100 of having the full premiums covered for 2013. 35 HRA accounts ran out of funds before the end of 2013. 72% of our retirees had all their premiums covered or had to pay no more than \$100 for 2013.

The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) that the Conference is contributing to for each eligible retiree, spouse and surviving spouse for the individual plan in 2014 will cover all or at least 90% of the average cost. The average HRA to a participant for 2014 was \$2464, compared to the average annual cost of the

Medicare Supplement plan selected for 2014 of \$2664. In addition, retirees are no longer having premium costs deducted from their pension check. So the average individual retiree is getting an additional \$98 in their pension check and also being reimbursed 90%-100% for their premiums through their HRA funds.

UPDATE ON THE RETIREE HEALTH LIABILITY FUNDING PLAN AND NEW INFORMATION ON A RETIREE HEALTH FUNDING PLAN / (HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS)

In 2012 the Board recommended providing retirees with access to coverage through Extend Health One Exchange which will be facilitated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This decision also affects the Retiree Health Liability which, as of December 31 2008, had an unfunded obligation of \$17,434,158. Instead of paying a percent of the health insurance premiums for retirees, the Dakotas Conference will provide contributions to individual Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs). The annual total amount to be provided will be determined annually by the Board. As a result of this change, we will no longer have an unfunded obligation for retiree health. This was voted on and approved at Annual Conference 2012.

To fund the Health Reimbursement Account contributions, the Board will use funds from three sources:

1. Funds that had been accumulated for the Retiree Health Liability. As of December 31, 2013, the amount of these funds was \$1,527,261.
2. Earnings from the Frank Lynch Trust and Georgia Lynch Trust. In 2013, the trusts distributed a combined total of \$560,987.
3. On January 1, 2015, 3% will be added to the Active Participant Share in the "Salary Ratio" way that the Active Participant Share is currently calculated. The amount generated by the additional 3% will be directed to funding retiree health.

Lynch Trust Funds Policy

(New 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, (2012 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 the 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 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.

NOTE: *The the Dakotas Annual Conference Approved 2015 Funding Plan will be available for review at the registration desk at Annual Conference and printed in the 2014 Official Journal.*

*Leana Stunes,
Conference Benefits Officer*

Conference Board of Trustees

This report is being brought to the Conference, keeping in mind the three-fold ministry of the Conference Trustees to:

- Care for the property of the Conference, making it available for the agencies of the Conference.
- Maintain the parsonages owned by the Conference, keeping in mind the needs of the families that live in the homes, and
- Investing funds so that the proceeds can be used to fund several committee ministries.

Below is a report of the properties of the Dakotas Conference:

Property	Date Acquired	Cost	Insured Value	Responsible Party	2013 Maint*	Notes
Storm Mountain Center			4,136,300	Board of Camping	120,000	1
Lake Poinsett Camp			4,741,800			
Wesley Acres Camp			2,172,850			
Prairie Hills Parsonage	5/15/1998	199,852	247,500	Board of Trustees	9,289	2
Sakakawea Parsonage	2/27/2009	289,032	218,700		582	
Eastern Sunrise Parsonage	3/2/2009	254,484	206,100		492	
Dir of Camping Parsonage	5/1/1996	144,851	231,000		472	
Dir of Finance Parsonage	7/15/1997	135,219	195,000		2,020	
Dir of Ministries Parsonage	10/6/2008	357,714	277,900		1,821	
Director of Leadership Parsonage	12/31/2001	176,589	204,300		5,069	3
Conference Center	2/23/1970	127,639	799,200		10,206	4
Fargo Campus Ministry	Need to Research		472,500		32,443	5
Spirit Lake Center	4/14/2006	311,409	878,030		SL Ministry	0
Southern Hills Parsonage	7/29/2010	202,917	273,600	Missional Cong Link	0	

*Includes only the amount provided by Trustee Funds or Apportionments for maintenance.

1. \$30,000 is transferred to each camp. The Board of Camping holds \$30,000 in reserve for large and unexpected maintenance that require immediate attention.
2. \$5,972 to repaint exterior.
3. \$2,715 to replace washer, dryer, and dishwasher.
4. \$2,316 to redo landscaping. \$1,887 to fix zoning controls for heating/cooling. \$1,951 to replace counter tops in workroom and paint. The remaining amount relates to regular maintenance expenses.
5. \$30,309 to replace sewer line.

Ron McLean, Chair

SECTION 5: UNIVERSITY AND SEMINARY REPORTS

Candler School of Theology–2014 UMC Annual Conference Report

Candler School of Theology prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health. Candler celebrates its Centennial in 2014, marking our 100th anniversary with commemorative events that reflect on our past and a conference on theology and the church that envisions the future. The year-long celebration begins in August with the opening of the second phase of Candler's new 128,600-square-foot, LEED-certified building, seven years in the making.

