

## SHARING OUR FRUIT

### Our Gifts

59% Apportioned giving

38% Second mile giving—UMC Special Sundays, donations and events



19% worldwide impact—peace and justice, United Methodist Committee on Relief, scholarships and more

14% Dakotas missional impact—Solar Oven Partners, Tree of Life, Spirit Lake Ministry Center

37% developing leaders—camping, youth ministry, young adult ministry, training and equipping clergy



19% creating vital congregations—starting new churches, new worship services, revitalizing current churches



### Stewardship training equips churches

2016: 102 people attended from 26 churches

2017: 170 people attended from 45 churches

### Your Foundationn Work

Lilly Initiative equips 150 clergy with financial training and grants to implement strategies to increase clergy and congregational capacity.



It is to lead in generosity using the \$1 million Lilly grant that the Dakotas-Minnesota Area received in 2016.



To date, across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area:

11 “Seed and Save” grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to pastors who completed personal financial education.

20 student debt reduction grants of \$5,000 each were awarded to pastors to assist them in reducing outstanding student loans resulting from college and seminary education.

### Thrive on the move

The Thrive campaign has provided funding for 7 new churches, 30

churches to engage in revitalizations and

19 new clergy.



### Dakotas United Methodist Foundation

In 2017, a new milestone was reached, \$25 million invested with the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation and that number has only continued to grow. These funds support: Seminary scholarships—Nine students were awarded a total of \$66,000 in 2017.



## Dakotas Conference

The United Methodist Church



Grow. Reach. Heal.

# 2017-2018 Missional Report

## JOURNEY TOWARD VITALITY



We are a movement centering on abundant life in Christ.

Our Journey Toward Vitality is a strategic roadmap that outlines the pathways we’re taking to accomplish our mission. As a conference, we’re working to increase the capacity of the conference, districts, and churches by:

- + Developing missional leaders
- + Equipping missional congregations
- + Extending missional impact
- + Generating missional resources

Here’s a look at the progress we’ve made with regard to specific goals in each of those pathways.

## GROWING A CULTURE OF CALL



God calls everyone into ministry, but ministry means more than ordination. Called: One Word, Many Ways explores how to listen for God’s voice, discern what you’ve heard, and respond faithfully.

United Methodists across the conference are fostering a culture of call in these ways.

2017 Camping by the Numbers:

122

Dakotas churches sent kids to camp (50% of churches)

1,594

total camp attendees



- 26 Elisha interns have explored their call to ministry in the last four years.
- 8 young adults attended Exploration 2017 in Portland.
- 2.8 percent increase in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School in 2017.
- 20 churches and 100 volunteers engaged in the youth ministry cohort these past two years.



### Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

1331 W. University Ave., P.O. Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301  
www.dakotasumc.org

# GROWING A CULTURE OF CALL CONTINUED

74 churches and almost 10,000 United Methodists are involved with the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative.



*"Breakthrough prayer is not just one person praying. It is engaging large swaths of the congregation, adding to the prayer life of the church. A comprehensive effort allowing God to breakthrough with new possibilities."* -Jane Hincks, Bismarck Legacy UMC

This year 67 people have participated in Discernment Retreats—the entry point to lay ministry



19 new clergy are serving in the Dakotas Conference.



24 clergy are attending the Clergy leadership Academy (CLA).



*"I value the diversity of CLA. It is a safe place to grow in leadership and faith"* -Pastor Jerry Stavia IV, Downtown Mitchell UMC.

# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



**The Dakotas Conference mission ministry have reached out in this past year in the following ways:**

Congregations across the Dakotas Conference are encouraged to engage in hands-on mission in their communities. Here are some ways people are reaching out.

19 churches received Breakthrough Ministry, School Partnership Ministry and technology grants in 2017 totaling \$23,000.

**Piedmont Grace UMC has launched a new after-school program.** The program provides a safe and fun environment for 30-40 children to learn, play and connect with Jesus.



*"We believe our after-school program will also serve as a launch pad for discipleship."* —Pastor Karl Kroger

**Watertown First starts Messy Church** and connects families to Jesus. Each month 125 people come to experience God's love



*"Messy Church reaches out to families who might not normally come to church."* —Sandy Cole, coordinator

**Unite Church serves up donuts, lattes, and hospitality to youth.** Each Friday, the church welcomes students from the nearby high school and gives them free donuts and lattes while adult volunteers chat with them.



*"Every week, whether they know it or not, these kids chat with adults who are positive influences in their lives, and they get the chance to know Jesus Christ."* —Pastor Jason "Mary" Martens.

- **Bakken Oil Rush Ministry—Watford City:** Assisted 4,000 families. A community fundraiser brought \$42,000 to the ministry.
- **Spirit Lake Ministry Center**— Assisted 300 people per month through the food pantry, delivered 6,346 Shoebox Christmas gifts, provided 42 children assistance, hosted a back-to-school carnival for more than 300 children, provided 10 churches with Sidewalk Sunday school grants, and hosted 445 volunteers.
- **Tree of Life**— In 2017, the soup kitchen served 27,138 breakfast and lunch meals, 2,760 elder boxes, and gave more than 38,420 boxes of food to help supplement the evening or weekend meal.
- **Churches and individuals reached beyond** the conference borders to collect \$255,795 for UMCOR in kits and funds



# MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES



**Culture of Multiplication**  
Developing new leaders to help existing churches find new ways to disciple people by not just growth by addition but by multiplication. The multiply leader program has reached 32 leaders and 25 churches

**New Churches Reach New People**  
One of the key ways the Dakotas Conference reaches new people is by planting new churches.

**Interactive Worship**  
Worship attendance is up and space is getting tight at West Fargo Flame of Faith. Young families are coming to worship at 9 a.m. where kids are part of worship and adults discuss and interact during the sermon.



*"There is a lot of energy and it brings fun into worship,"* Rev. Sara McManus, West Fargo Flame of Faith



**Revitalization**  
The revitalization processes assists 30 plus churches including Missional Church Consultation Initiative and Journey Renewal Partnership.

**The Bridge connects new people to Jesus**  
Real, raw, and relevant. That's the type of faith community that new church start The Bridge aims to be. "I'm encouraged by the new people who are consistently walking through the doors and hopefully experiencing God in a new and different way," said Rev. Kori Lehrkamp, leader of The Bridge.

# MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES CONTINUED

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Germinating:</b><br>Mission Fargo<br>Bismarck Legacy UMC—South<br>Bismarck Celebrate Recovery | <b>Sprouting:</b><br>Box Elder The Bridge:<br>Fargo First African Church<br>West Fargo Flame of Faith UMC<br>Spirit Lake | <b>Growing:</b><br>Salem Unite Church<br>Embrace Church—Sertoma<br>Encounter |
|--|--|--|