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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2472



December 29, 2025

Dear Clergy of the DK-MN Area,

The Dakotas and Minnesota Appointive Cabinets seek to match clergy and congregations in order to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In appointment making, each Cabinet, through prayerful discernment, seeks to hold in balance the demonstrated gifts, graces, and life situations of available pastors with the missional needs of local churches and their communities.

As part of our consultation process in this upcoming appointment-making season, there are some clear opens that the DK-MN Cabinets wish to publish. Clergy are invited to express interest for themselves or for others who may have a missional match for these appointments.

If you are interested in being considered for any of these, or would like to recommend a colleague, please send an email to the superintendent indicated, with a copy to your own superintendent (if different). In the email give a brief summary of your interest and the gifts and graces you or your colleague may bring to the appointment.

Grace and Peace,

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Rev. Dr. Lanette L. Plambeck

Resident Bishop of the DK-MN Area, United Methodist Church

Clear Opens July 1, 2026 (unless otherwise noted)

NORTHEAST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - No clear opens at this time

NORTHWEST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS – See below for the Supervising Superintendent information

Bottineau United Parish, Bottineau, ND – Half time with parsonage
Conference Superintendent Kris Mutzenberger
[\(kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org\)](mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org)

AWA in person: 40 in person

[Mission Insite Reports](#)

Bottineau United Parish (UMC/PCUSA) is a welcoming, ecumenical congregation with a strong reputation as one of the friendliest churches in the community. The church places a high value on belonging before membership and is engaged in local mission, including quilting, a food pantry, Meals on

Wheels, school backpack programs, seasonal clothing assistance, and support for local shelters. Children's ministry has included Sunday School with 8–10 consistent participants when active. Youth ministry is currently limited, with confirmation offered every other year. Adult life centers on fellowship, service, and hospitality, and the building also serves the broader community through outside groups such as AA and a cancer support group. They currently worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays and the service is traditional. The congregation employs 2 part-time staff: office manager and custodian. The congregation's dream is to grow and thrive, though it recognizes feeling "stuck" and needing renewed energy, particularly in worship and music, and in reengaging participation. Bottineau United is open to bi-vocational or shared ministry. The church seeks a pastor who is kind, patient, community-oriented, and well suited to rural ministry—someone who enjoys relationship-building, works well with an older population, and has a heart for small-town life.

Jamestown First UMC, Jamestown ND – Full time with housing allowance

Conference Superintendent Kris Mutzenberger
[\(\[kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org\]\(mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org\)\)](mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org)

AWA 65 in person, 18 online

[Mission Insite Reports](#)

North Dakotas ninth largest city, Jamestown, is centrally located between Bismarck and Fargo. First UMC is located downtown directly across the street from the middle school and also hosts a daycare facility. Their signature ministries are focused on children and youth: Wiggles (weekly preschool) and Crosswalk (weekly middle school). They also are a part of the Daily Bread network of churches in Jamestown that provide free meals. Their Sunday morning worship service is best described as casual traditional. This congregation will be transitioning from 2 full-time pastors down to one in this appointment cycle, and they have budgeted to add an additional staff person to assist the new lead pastor. Core priorities include: strengthening stewardship, expanding local mission partnerships, deepening discipleship, forming small groups, and nurturing stronger connections with the next generation. The next pastor will be most effective if they excel in relationship-building, organizational leadership, connection with young people, and are strong in preaching and teaching.

Linton UMC, Linton, ND and Sterling UMC, Sterling, ND – Full time with parsonage in Linton

Conference Superintendent Kris Mutzenberger
[\(\[kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org\]\(mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org\)\)](mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org)

AWA 8 in Sterling, 44 in Linton

[Mission Insite Reports](#)

Linton and Sterling United Methodist Churches form a healthy, cooperative two-point parish rooted in traditional worship, strong community relationships, and a shared commitment to welcoming people of all ages. Worship follows a casual but traditional style, with services held at 8:30 a.m. in Sterling and 10:30 a.m. in Linton, with Sunday School in Linton at 9:30 a.m. Paid staff include a part-time secretary and a part-time treasurer.

Linton UMC is the larger of the two congregations, averaging mid-40s in worship attendance over the past several years and experiencing growth in participation in children's Sunday School, with approximately 18 children across three age-based classes. The congregation is notably multigenerational, active in their community and envisions a future that includes tangible outreach and ongoing support for their neighbors in need.

