



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”

**John 20:19**

“Jesus came and stood among them.” Those words continue to circle around and around in my head. Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus went to them. Jesus cared to be with the people. Jesus did not say, “Come by and see me. I have something to tell you.” Jesus met the people where they were, to show them who he was. This passage is an excellent reminder that it’s not about us. Jesus went to the people and met them where they were.

So, for us, it’s about supporting a ministry that meets the needs of the people. If we’re going to transform the world and introduce non-Christians to Christ, we must be ready to realize other people are not in the same place we are. If we do not get to know the people or are not sensitive to their needs, we will never be able to meet them where they are.

As our lives become consumed with opportunities swirling around us and instant gratification becomes more predominant, our world seems less interested in the people in need. We more often take care of our own concerns first. We assume that because issues and causes are important to us, the same things are significant to those around us.

In the upper Midwest, the days we can eat outdoors are limited. Many people enjoy time on the patio. Recently, I was with a group that was invited to lunch. The reservations were made for an outside table. Assumptions were made. Since the host enjoys the outdoors, shouldn’t everyone? Not once were the participants asked if they were comfortable.

In this case, one guest had a sensitivity to the humidity. One could not tolerate the heat. And another was prone to bee allergies. Lunch was difficult for three of the five guests. The sad thing is that the host did not even acknowledge the discomfort. They “always eat on the patio when available.” The host did not meet the guests where they were.

We all have ministries that are important to us. Our calling is to bring people closer to Christ, but no one is on the same faith journey. Discipleship begins with us. As we find people needing Jesus, we must start by understanding that the patio is not for everyone. If Jesus hosted a lunch today, would he invite people outside? Or would he pull up a chair in the dining room to join his people where they are?

Across the Dakotas and Minnesota, many ministries bring people closer to Jesus. These ministries need resources to help people along their faith journey. Please get in touch with me to join me in supporting a ministry you love. You can share your resources in many ways, and I would love to meet with you to discern which option is best. Contact me at [sheri.meister@dkmmmf.org](mailto:sheri.meister@dkmmmf.org) to donate today.

*Sheri* Sheri Meister  
President/CEO

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for  
he is good, for his steadfast love  
endures forever!*

Psalm 107:1

## SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations are pleased to offer seminary scholarships to students following their call to ministry. Scholarships are made possible by people who understand the importance of supporting our future leaders. It warms our hearts to hear how blessed, cared for, and loved our students feel when they are awarded a scholarship. If you’d like to be part of this important ministry, you may donate to our scholarship funds on our websites, or by mail. Please designate your gift to Seminary Scholarships. You may also contact us if you’d like more information on how to support our seminary students.



Allison Galbreath

*“Your support has allowed me to follow God’s call on my life. I am in my final year of study at Wesley Theological (God and professor’s willing). After graduation, I hope to be commissioned in the Dakotas Conference and serve as a pastor to rural churches.”*

## JOIN THE BUILDERS CLUB

Loving your neighbor!

The Builders Club is one of my favorite ministries of our Conferences. It embodies the root of the Wesleyan movement and represents the second commandment of loving your neighbor. In many ways, it defines the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. Throughout the year, we invite Builders Club members to contribute financially to a church needing funds for a building project. This ministry encourages members across the Conference to give to a church and support a community they may not be familiar with. The recipients of the funds are incredibly grateful and take pleasure in knowing members of the Conference have supported their building project. Please contact us today to sign up to be a member. And, if you are already a member, know that the next time you receive our invitation, one of your church neighbors will continue their ministry because of your support.

With gratitude,

*Sheri*



## Minnesota Methodist Builders Awards Fall Call

Stillwater First UMC in Stillwater, Minnesota, is following Christ's example by loving children and welcoming them into their building. For over thirty years they have been faithful in their call to share the love of Jesus in their community by providing space for Sunny Hill Preschool. In order to renew the state license so Sunny Hill Preschool can continue to meet at the church, the retaining wall adjacent to the playground must be replaced.



## Dakotas Announces Builders Club Fall Call

The United Methodist Church of Hettinger, North Dakota is a caring community of God's people seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The UMC of Hettinger looks for opportunities to invite people to their church through Sunday School, small groups and free concerts. To address safety and insurability concerns the roof above the Sunday School rooms must be repaired.



## 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 2023 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. Transfer forms can be found on our websites: [www.mnumf.org](http://www.mnumf.org) and [www.dakotasumf.org](http://www.dakotasumf.org). If you have any questions or need further instructions, please contact Diane Weller.