Not only is Candler expanding its physical space this year—it is expanding degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler is introducing five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees pairing divinity and social work and divinity and development practice. With these newest additions to our degree programs, Candler graduates truly will be ready to lead wherever God calls.

Candler's student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 441, with 340 seeking the Master of Divinity, 47 the Master of Theological Studies, 21 the Master of Theology, 15 the Doctor of Theology, and 18 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 49 percent women, and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 39 denominations, with half identifying as United Methodist. We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 14 academic exchanges with theology schools in 12 countries across five continents. In addition, Candler has an ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, and participates each year in travel seminars to the Middle East and in World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars, traveling in 2014 to Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Mitchell, S.D.

The greatest impact Dakota Wesleyan University can have each year is to graduate students who have grown intellectually and spiritually during their college years. This year, we are proud to have conferred degrees upon 207 students who will work in healthcare, education, business, finance and communications. Many will go on to graduate school, law school, medical school and seminary. Some will travel for mission work. All will have the tools to be leaders in their communities and churches.

In the past year at DWU, we have shown our commitment to learning, leadership, faith and service in many ways.

- Amy Novak began her presidency in June with a commitment to continuing and growing DWU's emphasis on faith and ethics in the educational process.
- DWU students approached the administration with the request to bring the Mitchell Weekend Snack Pack Program, a program to provide food for the weekends for school-aged children, to campus. Administrators agreed, and the Snack Pack Program moved into vacated Hughes Hall labs in summer 2013. Throughout the year, various campus organizations and departments have had food drives to keep the program's shelves full.
- The new \$11.3 million, four-story Corrigan Health Sciences Center was dedicated on Aug. 29, recommitting to the importance of educating young people for careers in healthcare, fitness and the sciences, with an ongoing commitment to developing well-rounded, healthy individuals.
- The annual freshman food drive collected 4,230 pounds of food for the Mitchell Food Pantry, demonstrating the DWU value of "service" as the new class became part of the campus community.
- The student population reached an all-time high at 873 students, indicating a strong interest in a DWU education focused on learning, leadership, faith and service.
- U.S. News and World Report recognized DWU as one of the best regional colleges for the Midwest.
- DWU was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.
- DWU students were featured on Values.com a website and national campaign to promote values that make a difference.
- In the fall, campus ministry attracted more than 1200 area young people at the eighth annual Mitchell Area Youth Night, featuring The Skit Guys.
- McGovern Center students organized multiple service events: a fundraiser for cancer research, a hunger banquet to draw attention to food insecurity in the world, and a silent auction to benefit the Abbott House in Mitchell.
- Student organizations engaged in many additional service projects, including food, toiletry, toy and clothing drives.
- Campus ministry organized two spring break mission trips, one to Mexico and one to Omaha with 42 students, faculty and staff members. To date, more than 200 have participated in DWU mission trips and thousands of dollars have been raised to support their work and ministry.
- Led by Student Ministry Council, members of the campus community participated in weekly worship services and small-group Bible studies.
- DWU broke new ground by planting a church on campus. DWU alumnus the Rev. Brandon Vetter will transition from campus pastor to full-time pastor of Fusion which will continue to meet every Sunday on campus, but is now separate from campus and the Mitchell FUMC.
- A group of campus organizations sponsored the Conference for Leadership, Innovation and Social Change in April. The featured speaker was author and activist Bob Goff. Goff also headlined a youth night event on campus the evening before the conference. The two events reached about 1,000 people.
- DWU awarded more than \$150,000 in United Methodist-related scholarships.
- A group of 12 DWU individuals traveled to Rwanda this spring to work with a livestock distribution

program and other ministries.

- For the fifth year in a row, more than 600 members of the campus community gathered on one day to do service work in the Huron and Mitchell communities. Students, faculty and staff worked in parks, schools, roadways and on Main Street to make a difference.

Regardless of the area of study chosen by our students, DWU graduates are given every opportunity to participate in activities and events that will lead them on a path of self discovery, helping them to determine their place in the world and their responsibility to society.

Garrett -Evangelical Theological Seminary

In 2013, Garrett-Evangelical celebrates 160 years of creating skilled, bold, and articulate leaders for the church, the academy, and the world. We remain committed to our core purpose: to know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, help others know God in Christ.

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Last fall the seminary welcomed 107 new students, raising total fall enrollment to 390—the third consecutive year of increase. The average age of the entering Master of Divinity student is 31. Fifty-one percent are women. The ethnic/racial profile is 52% white; 20% black; 5% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino. Thirteen percent of the students are international.

More than 30 religious traditions, four continents, 12 countries and 32 states are represented in the student body. Two hundred twenty-four students are United Methodist. Thirty-four additional students come from other Pan-Methodist denominations.

