



**Dakotas Conference**  
The United Methodist Church



**Grow. Reach. Heal.**

*The Dakotas Conference vision is for all congregations to live out Jesus' call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.*

Thank you for taking time to complete this Clergy/Church Annual Assessment!

The purpose of this assessment is to help you and your pastor(s) look back on the “fruit” born in the past year and look forward to where God is calling you to focus your resources—in particular, your human resources (clergy and lay)—in the coming year. This information helps your pastor(s) as s/he meets with the District Superintendent to set personal/professional goals and identify continuing education opportunities. Additionally, this feedback is meant to guide the pastor and lay leadership in determining what types of congregational training/support might equip you to meet the needs and accomplish the mission of your church in the future.

Enclosed you will find the form. The first page is a grid with seven categories of ministry effectiveness and church vitality.

- Please choose 3-4 that you believe your pastor currently leads/embodies effectively and 3-4 the laity/congregation are currently living out effectively. *(These are things that are most helpful or impactful in the church accomplishing its mission.)*
- Next choose two areas that you believe are “development opportunities” (D.O.) for your pastor and two for your congregation. *(These are areas that you think could enhance your mission if your pastor and/or lay leadership/congregation received training/support in or gave additional attention to.)*
- With three of the areas, there is also a place for key Vital Sign data that can be a helpful snapshot of some of the “health indicators” of your church as you identify strengths to build upon and opportunities for further development. *(The letters/numbers in the column to the right of the description reference corresponding Clergy Effectiveness document categories.)*

We ask that the committee and pastor meet separately to record initial responses and then meet together to share insights and complete the questions on the back side of the form. Please record the responses from your discussion. *(If you are a multi-point charge, we encourage each church to complete the form for the purpose of setting church as well as parish goals.)* It is also helpful, at this time, to set dates to follow-up on the goals and plans set.

We ask, if possible, that you submit these on our website. *(The link for Clergy-Church Annual assessment forms can be found at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/resources/forms>.)* This helps us a great deal in compiling the data. If that is not possible, please feel free to mail in a hard copy. We do ask that you **complete and submit the form BY JUNE 1.**

This information will be shared with the District Superintendent in preparation for their one-on-one meeting with the pastor(s) over the summer. Following this meeting, pastor(s) should share any key insights and personal/professional development plans with S/PPRC. This data will also be shared with the Conference staff to help us develop resources and training opportunities that would be most beneficial for UM congregations in the Dakotas.

Thank you again for participating in the important work! If you have any questions or suggestions of how we can better support you in this leadership role, please don't hesitate to contact the Conference Office 605-996-6552.