

Our Journey Together

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Dakotas Annual Conference 2022: Highlights to share

The twenty-ninth session of the Dakotas Annual Conference was held June 9-11, 2022, at the Event Center in Bismarck, North Dakota. It was an in-person event after two years of virtual and hybrid annual conferences. More than 450 United Methodists from North and South Dakota experienced inspiring worship, meaningful learning, and conducting business.

Bishop Laurie Haller is on medical leave after a fall causing a concussion, so two beloved bishops, Bishop Deborah Kiesey and Bishop Bruce Ough were welcomed back to preside.

Here are some of the highlights.

Theme: Drawing on Psalm 23 and John 10:10-11, our theme is "Jesus: Healer." We are a people and a world needing healing beyond our doing. God invites us to come to sit by still waters and to allow God to restore our souls.

Bishop's Episcopal Address: On Thursday morning, Bishop Bruce Ough began the episcopal address to the Dakotas Annual Conference with a provocative question. "Are we too wounded, too broken, too bruised, too trampled upon to be revived?" For Ough, this is more than rhetoric. In addition to societal problems of racism, violence, and dysfunctional politics, the Annual Conference is dealing with the glaring United Methodist issues of separation, disaffiliation, and broken relationships. Together these present potentially catastrophic threats to our mission, health, and well-being.

TED Talk-style speakers inspire action: This year's Dakotas Annual Conference included brief presentations on three areas of ministry: discipleship, consensus building, and rural ministry. Experts on these subjects offered their thoughts in a format similar to the popular TED Talk videos. Rev Ben Ingebretson suggested a three-step path of discipleship: Know-Do-Be. Allen Stanton spoke on rural communities' challenges and opportunities in the Dakotas. And on Friday, Ann Crews Melton, executive director of the Consensus Council, opened her session on consensus building by referencing the friendship of John Wesley and George Whitfield, which endured despite profound disagreements.

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Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than July 20.

Pastor Teresa achieved a milestone in her ministry journey during Annual Conference, when she was commissioned as a Provisional Elder in the church. This comes at the completion of her Master's of Divinity degree, and extensive theological preparation and review by the Board of Ordained Ministry. She then had to be approved by the entire body of ordained clergy in the conference. This begins a journey towards ordination, God willing. Pictured you can see Bishop Kiesey, Melissa Gall our conference Deacon, and the four District Superintendents praying over Pastor Teresa and blessing her in this new step.



Financial Update from Administrative Council

Financial Update as of May 31, 2022:

2022 General Fund Income Year to Date:	\$107,795.09
2022 General Fund Expenses Year to Date:	\$72,735.85
General Fund Difference:	\$35,059.24



At Annual Conference, Pastor Teresa and Virgil were presented with a joint award: The Youthworker Hall of Fame. This award is presented to persons who have been working with youth for at least 20 years. This award is especially meaningful because the recipients are nominated and chosen by youth in the conference. In previous years each of them individually received the Youth Worker of the Year award, and as far as we know, they are the only couple to be awarded this together.



Birthdays:



Jul 01 Nancy Cotton
 Jul 02 Lee Conkey
 Jul 03 JoAnn Testerman
 Jul 07 Tamie Grogan
 Jul 12 Margaret Moncur
 Jul 13 Jaymin
 VanDerWerff
 Jul 19 Doug Purrington

Jul 24 Lisa Fritzsche
 Jul 24 Ron Hoftiezer Jr.
 Jul 24 Curtis Wilbur
 Jul 27 MacKenzie Kopecky
 Jul 31 Andrea Fiala

Anniversaries:

July 03 Jerry & Nancy Cotton
 July 06 Doug & JoAnn Testerman
 July 17 Collin & Katie Otteson
 July 22 Chad & LaDonna Wharton

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - JULY READINGS

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms & Proverbs
1	2 Kings 3, 2 Kings 4:1-37	Acts 21:1-26	Psalms 78:56-72
2	2 Kings 4:38-44, 2 Kings 5, 2 Kings 6:1-23	Acts 21:27-40, Acts 22:1-22	Psalms 79:1-13
3	2 Kings 6:24-33, 2 Kings 7, 2 Kings 8:1-15	Acts 22:22-30, Acts 23:1-11	Proverbs 16:8-17
4	2 Kings 8:16-29, 2 Kings 9	Acts 23:12-35	Psalms 80:1-7
5	2 Kings 10, 2 Kings 11	Acts 24:1-27	Psalms 80:8-19
6	2 Kings 12, 2 Kings 13, 2 Kings 14:1-22	Acts 25:1-22	Psalms 81:1-7
7	2 Kings 14:23-29, 2 Kings 15	Acts 25:23-27, Acts 26:1-23	Proverbs 16:18-27
8	2 Kings 16, 2 Kings 17	Acts 26:24-32, Acts 27:1-12	Psalms 81:8-16
9	2 Kings 18, 2 Kings 19:1-13	Acts 27:13-44	Psalms 82:1-8
10	2 Kings 19:14-37, 2 Kings 20	Acts 28:1-16	Psalms 83:1-18
11	2 Kings 21, 2 Kings 22	Acts 28:17-31	Proverbs 16:28-33, Proverbs 17:1-4
12	2 Kings 23, 2 Kings 24:1-7	Romans 1:1-17	Psalms 84:1-7
13	2 Kings 24:8-20, 2 Kings 25	Romans 1:18-32	Psalms 84:8-12
14	Jonah 1, Jonah 2, Jonah 3, Jonah 4	Romans 2:1-16	Psalms 85:1-7
15	Amos 1, Amos 2	Romans 2:17-29, Romans 3:1-8	Proverbs 17:5-14
16	Amos 3, Amos 4	Romans 3:9-31	Psalms 85:8-13
17	Amos 5	Romans 4:1-15	Psalms 86:1-10
18	Amos 6, Amos 7	Romans 4:16-25, Romans 5:1-11	Psalms 86:11-17
19	Amos 8, Amos 9	Romans 5:12-21	Proverbs 17:15-24
20	Hosea 1, Hosea 2	Romans 6:1-14	Psalms 87:1-7
21	Hosea 3, Hosea 4, Hosea 5	Romans 6:15-23, Romans 7:1-6	Psalms 88:1-9
22	Hosea 6, Hosea 7	Romans 7:7-25	Psalms 88:9-18
23	Hosea 8, Hosea 9	Romans 8:1-17	Proverbs 17:25-28, Proverbs 18:1-6
24	Hosea 10, Hosea 11	Romans 8:18-39	Psalms 89:1-8
25	Hosea 11, Hosea 12, Hosea 13, Hosea 14	Romans 9:1-21	Psalms 89:9-13
26	1 Chronicles 1, 1 Chronicles 2:1-17	Romans 9:22-33, Romans 10:1-4	Psalms 89:14-18
27	1 Chronicles 2:18-55, 1 Chronicles 3, 1 Chronicles 4:1-8	Romans 10:5-21, Romans 11:1-10	Proverbs 18:7-16
28	1 Chronicles 4:9-43, 1 Chronicles 5	Romans 11:11-32	Psalms 89:19-29
29	1 Chronicles 6	Romans 11:33-36, Romans 12:1-21	Psalms 89:30-37
30	1 Chronicles 7, 1 Chronicles 8	Romans 13:1-14	Psalms 89:38-45
31	1 Chronicles 9, 1 Chronicles 10:1-14	Romans 14:1-18	Proverbs 18:17-19:2

