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December 30, 2024

Dear Clergy of the DK-MN Area,

The Dakotas and Minnesota Appointive Cabinets seek to match clergy and congregations in order to fulfill our gospel imperatives—to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. In appointment making, each Cabinet, through prayerful discernment, seeks to hold in balance the demonstrated gifts, graces, and life situations of available pastors with the missional needs of local churches and their communities.

As part of our consultation process in this upcoming appointment-making season, there are some clear opens that the DK-MN Cabinets wish to publish. Clergy are invited to express interest for themselves or for others who may have a missional match for these appointments.

If you are interested in being considered for any of these, or would like to recommend a colleague, please send an email to the superintendent indicated, with a copy to your own superintendent (if different). In the email give a brief summary of your interest and the gifts and graces you or your colleague may bring to the appointment.

Grace and Peace,

*Bishop Lanette Plambeck*

Rev. Dr. Lanette L. Plambeck  
Resident Bishop of the DK-MN Area, United Methodist Church

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**Clear Opens July 1, 2025 (unless otherwise noted)**

To view Mission Insite Reports for any of these Clear Opens, please [click here.](#)

**NORTHEAST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - Kris Mutzenberger, DS**  
**([kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org](mailto:kris.mutzenberger@dakotasumc.org))**

### **Fargo Faith UMC and Hillsboro United Parish – Fulltime with parsonage in Fargo**

This new parish alignment in North Dakota has brought financial stability to each congregation and therein provides more energy for mission and deepening discipleship.

The Hillsboro United Parish is a combined UMC/UCC congregation. While the community of Hillsboro is growing slowly due to its location half-way between Fargo and Grand Forks, the aging congregation is focused on doing what good they can in their community while maintaining regular Sunday worship (AWA 15).

Fargo Faith's signature ministry is a food pantry which is a partnership with the Great Plains Food Bank and brings together over 25 volunteers twice each month. They also host community groups in their building on a regular basis. Faith has a blended music worship service averaging 55 in person weekly. Faith, located blocks from the NDSU campus, Fargo North High School and Washington Elementary School, has a ton of potential for new and creative outreach to young people in their immediate neighborhood. There are opportunities for stewardship development and revitalizing children's ministry. A pastor with gifts for creativity and innovation along with vision for strategic planning will help lead this parish into the future.

### **NORTHWEST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - Joel Winckler, DS** **([joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org](mailto:joel.winckler@dakotasumc.org))**

#### **Bismarck Calvary UMC – 1/2 time**

Bismarck is the capital city of North Dakota located in the central part of the state. The metropolitan area's population is 135,786 and growing.

Calvary UMC recently went through a painful split but has potential to grow and reach new people with the right pastoral leadership. No parsonage is provided. A pastor with evangelistic and church planting gifts would be ideal for this opportunity and would be fully supported by Annual Conference resources. (AWA 20)

#### **Center UMC – 1/4 time**

Center (population 581) is the county seat of Oliver County and is located 40 miles northwest of Bismarck. This community is located near lignite coal strip mining operations and coal-fired power plants. Center UMC has an older building that has been remodeled recently. No parsonage is available. (AWA 12)

#### **Hettinger UMC – Fulltime with parsonage**

Hettinger is in southwest North Dakota. The community is home to a very modern health care facility that serves the region. This county seat town has a population of 1,043 and is a shopping hub with groceries, hardware, and farm supplies.

The church's greatest ministry is to children on Wednesday evening when 28 kids from the community attend KWOW at the church where they learn about the scriptures and God's love for them. The church provides a very nice parsonage located a couple blocks south of the church building. (AWA 24)

#### **Minot Vincent UMC – Fulltime with housing allowance**

Minot is located in north central North Dakota. The metropolitan area population of 77,561 includes the Minot Air Force Base fourteen miles north of the city. This part of North Dakota continues to grow as it is on the east

edge of the Bakken oil boom area in the western part of the state. Minot is also home to Minot State University with 2,700 undergraduate students enrolled.

The church has 300 members and has potential to grow with the right kind of outreach. Vincent UMC is looking for a pastor who is mission minded and able to help them develop ministry with children and youth. The church recently held their annual Miracle of Christmas at the Moose Lodge in Minot and ministered to over 800 people with clothing, household items and food. There is no parsonage, but the church provides a very generous housing allowance. (AWA 87)

#### **Velva UMC – 1/4 time**

Velva is located 22 miles southeast of Minot on Highway 52 in north central North Dakota. With a population of 1,046, it has an exceptionally good school system and a modern senior care health facility.