Sterling UMC is a smaller, faithful congregation and the only church in town, serving an aging but deeply committed membership. Average worship attendance has declined in recent years, now ranging from 8–11, though opportunities for growth remain. Sterling maintains a weekly Bible study, a Women of Faith group, and a strong tradition of mission offerings. The congregation dreams of renewed visibility, viability and connection to the community.

Looking ahead, Linton's priority is sustaining momentum with young families and remaining vibrant, while Sterling hopes for renewed attendance and pastoral leadership that can help re-engage the community. Together, they seek a pastor who is a strong communicator and relationship builder, focused on scripture in preaching, committed to evangelism and discipleship, comfortable in rural small-town ministry, humble, people-oriented, and able to empower lay leadership. These congregations are deeply committed to being welcoming, faithful, and engaged in their communities, and they are eager to partner with the next pastor to continue growing into God's future together.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS – See below for the Supervising Superintendent information

Asbury UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – Lead Pastor – Full time with housing allowance

Conference Superintendent Brandon Vetter
[\(brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org\)](mailto:brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org)

AWA 181 in-person, 363 online

Mission Insite Reports

Asbury is located in the fastest growing community the Midwest, topping 300,000 people in the metro area. They offer 3 Sunday services in 2 different styles. Asbury's signature ministry is their partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary School across the street from the church. This outreach provides energy to the children's ministry that meets on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Asbury's significant investment in youth ministry over the past few years led to wonderful numerical and spiritual growth in their teenagers. Asbury seeks a lead pastor to keep the outward mission focus, grow intergenerational ministry and lead into a new season of one appointed clergy. Some challenges include general fund budget adjustments and needed capital improvements. A successful pastor would continue to cultivate a place where all people, cultures and generations are welcome. Asbury is a church that is rooted in mission, justice and service, where people are comforted, challenged and spiritually alive.

First UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – Associate Pastor – Full time with housing allowance

Conference Superintendent Brandon Vetter
[\(brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org\)](mailto:brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org)

AWA 317 in-person, 330 online

Mission Insite Reports

Located downtown in the fastest growing community in the region, First is a vibrant, multigenerational church. They offer 3 Sunday morning worship services in 3 different styles where kids, students and adults find connection and growth. First seeks an associate to nurture the spiritual growth of the congregation by providing visionary leadership in adult discipleship, leadership development and pastoral care. The associate will shape and refine the adult discipleship pathway as well as recruit, train, mentor and support volunteer leaders. In addition, the associate will preach once a month and provide pastoral care to individuals and families, including weddings,

funerals and baptisms. It is expected that the associate will develop a culture of lay leadership across the church along with the staff and committees. A successful pastor will equip adults for deeper faith formation, empower volunteer leaders and support the overall mission and ministries of the church.

Wesley UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – Half time with parsonage
Conference Superintendent Brandon Vetter
(brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org)

AWA 32 in person

Mission Insite Reports

Located just a few minutes drive from downtown Sioux Falls, the fastest growing community in the Midwest, Wesley is a passionately service-driven church. They partner with a number of community organizations that rent space in their 3-story facility (such as Theatre 605 and GroundWorks Connect). Wesley has an ongoing partnership with Terry Redlin Elementary School just 3 blocks from the church. Wesley has entrepreneurial DNA, having participated in the starts of Sioux Falls Southern Hills, Sioux Falls Hilltop and Brandon Celebration UMCs. There is incredible potential for a growing and thriving congregation, including the need to start a recovery ministry to reach the neighborhood and beyond. Some challenges include outreach to children, youth and families as Wesley is primarily an older congregation. A successful pastor will bring energy to the congregation, seen through their contagious and passionate preaching, and continue to build on Wesley's community outreach and partnerships.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - No clear opens at this time

AURORA SKY DISTRICT, MINNESOTA – Conference Superintendent
Laurie Kantonen (laurie.kantonen@minnesotaumc.org)

No clear opens at this time

HEADWATERS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA – Conference Superintendent
Becky Jo Messenbrink (beckyjo.messenbrink@minnesotaumc.org)

Community UMC, Monticello, MN – Full time with housing allowance

AWA 113 in person, 58 Online

Mission Insite Reports

Community UMC is located mid-way along the I-94 corridor between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. The community is growing in population and business/industry, has a significant Hispanic population (5.6%), is known for its quality school district, and offers recreation along the Mississippi River and nearby Lake Maria State Park. This congregation is rebuilding a new identity after a steep decline during COVID, welcoming and partnering with Isaias 61:1 Ministries (Spanish-speaking), and becoming known as a trusting and safe place to worship. Average worship attendance (not including Isaias) is 113 in person and 58 online in a blended to contemporary worship experience on Sundays at 10 a.m. The right leader will have a heart for multi-cultural ministry and be equipped to lead toward a vision for the ministry of Community UMC by engaging in leadership development, stewardship to support the budget and building debt, and community outreach to grow presence and impact. Among the excellent staff who are helping in this redevelopment effort, Community UMC is served by a pastor who is bridging the gap between the previous pastor's retirement in December, and the appointment of their next permanent pastor within the traditional appointment

season.

