



### THE WONDER OF OPPORTUNITIES

This past summer, our family had the opportunity to spend a long weekend at Breezy Pointe, MN. My husband, Randy, our two adult daughters, Chelsea and Katie, and I had a wonderful time at the resort. The temperatures were a perfect mid-seventies, the skies were beautiful, and golf course fairways and greens were wonderfully manicured. We played golf for three consecutive days, a feat I had never embarked on before! I'm more of a few-times-a-summer golfer.

We approached one of the tee boxes high above the course on our last day. I love to tee off from these elevated areas. It makes my drives appear longer than they are--it's an illusion that mediocre golfers like me relish! When our cart came around the corner, and I looked across the golf course from up there, I was in awe of God's beauty. I had been there just two days before but was struck by how different it looked now. It is a vast area with rolling hills, a fresh stream, and so many beautiful trees. We think of this world as ours, but God made this. A lovely space for anyone to enjoy on this day. God's creation was all around us.

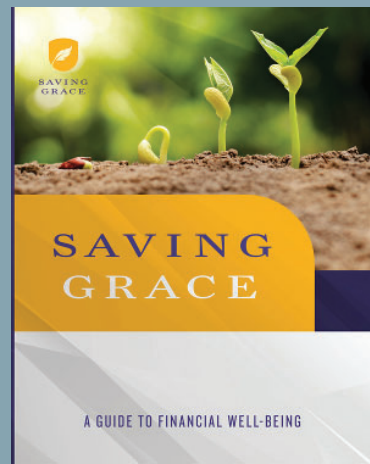
Looking over the incline across God's wonder, I realized it was never the intent for this area to stay the same. God didn't create this view to enjoy the beauty alone. It was designed to be shared with God. It was made for you and me to have a moment of reverence. A moment that reminds us that things change, yet God's beauty is still among us. It's just different than before. When it was created, there was no golf course. But I'm confident it was made for something unique. Something that would change and yet hold its splendor to share. A spot that allows more people to see God's creation and share in the wonder of possibilities.

As we finished our round of golf that day, it occurred to me that God gives us all opportunities to share in the beauty of what was. Our day was a reminder of how things are meant to change. We've all been given so much to share with others. What God has given us was meant to be enjoyed while constantly evolving.

Are we seeing God's beauty and the intent to share in our churches and our lives? How are we developing what was created to make lives better for those around us today? How are we using our resources to enrich our ministries? Are we taking the chance to move our ministries beyond what we ever dreamed of? Let's find ways to take our ministries outside the church and beyond.

It's time to stand on the high tee box and hit that ball to see how far it may soar. The possibilities are endless in this world God has created for us. Together, we will go far beyond where we could ever imagine.

**Sheri Meister**  
President/CEO



### SAVING GRACE - A GUIDE TO FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

We are excited to have available a new Biblically based, Wesleyan tool that helps participants reach financial well-being goals.

*Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being* is a program to help people of faith create healthy relationships with money and possessions. Participants will move through six sessions covering such topics as saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life. Adapted from the best-selling *Freed Up Financial Living* from the Good Sense Movement, this study is based on Wesleyan values and provides text and tools to help participants address life concerns and reach personal financial goals.

If you're interested in leading a *Saving Grace* study group in your church next year and would like to go through the course with other leaders, please contact Kelsey Morgan at [kelsey.morgan@dkmnmf.org](mailto:kelsey.morgan@dkmnmf.org) to be added to the list to receive more information.

*May we all use this time to  
reflect on the glory of our Savior.  
We wish you a blessed Advent  
and a joyous Christmas!*

## DAKOTAS BUILDERS CLUB ANNOUNCES FALL 2022 CALL

ReNew United Methodist Church in Kenmare, North Dakota was chosen as the grant recipient of the Fall 2022 Builders Club Call. ReNew UMC desires to be a place where people can come and renew their connection with each other and God. A new pastor was recently appointed to the North Prairie Parish (Kenmare, Bowbells, and Sherwood) and is living in the parsonage in Kenmare. Because the parsonage sat vacant for many years, the house has seen better days. The shingles and gutters of the parsonage and garage are in desperate need of being replaced. The financial burden of repairs to the parsonage takes their minds, talents, and resources away from ministry. Members of ReNew UMC want to take care of their pastor, so their pastor can better care for the churches and the communities of the North Prairie Parish.

A brochure regarding the project and how to donate was sent to all Dakotas Builders Club members in mid-October. If you are not a Dakotas Builders Club member and would like to receive Call information via mail or email, please sign up on our website at [www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/builders-club](http://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/builders-club).

Thank you for those who supported Asbury UMC in Sioux Falls, SD during the Summer 2022 Builders Call. Asbury UMC was awarded a grant of \$9,000.

