

People often ask me what I love about working with churches. Without hesitation, I answer: "It warms my heart when I work with churches who enhance their ministry by using earnings from an investment or endowment account." I love to hear when churches and individuals manage their funds well and, in turn, find ways to reach new people and share the good news of Jesus Christ and transforming lives.

Over the years, several churches have been on operational life support. These churches continue to operate with increased expenses and declining weekly offerings wondering how they can keep their doors open. The good news is, many of these churches can turn things around when they begin building an investment or endowment fund. When a church develops a long-term investment plan, it puts the church in a healthier place. Once their leadership starts to see the rewards of the earnings, they re-evaluate their situation and recognize the possibilities outside of their daily budget; their church begins to Thrive. Here are two options to consider to strengthen the health of your church:

**Church Investment Accounts:** Investment accounts are under the control of the church or organization, and withdrawals from the investment account can be made at any time. However, we recommend that the funds remain invested for at least one year before your first withdrawal. These accounts are intended for long-term investing rather than short-term such as a savings account.

**Endowment Accounts:** Funds to be held permanently by the Foundation. Distributions are made annually at a rate of 4.0-4.5% of the 16-quarter rolling average balance. This distribution rate is less than the average return on investment to allow the fund's corpus to increase. You may designate your funds to a specific purpose or leave it undesignated for general ministry.

The Dakotas United Methodist Foundation is so much more than an investment manager, we assist your church in ministry with services such as: setting up an endowment or endowment committee, legacy planning, church financial consultations, stewardship training, webinars, and donor relations. And, there is no cost to you for these services.

Together in Ministry,  
**Sheri Meister**  
*Executive Director*



## KORONIS TABERNACLE UPDATE

The Foundation recognizes the crucial role camping plays in the lives of our young people and supports the efforts of rebuilding the tabernacle at Koronis. Over the years, the tabernacle at Koronis camp has been a place where individuals were introduced to Jesus, where faith journeys began, and where many have gathered to experience God's love.

Hundreds of individuals and churches have come together recently to raise money in the effort to rebuild the tabernacle. By rebuilding, updating this facility and bringing its amenities into the 21st century, we're inviting people to join in the mission of bringing people to a space of experiencing the Holy Spirit. It's exciting to know this new facility will have the accommodations to attract larger groups for meetings, family reunions, and weddings.

As devastating as the fire was to the kitchen and dining facilities and we count our blessings no one was injured, we recognize God works in mysterious ways. The fire has given the camp an opportunity to rethink its original plan and expedite the addition of kitchen and dining facilities to the first level of the tabernacle. As we all know, our plans are not always God's plans and we truly believe God has a plan for Koronis camp that is bigger than any of us have imagined.

The Foundation supports the rebuilding of the tabernacle at Koronis and is proud to partner with them as we rebuild the tabernacle for a better tomorrow! More information on how you can join our efforts will be mailed later this spring.

## MN UM BUILDERS AWARDS SPRING CALL

The Minnesota UM Foundation has recently taken over management of the MN UM Builders (formerly Metro West Builders). We are happy to announce that the 2021 Spring Builders Call has been awarded to the Rapha Tabernacle of Glory to assist with the expense of new furnaces and a water heater. A brochure regarding the project and how to donate will be sent to all MN UM Builders members in early April. If you are not a Builders member and would like to receive Call information via mail or email, please sign up on our website at [www.mnumf.org](http://www.mnumf.org) under Ways You Can Help.

We're also currently accepting applications for our 2021 Fall Builders Call. If your church is considering a project that will help provide a more welcoming space to connect with your congregation and your community, we invite you to apply! **All Minnesota United Methodist Churches are eligible.**

More information on the revised process along with the application form can be found in the Forms tab on our website. In addition to Builders Calls, 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 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.





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Dakotas & Minnesota  
Methodist Foundations

An endowment is a wonderful way to provide funding for the ministries of your church. The Foundation is thankful to The Grove UMC for sharing their endowment impact story.

## THE GROVE HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The Grove United Methodist Church in Woodbury, Minnesota, is a testimony to the power of endowment giving. Our endowment has been named, "Hope for the Future."

Ten years ago, a generous family left a substantial gift in the care of the church's endowment fund. They knew it would be a gift that would live into the future with careful stewardship. The gift was specifically intended to help the students of the church through scholarships for missions and education.

Over the past nine years, over 130 individual gifts were given to students of the church that encompassed 40% of the original gift. Today, their original gift is worth two times as much as it was in 2010 when it was bestowed. If only they were still here to see its impact!

They would see Brett, who received a seminary scholarship and is now a chaplain serving a local hospital. They would be impressed by Jordyn, who, after completing her degree, is in graduate school and helping plant a new United Methodist congregation in their city. They would be inspired by Isabelle, who is now an elementary school teacher and leading her church in racial justice ministry. These are just three examples of the impact of their generous gift. Thankfully, they knew that this combination of gifting and careful investment would promise hope and assistance to the church's students for years to come.

A gift to the endowment can be restricted to many needs that are important to the donor. It may, for example, be targeted for missions, or worship and music, or for the ongoing capital and financial needs of the church. The power of an endowment gift is in its ability to give and to grow into future years. We are continually grateful for those who have remembered their church through endowment giving and invite prayerful consideration from others that might be considering such gifts.

## FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS WEBINAR

MAY 10, 2021

**This Quarter's Topic: *Your Two Largest Givers Aren't Even Members - How to get the most from your Investment and Endowment Accounts***



Please join us for our next webinar, "Your Two Largest Givers Aren't Even Members - How to get the most from your Investment and Endowment Accounts." During this webinar, we will help you discover how an investment or endowment account will benefit your church. Sheri Meister and Jeff Pospisil, Dakotas Conference Treasurer, will provide you with tools for your Church leadership to use as they find the best account management processes and align these processes with your church's vision and goals. Contact our office to register for this webinar.

## TELLING YOUR STORY THROUGH IMPACTFUL GIVING

When thinking about legacy giving, it is important to take a moment to recognize the most meaningful aspects of your life and the experiences that have been most valuable to you. What gives your life purpose? Maybe you had a life-changing experience at one of our United Methodist camps, or you have a passion for the children's or young adult ministry in your church. For many people, our church is a big part of who we are as well as the place we have found hope and spiritual guidance throughout our lifetime. Chances are you have many stories of how the ministry of your church has influenced your life and the lives of your family members. Legacy giving provides a way for your church to continue making Jesus known in your community for generations to come.

A common myth of legacy giving is that you must be wealthy for the gift to matter. This is not true; people of all income levels can find ways to give to ministries important to them. It can be as simple as adding a bequest in your will or naming your church as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy. You may choose to set up an endowment or donor-advised fund that will continue to support your church into perpetuity. Establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust provides flexibility by allowing you to plan a future gift to your church while receiving income during your lifetime. Legacy giving may also provide tax benefits both now and by reducing the size of your taxable estate in the future.

These are a few of the most common ways to give. If you would like to discuss how legacy giving can help tell your story, please feel free to contact Sheri or Diane in the Foundation office. We will work with you to find options that fit your wishes and the needs of the church or ministry you'd like to support.

*\*The Minnesota United Methodist Foundation recommends that you consult with legal and financial or tax advisors to discuss your charitable giving plan and potential tax advantages of legacy gifts.*