For the past fifteen years, on the second Saturday in December, the church has been hosting a community outreach called the Elf Project where 85 children can choose new and gently used items for themselves or family members. The church also has all of their children and youth ministries on Wednesday night. They presently have a class of ten enrolled in their confirmation ministry. There is no parsonage provided. (AWA 21).

### **SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - Brandon Vetter, DS ([brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org](mailto:brandon.vetter@dakotasumc.org))**

#### **Dell Rapids UMC - 3/4 time with parsonage**

Dell Rapids, SD is a growing bedroom community of Sioux Falls with AWA 40 in-person and 12 online. The public schools have been showing consistent growth over the last decade and there are a large number of families with children in Dell Rapids. The church has a meal ministry on Wednesday evenings which has served over 2,000 meals in the past year and is relaunching worship in connection with that ministry. A continued missional focus on children's, youth, and family ministry is needed. Some challenges include the fallout from COVID, the recent denomination discussion on human sexuality, and finances. A successful pastor would help Dell Rapids identify and live into uniqueness following GC 2024 as well as take advantage of continued community growth in multigenerational ministry with the emphasis on kids and students.

#### **North Sioux City ARK UMC - 1/4-1/2 time with parsonage**

Located in growing North Sioux City, SD, The ARK Church (Acts of Random Kindness) is a small congregation (15-20 AWA) with a strong DNA for experimentation and innovation since their inception. They have been utilizing video messages for worship and have live music with a worship leader. Their signature ministries include the Kids Free shopping spree that allows area kids to sign up to "shop" for gifts (donated items) for their family, a food backpack program that they started that provides food packs once a month for 150 kids in the Dakota Valley School district, and other acts of random kindness to bless the community. This appointment requires a church planting mentality, to raise up leaders to begin children's, youth, and adult ministries. The church is open to exploring creative models for pastoral leadership including, but not limited to, deacons or youth/community outreach ministers.

**Parker UMC and Hurley UMC - 3/4 time with parsonage**

The Hurley and Parker congregations are both small congregations in South Dakota with the potential for growth. AWA is 20-25 in each congregation. Both congregations desire to reach outside of the local church, into the community and across the world. Both congregations are warm and friendly. A growing edge in Hurley is that it is an older congregation with a couple of families with young children. They want to remain a vital congregation but that means growing younger. A successful pastor will relate to both young and old. A growing edge in Parker is continuing to move forward from a narrowly failed preliminary poll on disaffiliation. Many young families and strong members left the Parker church. The successful pastor will listen well to those who remain and to move forward making disciples of Jesus together. Both churches use a blended style of worship, singing old familiar hymns with an occasional newer worship song as well. The successful pastor will deploy the available vocalists in each church as there are not many musically talented participants currently.

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT, DAKOTAS - Dan Bader, DS**  
**([dan.bader@dakotasumc.org](mailto:dan.bader@dakotasumc.org))****Faulkton UMC – Fulltime with parsonage**

Faulkton is a small rural, more conservative agricultural community found in north central South Dakota. The Faulkton community (pop 827) is the county seat and is home to a Regional Hospital and a new School.

The Faulkton UMC is a more theologically traditional, intergenerational church with a membership of 200 and an average weekly worship attendance of 70. Among all the ways laity are involved in worship the congregation takes great joy in its vibrant worship, a music and praise team that has a mix of seasoned musicians as well fostering a place for newer musicians and singers to find their voice in worship. The church has a thriving active discipleship ministry for all ages including Sunday School, youth group (Ecumenical), and adult discipleship.

The church is intentional in fostering ecumenical connections, ways to be in mission ministry to the local community and to the world. One key ministry that is supported by the church and through the work of a Certified Lay Minister-CLM of the congregation is with the Regional Jail / Holding facility. A pastor who will deliver scripturally based sermons with applications for daily living, inviting individuals to grow as disciples, develop the leadership potential in the congregation and continue to foster ecumenical ministry relationships will do well here.

**AURORA SKY DISTRICT, MINNESOTA - Laurie Kantonen, DS**  
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None

**HEADWATERS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA -**  
**Becky Jo Messenbrink, DS**  
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**Brooklyn UMC, Brooklyn Park, MN – Fulltime with housing allowance**

Brooklyn UMC is a multi-ethnic congregation called to be the “heart of the Brooklyns” (Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, northern suburbs of the Twin Cities). The ethnic and socio-economic diversity of the Brooklyns is reflected in the church and in the outreach ministries that are a hallmark of their demonstrated faith. Brooklyn UMC hosts a traditional service at 10 AM and an African contemporary service at 11:30 AM, as well as an online ministry, with combined average worship attendance of 207. Under recent interim leadership the church focused on developing communications networks that tie the community together with common information and motivation, ministry systems that sustain their work and witness, and leadership teams that are effective and collaborative. Financial transparency, intentional planning for financial needs, and laity who committed to paying apportionments in full have led to a stable financial outlook. Staffing additions created a team poised for growth. The right leader will be a seasoned pastoral presence, with experience leading through change, possessing a lived capacity to bridge the cultures and create and celebrate the intersections. There are opportunities to re-imagine worship to reach new people, develop deeper community relationships and partnerships, live into the multi-ethnic identity of the church and build beloved community that reflects the realm of God in the Brooklyns.