Elk River UMC, Elk River, MN – Full time with housing allowance**AWA 77 in person, 55 Online**[**Mission Insite Reports**](#)

Elk River is situated where the Elk and Mississippi Rivers converge, and is located on Highways 10, 169 and 101. With a population of over 25,000, this community boasts an historic downtown, growing industry, 1,400 acres of parks and 31 miles of trails. With a median age in the mid-30s, this community has many young families and professionals, above-average public schools, and a well-educated workforce. Elk River UMC stands as a quietly open and welcoming congregation among more conservative options. The congregation continues to grow their multi-generational community and build on the growth in participation of children, youth, and families, predominantly through a Wednesday evening STEM approach to faith development and summer programs for kids. With a love for their community, Elk River UMC is looking for a pastor who will help them focus their outreach efforts (Pizza Oven onsite) for greater impact and relationship building. Hands-on mission work nearby and far away has been a hallmark of their faith development. The right pastor will be an encourager and developer of people, have strong and relevant preaching with relatable stories, can work well in a multi-generational setting, and is able to join with other staff to expand the church's capacity to reach children, youth, and families.

Litchfield UMC, Litchfield, MN – Three-quarter time with parsonage**AWA 59 in person, 90 online**[**Mission Insite Reports**](#)

Litchfield, a county seat community located 90 minutes West of Minneapolis on Hwy 12, is a rural community of 6,500 people, built around a lake with many country parks and a deep sense of community connection. Litchfield United Methodist Church is an historic community (founded years before the town incorporated) that seeks to be active in community events and relationships. Building on momentum and growth with young families and Wednesday night ministries is a strong priority of the church. The right leader will bring preaching that is relevant and worship leadership that is open and includes every generation. A growing edge for the church is to engage the already established community involvement in a way that transforms it into relationship building opportunities. Leadership stands ready to support intentional and thoughtful change that will help them become the church to which God calls them to become.

PRAIRIE WINDS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA – Conference Superintendent**Woojae Im**[**\(wooojae.im@minnesotaumc.org\)**](mailto:wooojae.im@minnesotaumc.org)**Cornerstone UMC, Lake Crystal, MN – Half time appointment with parsonage; appointment available now****AWA 35 in person**[**Mission Insite Reports**](#)

Located 13 miles southwest of Mankato, Lake Crystal is a small rural town with a population of approximately 2,500. The median age is 39, and the median household income is \$78,000. The congregation offers Children's Church on Sundays, a vibrant Wednesday night family time with children's programming, youth confirmation, and an adult Bible study followed by a shared meal.

The church building, constructed in 2014, is beautiful and was fully paid off in 2023. Average Sunday worship attendance is approximately 35 in person

and 25 online. The congregation's primary ministry focus is community outreach and involvement. Sunday worship is traditional and held at 10 a.m. The congregation is seeking a pastor with the following traits: joyful, positive, fun, and uplifting spirit; strong skills in community involvement and outreach; experience working with youth and excellence in worship leadership, with musical talent is a plus; a pastorally caring heart for all, including shut-ins.

Open Doors UMC, Wells, MN – Full time with parsonage, appointment available immediately

AWA 52 in person

Mission Insite Reports

Located in the city of Wells whose population is 2,400, Open Doors UMC is vital and mission-oriented supporting many organizations in the community such as Little Red Food Pantry (emergency food for community); Diaper Mission (making reusable diapers for MWMD); Sleeping mat weaving; Clothes Closet (non-profit thrift store); Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection; school supply and hat/mitten collections; and Serve Day. Average age of the congregation is 56 and it has active youth/children program with 12 kids and 6 confirmands. The congregation is looking for a pastor who can equip and guide volunteers for children and youth ministries. The new pastor is also expected to be able to relate to multiple generations offering pastoral visits to shut-ins and homebound members. In the church profile, the congregation lists "Upbeat, uplifting, joyful, community involvement" for gifts and skills they need for pastoral leadership. If a pastor has musical talent, that would be greatly appreciated. The average worship attendance in 2024 is 52.