If your church is doing a building or remodel project and looking for funding, we encourage you to visit our website for more information about the Dakotas Builders Club along with the application form. Please contact Diane Weller at [diane.weller@dknmf.org](mailto:diane.weller@dknmf.org) or 612-230-3337 if you have any questions.



## ENDOWMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHURCH, COMMUNITY, AND WORLD



White Bear Lake United Methodist Church has had an endowment fund since 2008. One member who always felt the church should have an endowment fund left assets to the church to establish it. Two years later, a couple left their estate to the church which was added to the existing endowment fund. The Minnesota Methodist Foundation was great to work with in establishing the charter and the distribution guidelines. The money is in socially responsible investments, and the distribution guidelines specify that the money can't be used for items that should be part of the regular annual budget.

Each year the church takes a distribution of between 4-5% of the prior year's average endowment fund balance. This ensures that the endowment fund can continue without running out of money.



The Endowment Fund has funded some exciting projects over the years. In 2018, funds were used to upgrade the sound system in Fellowship Hall to make it easier to have events there so everyone could hear the speaker. We used funds to replace the Automated Defibrillator unit, to buy table racks to make moving and setting up tables easier for custodians, for security upgrades including parking lot and building LED lighting, security cameras, keyless entrance system on doors, and computer system upgrades to support the systems. It funded 10 scholarships to Good Earth Camp for church youth who still talk about how meaningful the experience was.

The Endowment fund has supported Century College in White Bear Lake and made a large positive impact for many students. We distributed gas cards and Target & Cub Foods gift cards so students in need could get to school and buy essentials. We provided a scholarship to a nursing student and funded a trip for two students to go on a Black Girls Advocate College trip to explore colleges and meet with other black students.



This year, we used the Endowment to fund the Racial Justice Initiative and will support a Black History Month recital in 2023. For Missions, we have provided money to Common Hope to support students and families during the pandemic, and helped fund a new secondary school in Haiti.

The church is very fortunate to have an Endowment Fund that allows us to make a difference in the lives of people in our own church, community and around the world.

*An endowment is a great way to provide funding for the ministries of your church. We are thankful to White Bear Lake UMC for sharing their endowment impact story.*

## USING THE 16-QUARTER ROLLING AVERAGE BALANCE METHOD TO DETERMINE FUNDING AMOUNTS

When visiting with church finance and investment committees we often talk about the advantages of using a 16-quarter rolling average balance to determine an amount available for ministry. The average balance method involves treating the investment as a type of endowment referred to as a quasi-endowment. Determining an annual distribution based on an average balance helps with budgeting, assists in growing the principal investment and assures that ministries will be funded in years of market gains as well as in years of poor market performance.

Here are the basic steps to using the quasi-endowment method:

1. Create or modify a current spending policy to include an annual distribution rate along with other information that will guide the administration of the fund. Distribution rates are commonly set between 4%-5%. The Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations use a 4 ½% distribution rate.
2. Calculate the 16-quarter average balance. This is typically done at the end of each year using the previous four full years of quarterly balances. For example, the 16-quarter balances from 2019-2022 are used to calculate the average balance for 2023. In the next year, a new average balance would be calculated using numbers from 2020-2023.
3. Multiply the average balance by the determined spending rate to find the annual amount available to distribute.

Treating an investment account as a quasi-endowment helps fund ministry in the following ways:

- Budgeting for ministry becomes easier because the distribution amount will be relatively equal year over year.
- Using a rolling average balance and constant distribution rate helps protect and grow the principal over time because any market gain above the distribution rate will be reinvested in the fund. And, as the principal grows, the amount available each year will increase.
- Using an average balance calculated over four years helps to smooth market volatility and makes it possible to distribute funds even in years of market decline.

Many of our churches use some form of an average balance method to support their ministry. If you would like to visit more regarding quasi-endowments and how they might fit with your funding strategy, please contact Sheri or Diane.

## MINNESOTA UNITED METHODIST BUILDERS AWARDS FALL CALL

First United Methodist Church in Redwood Falls, Minnesota is the recipient of the Fall 2022 Minnesota United Methodist Builders Call. Redwood Falls First UMC is a caring community of God's people who seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. One of the many ways that the congregation at Redwood Falls First UMC continues to grow, reach new people, and share in fellowship together is through their many Connect Groups. Over the past few years, the roof on the church building has received quite a bit of damage from several hailstorms. Replacing the roof will allow Redwood Falls First UMC to concentrate their time, energy, and financial resources on growing their many ministries to continue to reach new people in Christ's name.

*"Financial assistance from the Minnesota Builders would demonstrate the connectedness within the entirety of the United Methodist Church and the Minnesota Annual Conference church neighbors,"* comments Barb Dahms, project coordinator at Redwood Falls First UMC.