Missional Report: Dakotas United Methodists have been living the incarnational love of Jesus Christ, working to bring healing to a hurting world. Even as we seek to offer that grace to others, we know we need the Good Shepherd—the Great Physician—to offer that continual healing to us. More than 500 people viewed the 2021-2022 Missional Report as part of the opening plenary session of the Dakotas Annual Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota

Recognizing those entering a new chapter of ministry: "In the challenges of life, we are called by the Holy Spirit to live our call as one body of Christ," said Bishop Deborah Kiesey as she delivered the message, "Our Calling," at the 2022 Celebration of Life in Ministry Service. During the service, persons were remembered, recognized, and celebrated as they entered a new stage and commitment to ministry. "Despite everything that's happening within our church. Let's celebrate these women and these men who've answered the call God has placed on their hearts," said Bishop Deb. Thanks be to God for this group of dedicated leaders!

Legislation: Voting members of the 29th Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference approved all pieces of legislation before them, including everything on the consent calendar. Legislation approved included Item 1.2. an Inter-Methodist Standing Committee, Item 1.3 changes to the lay equalization formula, and Item 1.4 recommendations for the process for local churches leaving the UMC. A presentation of the updated Disaffiliation Process was received, and time was spent in plenary sessions fielding questions. New this year was voting with electronic devices. Option Technologies provided each voting member of the body with a push-button device. Voting on each motion took place for 30 seconds, with results displayed instantly.

Specific legislation approved:

2023 budget: The 2023 budget was approved, including apportionments and direct billing, totaling \$6,419,729. The 2023 budget represents a 7.25 decrease from 2022.

Legislative Item 1.2: This resolution passed and calls for establishing a new standing committee, created by the Common Table, to navigate Inter-Methodist Relations.

Legislative item 1.3 Changes to lay equalization: Legislative item 1.3 passed. The legislation delineates changes to the lay equalization formula so that the last paragraph of p. 183 of the 2021 Conference Journal includes language related to apportioned giving.





Legislative item 1.4: Legislative item 1.4 passed. The legislation recommends modifications to the Disaffiliation Process for local churches leaving the United Methodist Church.

2022 Consent Calendar: The 2022 Consent Calendar includes the Cabinet Report, equitable compensation schedule, housing allowances, action items for the Board of Pensions, and recognition of reports received was approved with corrections and 2.3 Housing Allowance for Clergy, Staff, and District Superintendents lifted and amended.

A presentation of the updated Disaffiliation Process was received, and time was spent in plenary sessions fielding questions.

Miracle Offering: Participants in the 29th Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference gathered for worship Friday morning, June 10, to share their gifts to heal a broken world. During the service, Bishop Deb Kiesey said, "One of the most meaningful ways we express our love of God and grow in faith is through our gifts." Rev. Bob Ruedebusch, Southwest District Superintendent, gave the morning worship message, "Jesus Gets Us," proclaiming that Jesus heals us. "Jesus sends us out into the world to be the apprentices of healing and proclaiming the Kingdom of God has come near to all of God's people." The 2022 Miracle Offering: Wings for Wellness is a hope-bringing, spirit-fueled activity that will have a lasting impact on Native American youth served by Tree of Life Ministry and Spirit Lake Ministry. So far, we've collected close to \$47,000. Donations are still being accepted.

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7 Leadership 6:30pm 	8	9 Diede/Bjork Family Fellowship Hall	
10	11	12  United Women in Faith Ranch Café 1:30	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20  United Women in Faith Work Day Lutheran Church 10-2	21	22	23	
24	25	26	JoAnn out of the office 25th-29th				30 Chantal Danburg bridal shower Fellowship Hall 10:00
31 Spare Change Sunday 							

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The soul as soil



Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant — up to a

hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:8).

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we — or they — realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time — including ourselves."