Zion UMC, Danube, MN / Faith UMC, Olivia, MN / Middle Creek UMC – Full time with parsonage, appointment available immediately

AWA 35 at Zion, 15 at Faith, and 20 at Middle Creek **Mission Insite Reports**

Located in rural farming community. A large number of elderly and retired persons live in the community and the Latino population has been steadily growing. The closeness of the Lower Sioux Community provides unique interaction with the Native American population. The community has been facing challenges of job security and farm economy in general.

This three-point charge parish is known for its caring environment, ministry to children and youth, and exceptional hospitality. Joint youth group, with about 10 youth, meets at Faith in Olivia every Wednesday night. Desired pastoral leadership skills are excellence in preaching, bible study leadership, and collaboration with other ecumenical partner congregations in the community. Community engagement and presence of a pastor who understands the dynamics and uniqueness of rural ministry would be greatly appreciated.

AWA is 30-35 at Zion Danube, 15 at Faith Olivia, and 20 at Middle Creek. Three congregations are ready to do creative and innovative ways of doing ministries and is willing to having more joint worship services among them. They have strong lay leadership to support pastoral ministries along with one retired LLP and two certified lay speakers. Caring, teaching, preaching, and sharing are pastoral leadership they are looking for. This year they greatly updated the parsonage.

**RIVER BLUFFS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA – Conference Superintendent
Michelle Hargrave
(michelle.hargrave@minnesotaumc.org)**

**Chatfield UMC, Chatfield, MN – Three-quarter time with parsonage
AWA 30 in person****Mission Insite Reports**

The Chatfield community has a population of about 3000 people, 25 miles south of Rochester in rural, southeastern Minnesota. The church actively cares for the community in a variety of ways, with a church building located a few blocks east of downtown and the parsonage next door. The church hosts a food shelf, a medical closet, and is involved in a variety of missions locally, nationally, and globally. They value being open to the community, both metaphorically and physically. They seek worship leadership that helps them grow and connects scripture to modern life. A successful pastoral leader will bring compassion and empathy, strong communication, and a heart for the community. Average weekly worship is 30 with online worship offered as well.

**Park Avenue UMC, Minneapolis. MN – Full time with housing allowance
AWA 230 in person****Mission Insite Reports**

Park Avenue UMC seeks a Black or BIPOC Senior Pastor to lead this dynamic, multicultural setting. It sits on 34th and Park Avenue in south Minneapolis, in the Central Neighborhood. Five blocks from George Floyd Square, Park Avenue is in a region of Minneapolis that has rallied together to recover through organizing, with a focus on the arts, racial justice and youth empowerment.

Park Avenue UMC has a deeply evangelical history and a passion for caring for their neighbors. The building houses nonprofits offering that care, as well as a UMC Hispanic congregation. Average worship attendance in person is 230 per Sunday in a beautifully traditional sanctuary.

Deep experience in multicultural, urban ministry will be an asset for the congregation as they seek to grow in racial justice with a commitment to LGBTQ inclusion. Dynamic, Christ-centered preaching will support the engaging worship and excellent music. The congregation holds a spectrum of theologies, and seeks biblical, centrist leadership. Administrative oversight, skill in fundraising, and a collaborative leadership style will come alongside the strong staff, which includes several preachers, and the leadership.

The congregation has done intentional work on addressing racism and creating a healthy environment for leaders, staff, and members. They seek to grow in their spiritual lives, and to grow in membership, with a focus on youth and young adult engagement.

**Pine Island UMC, Pine Island, MN – Full time with parsonage
AWA 55 in person****Mission Insite Reports**

Pine Island is a bedroom community of Rochester, Minnesota, sitting twenty miles north on Highway 52. As a result, it is a growing community with a small-town feel and an educational system families seek out. The Pine Island Church sits on Main Street and is at the heart of the community in other ways as it fulfills its passion for loving its neighbors. Pine Island UMC loves its neighbors through the Love Project, Baby Closet, and the food shelf they started. A successful pastor here will have a heart for the community, being in conversation with the Prairie Island native community, local businesses, and nonprofits. The congregation has a long history of being involved in mission abroad, as well. The congregation also values the personal piety of its Wesleyan heritage, engaging in opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship. Worship is at 9 a.m. in a traditional sanctuary with good music. There are a variety of theological perspectives in the congregation, and they

value finding ways to come together. A sizeable parsonage is located next door, and there are several part-time staff. They have a long history of paying apportionments and are strongly connected to area UMCs.

Dakotas Conference UMC

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