A brochure regarding the project and how to donate was sent to all MN UM Builders members in mid-October. If you are not a MN UM Builders member and would like to receive Call information via mail or email, please sign up on our website at [www.mnumf.org/mn-um-builders](http://www.mnumf.org/mn-um-builders).

Thank you for those who supported Faith Church in Farmington, MN during the Spring 2022 Builders Call. Faith Church was awarded a grant of \$3,500.

More information about MN UM Builders along with the application form can be found on our website. In addition to UM Builders Grants, we also offer loans to churches for capital improvements or repairs. Please contact Diane Weller at [diane.weller@dkmnmf.org](mailto:diane.weller@dkmnmf.org) or 612-230-3337 if you have any questions.

*\*For more information on Minnesota Builders East grants and loans, contact Brent Holmberg at [brenth3514@earthlink.net](mailto:brenth3514@earthlink.net) or call 612-940-4303.*



**MINNESOTA METHODIST BUILDERS CLUB**  
*Together in Mission*

## YEAR-END STOCK GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 15TH

If you're planning to donate a gift of stock this year, please know that to take advantage of a charitable tax deduction in 2022, stock transfers must be completed by December 31st. Due to the higher volume of requests in December, stock transfer forms must be received in our office by December 15th to assure the transaction is completed by year-end. Stock transfer forms can be found in the Forms tab on our website: [www.mnumf.org](http://www.mnumf.org). If you have any questions or need further instructions, please contact Diane Weller.





Dakotas | Minnesota  
**METHODIST  
FOUNDATIONS**

*developing relationships  
cultivating resources  
embracing ministry*

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## KLINGBEIL GRANTS ARE BACK FOR 2022 FOR DAKOTAS CHURCHES

The Dakotas Methodist Foundation is again offering the Klingbeil Grants for churches in the Dakotas who open a new investment or endowment account between July 1 - December 31, 2022.

**Klingbeil Investors Grant:** Churches that establish a new investment account with the Foundation from July 1 - December 31, 2022 will receive an annual grant of 2% of their initial deposit for the three years following their initial investment. This grant applies only to the first \$75,000 invested. The grant will be forfeited if the church closes the account before the end of the third year. The principle must remain invested for the full three years and earnings are available after one year. *For example: A church invests \$50,000 in a new investment account. At the end of each year, for three years, \$1,000 will be deposited in the church's account. After three years, \$3,000 will have been deposited in the account, plus interest.*

Investment Accounts take advantage of the Foundation's investment power to provide more funds for the ministries of your church. You have access to the funds after one year of the initial investment.

**Klingbeil Legacy Grant:** Churches that establish a new endowment fund with the Foundation from July 1 - December 31, 2022 will receive an instant grant of 10% of the amount invested. *For example: A church that establishes an endowment of \$50,000 would receive an instant grant of \$5,000 to bring the principal up to \$55,000. An endowment of that size will typically generate about \$2,500 annually.* This grant will only apply to the first \$250,000 of an endowment for a maximum of a \$25,000 grant.

Endowments keep the principal amount intact forever but allow you to use the investment income for the ministries of your church.

Klingbeil Investors Grants and Klingbeil Legacy Grants for endowments are available thanks to a wonderful and generous gift by Maynard Klingbeil.



**KLINGBEIL GRANTS**

Available for churches who  
open a new investment or  
endowment account with the  
Dakotas Methodist Foundation

July 1 - December 31, 2022

## KORONIS MINISTRIES DEDICATES NEW TABERNACLE

September 10, 2022 was a day of celebration at Koronis Ministries. Not only did they celebrate 100 years of ministry on Lake Koronis, but they also dedicated the brand new Tabernacle.

This project has been many years in the making. The old Tabernacle was torn down in the spring of 2015 after nearly a century of use, and the new one was scheduled to be completed in 2017. Due to many delays, rising costs, and the pandemic, construction on the new building finally began in June 2021.

The new Tabernacle houses an upper-level meeting room overlooking the lake with a capacity of nearly 300, and a lower-level dining room that can comfortably seat well in excess of 200 guests. This new Tabernacle honors the cherished memories and features of the original structure while better meeting the needs of future generations with amenities that the original structure lacked—like air conditioning, heat, restrooms, improved lighting, and advanced technological capabilities.

Thousands of lives have been changed over the 100 years that Koronis Ministries has been doing ministry. The new Tabernacle will continue to provide a sacred space for where people of all ages can sense God's call and committ their lives to Christ.

The Foundation has been a proud partner of Dakotas-Minnesota Camps and has been walking alongside Camp Minnesota to raise funds for this project. If you would like to support the new Tabernacle, you can send a donation to the Minnesota Foundation office or donate online at [www.mnumf.org/give](http://www.mnumf.org/give).

