



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Resident Bishop  
Lanette Plambeck  
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June 25, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past week, our communities in the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area and our neighbors in Northwest Iowa have faced significant challenges due to unexpected flooding. These natural disasters have brought severe disruptions to the lives of many, causing damage to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. In these trying times, our faith and unity become our greatest strengths.

As your bishop, my heart aches for those affected by these floods. The scenes of rising waters, evacuated homes, and distressed families weigh heavily on all of us. Yet, precisely in such moments of trial the essence of our faith shines the brightest. The resilience, compassion, and solidarity displayed by our congregations and neighbors serve as a testament to the enduring power of our shared commitment to Christ's teachings—I'm particularly thinking of Matthew 25. Know as we care for those impacted, we care also for Christ.

We are called to action in response to this crisis, grounded in our deep sense of empathy and responsibility. Here's how we can support each other:

**Prayer and Pastoral Care:** Let us begin with prayer, lifting those affected by the floods into God's care. Our pastors and church leaders are on the frontlines, offering spiritual support and comfort to those in distress. Let us keep them in our prayers as they provide strength and guidance to those in need.

**\*Community Outreach:** We encourage all congregations to mobilize and assist local relief efforts. This includes providing shelter, food, and clothing to those displaced and participating in clean-up operations where it is safe to do so.

**\*Financial Support:** Many of our brothers and sisters face immense financial burdens due to the floods. We urge you to contribute to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and local disaster response funds, which are instrumental in delivering aid to affected communities.

**\*Volunteer Efforts:** When the time comes, your hands and hearts will be needed in the rebuilding process. Whether through physical labor or logistical support, there will be numerous ways to volunteer your time and skills to help restore our communities.



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\*Emotional and Spiritual Support: Trauma from such events can have long-lasting effects. Offering a listening ear and a compassionate heart to those grappling with loss and fear is invaluable. Our faith teaches us the power of love and understanding in healing.

Let us continue to embody the spirit of Christ's love and service in the coming days and weeks. As we extend our hands in support, we also reaffirm our faith in God's abiding presence through adversity. Together, we can navigate these turbulent waters and emerge stronger, united by our commitment to one another and to God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all as we respond to this challenge with unwavering faith and collective action.

Yours in Christ,

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*Bishop Lanette Plambeck*

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The United Methodist Church



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