Dakotas and Minnesota participants

Recently, seventy-one ministry innovators from across the North Central Jurisdiction gathered in Indianapolis, IN, to brainstorm, collaborate, and share new ministry ideas to bring back to their communities. The Dakotas Minnesota Episcopal Area proudly represented nearly half the attendees, with thirty-four individuals attending. INNOVATE was a three-day event sponsored by Area Foundations and Annual Conferences to create a space for forward thinkers to share ideas and develop ministry beyond the status quo. Several participants across the episcopal area were awarded grants from the Dakotas|Minnesota Methodist Foundations to help launch their ideas within their communities. A few ideas are shared below.

**Pastor Ralph Holbrook** of Community UMC in Monticello, MN, is introducing “Latin Minded Kingdom Leaders”. A strong UM-centered network for growth is needed, “because creating a strong support network will bring pastoral, church, and kingdom growth!”

**Chang Yi**, serving as pastor for Grand Forks Zion UMC, shared: *“The INNOVATE event offered an opportunity to strategize and invigorate our community, directing them to be more outwardly focused. In the coming year, we plan to host special sessions where our current leaders and beneficiaries of our events (hopefully) share their cherished experiences and express gratitude for continued support.”*

**Andrea Johnson**, the pastor at Aberdeen North Highland UMC, pitched an idea of connecting college students at Northern State University to new ministries at North Highland. Andrea’s heart for young adults shines through as she and the students participate, who have also extended the invitation to other NSU students.

**Annie Carlson**, pastor at Washburn and Center UMCs, has already begun her ministry in discipleship and has a model others across the jurisdiction have inquired about implementing in their communities. Annie’s love for ministry is contagious. This event allowed her to share and learn from others, *“It was a wonderful time to connect with and meet new people, have time to work on ministry ideas, and get some good input. I really appreciate the ministry support and encouragement!”*

**Carrie Binnie** is the lead pastor of Minnetonka UMC, where plans are in the works to reimagine worship in a way that empowers more people, especially younger generations, to know and live the life-giving ways of Jesus. After several meaningful conversations with colleagues, Carrie came away from INNOVATE eager to develop an expression of worship that moves worshipers from attending worship to actively engaging in the worship experience.

During the INNOVATE experience, the room had an indescribable buzz of creativity. Our goal is to continue providing opportunities and space for creative minds to gather with others willing to dream of doing new and different ministries in their communities. This is an exciting time for across the Dakotas and Minnesota. Over the next year, there is more to come. We’ll continue to share what is happening. Maybe you are also called to be part of a new ministry in your local community.



Dakotas | Minnesota  
**METHODIST  
FOUNDATIONS**

*developing relationships  
cultivating resources  
embracing ministry*

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**FROM TASK LIST TO SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE**



to

What began as a discussion on what to do about the marks and minor damage to the front doors of Cedar UMC developed into a demonstration of what it means to truly convey a spirit of welcoming all who enter. The leadership team moved quickly from addressing what to do about damaged doors how they could better serve God’s people. In the fall of 2022, Cedar UMC applied for an accessibility grant to assist in installing automatic doors for their building. Many people in the church helped move the project along, and it was a blessing to have the doors operational in time for Christmas Eve services.

They have been surprised and encouraged by the overwhelming response from the congregation. “The benefit of accessibility is not top of mind for most, but once it is experienced and observed, people in need get the message that they are welcome, and their challenges are being respected,” says Stu Bernard, Ad Council Chair. “It’s not only those with physical limitations who appreciate the door openers, but those bringing armfuls of love to or from the church as well.”



Cedar UMC is living out its mission of being committed to sharing “God’s Love and the Hope of Christ” by improving the accessibility of its church building for members and neighbors within the community. people by doing the right thing for the right reason.

The Foundations are blessed to have funds designated for accessibility grants. Contact us for more information on how to apply. We are thankful to Cedar UMC of Ham Lake, Minnesota for sharing their grant impact story.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VANCO’S FEE-FREE PROMOTION**

End 2023 strong with an online giving platform that helps you elevate giving through compelling visual storytelling and experience the added benefit of Vanco’s fee-free promotion. Vanco’s easy-to-use giving platform, exceptional customer service and simple church management software integrations help generosity soar for the benefit of your church while saving church staff time.

Sign up with Vanco before the end of November to take advantage of their January fee-free promotion. That’s right; no processing fees on gifts, up to \$50,000 in total, received in January if you sign up by November 30.

The Dakotas and Minnesota Methodist Foundations have partnered with Vanco to provide ongoing special pricing rates for our churches. With Select Group Pricing, the monthly fee is waived and per-transaction fees for bank transfers and credit/debit card donations are reduced. Call 866-349-0613 and ask about how Select Group Pricing can benefit your ministry!