Garrett-Evangelical's commitment to making seminary education affordable is reflected in the awarding of more than \$2 million in institutional financial aid to students each year. The seminary has created the Linked in Ministry Scholarship program. This 100 percent scholarship is awarded to the first student admitted to Garrett-Evangelical from his/her United Methodist annual conference who maintains a 3.3 GPA or above and who is a registered candidate for UMC ministry.

In January, Garrett-Evangelical completed a successful campaign to fund the Rueben P. Job Endowed Chair in Spiritual Formation. One of the first chairs in spiritual formation among Protestant seminaries, the award is named in honor of Garrett-Evangelical's distinguished alumnus Rueben P. Job, retired bishop of The United Methodist Church. The position is a legacy to Bishop Job's lifelong work and will ensure that Garrett-Evangelical continues to prepare well-formed spiritual leaders for many generations.

Garrett-Evangelical has long been at the forefront of Protestant seminaries in this area. The seminary proposed the curriculum structure for United Methodist certification in spiritual formation, formally adopted by the denomination in 2000. Since then, Garrett-Evangelical has adopted a specialized master of arts degree in spiritual formation and evangelism as well as a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction.

Funds now are being received to permanently endow the Rueben Job Institute in Spiritual Formation. Information about the Institute can be found at <<http://ruebenjobinstitute.org>>. Dr. Dwight Judy, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Formation, retired at the end of 2012. He continues to serve the seminary and church through his work as Director of the Institute.

Several initiatives to support clergy and lay education are under way. During the spring semester, fifteen academic classes were offered in an online format, some with a continuing education option. During the next several months, new programs—online, on campus, and in congregational settings will begin.

Plus is a first-of-its-kind cooperative executive education program of Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The two-year leadership certification program for seminary graduates and other professionals in ministry includes eight days of seminars led by experts in non-profit leadership.

Intersection is an innovative continuing education opportunity incorporating readings, online presentations by seminary faculty, and reflection on contemporary issues of life and ministry, providing an intersection of academic studies with the concern for practical ministry. Topics range from theology, biblical interpretation, and church history to ethics and the church in society. Continuing education credit is available. Additional information is available at <http://www.garrett.edu/intersection>.

The expanded Doctor of Ministry program offers four tracks of study: Congregational Leadership, African American Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Direction, and Mission in the Contemporary United States. The Garrett-Evangelical DMin program is also a portal to the Association of Chicago Theological School's (ACTS) DMin program in preaching.

Garrett-Evangelical serves over 550 students in degree-related courses, certificate programs and the summer Course of Study School. We encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large.

Philip A. Amerson, President

Saint Paul School of Theology
www.spst.edu

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of The United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, in Oklahoma City and the Greater Kansas City area.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, 201 students from 23 annual conferences and 4 countries were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 216 students the Overland Park, Kansas, Springfield, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma locations.

Twenty master's degree students and twenty-three doctoral students graduated from the Kansas City campus in May 2013. Six master of divinity students graduated at the 3rd Commencement Convocation in Oklahoma in August 2013. Laity from the Seminary Lite program in Oklahoma also received certificates.

Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University (OCU) began its 6th year in September. Dr. Amy Oden came to the Oklahoma City campus as Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality. The Association of Theological

Schools authorized the campus to offer all courses leading to the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Master of Arts (Theological Studies), and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. They also lifted the residency requirement to complete one-third of the courses on the Kansas City campus. This is a major step in the development of Saint Paul at OCU. The success of Saint Paul in Oklahoma City has been a collaborative effort, strengthened by the support of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church and United Methodist-related Oklahoma City University.

The seminary sold its Truman Road campus in Kansas City, Missouri to Guadalupe Centers, Inc. Guadalupe Centers, Inc. is the longest continuously operating organization serving Latinos in the United States. They provide early childhood, secondary, preparatory and adult educational programs; facilitate access to health and social services for all ages; promote and provide Latino cultural enrichment events; and sponsor social activities for diverse communities.

Students and faculty began classes on the Greater Kansas City (GKC) campus located in the East Wing of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, in September. Classes continue to be video-linked with the Oklahoma City campus. The seminary's staff and faculty offices are located under a mile away from the classroom location.

Saint Paul will launch three new masters' curricula in the fall of 2014. For the MDiv students, the new curriculum marks a return to a more praxis-based, integrated curriculum. The curriculum is grounded in spiritual formation with numerous practicums and faculty-led small groups to integrate seminary studies with vocational formation. Students will reflect upon their work during two intentional assessments mid-way through the degree and near the end of their studies.

The degree programs will require fewer hours which will mean less debt for Saint Paul graduates. The MDiv will require 79 credit hours for the degree rather than the 90 credit hours now required. The Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry and Masters of Arts (Theological Studies) will also be completed in fewer hours--54 credit hours for the MACM vs. 60 now and 49 for the MA(TS) vs. 60 now.

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.