**Grace UMC, Paynesville, MN – Fulltime with housing allowance**

Paynesville is a lakes and outdoor recreation community located 90 minutes West of the Twin Cities with many parks, campgrounds (including the United Methodist camp, Koronis Ministries Christian Camp & Retreat Center). Grace UMC is a multi-generational, theologically diverse congregation with an active Wednesday evening children’s and youth ministry and an average worship attendance of 116 in person / 25 online. Strong and engaged leadership leads the way to being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community, through serving others, fundraiser engagement and partnerships. There is a growing spirit of experimentation and desire to build upon the contemporary music and messaging in worship. The right leader will be a biblically strong preacher, have a team approach to ministry that encourages and equips lay leadership, be attentive to pastoral care and know how to manage the pace of change. Opportunities for growth include strengthening community partnerships and developing a mid-week worship that reaches new people.

**Grey Eagle UMC and Sauk Centre UMC – Fulltime with parsonage**

Sauk Centre and Grey Eagle are distinct communities located 45 minutes West of St. Cloud. Sauk Centre, with an eclectic mix of folks who have chosen to live in a small town, has a vibrant main street, a hospital, recreation for children, youth and adults, and is located just off of Hwy 94. Grey Eagle, 20 miles Northeast of Sauk Centre, is a community of folks who live around the lake, farm or work in the area, or are choosing the small-town life. This two-point charge is ready to move forward with the right leader who will have a pastoral heart, partner with others in implementing new ideas, engage the laity in ministry and be ready to cast a new vision for how to be the church in the community. The people appreciate an intentionally casual worship leadership style while maintaining the traditional worship at Sauk Centre and the blended to traditional worship at Grey Eagle. The right leader will appreciate the distinctiveness of each congregation, leveraging their unique gifts for ministry and mission.

**Herman UMC – 1/2 time with parsonage**

Herman UMC is located in a rural, small-town setting 45 minutes West of Alexandria that is home to the community school (K-12) for the area. The congregation, whose average worship attendance is 25 in person / 35 online, is an active, traditional church with an openness to learning. They are known for serving their community, especially food related ministries that gather the community together. The right leader will understand rural ministry dynamics and have a heart for community engagement and pastoral care. Stewardship and leadership development, as well as discerning a faithful future, are growing edges for the congregation.

**Thief River Falls UMC – 1/4 time**

Thief River Falls is a town of approximately 8,500 people located 1 hour East of Grand Forks, ND. The community boasts a 7-mile scenic bike/walk trail along the river, over 20 city parks, community theater, a concert series and more. Thief River Falls UMC has an average worship attendance of 24 in person/10 online, with strong lay leadership and excellent financial health, worshipping in a well-maintained building with unique architecture. They are known for their extensive mission work and their jail ministry. The right leader will come alongside them with a pastoral heart, a Christ-centered presence, and biblically strong preaching. Building community connections is a high priority for them. They are challenged by their size and their limited desire for change.

**PRAIRIE WINDS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA - Woojae Im, DS**  
**([woojae.im@minnesotaucm.org](mailto:woojae.im@minnesotaucm.org))****Lydia Zion UMC – Fulltime with parsonage**

Lydia is located in between the communities of Prior Lake, Jordan, and New Prague and its projected population is 13,500 by 2030. It's a farming area but adjacent to the Twin Cities Metro and is experiencing housing growth and new industries (Amazon) in recent years. Lydia Zion and Jordan Immanuel merged in 2017 and paid off the building debt in 2023. It's known for its commitment to mission in the community through United Women in Faith (UWF). Wednesday night bilingual service is offered for growing Hispanic population. They offer "Craft and Fellowship", "Family Game Night, and Children's Movie and Family Movie activities to the community. The Farmer's Market has been held in the Summer next to the church which offers a great opportunity for outreach. This congregation will be well served by a pastor who is warm-hearted, relational, and caring and able to reach young generation. Biblical preaching and effective small group ministry/teaching would be greatly appreciated. AWA is around 45-50 with an additional average of 10 online worshippers.

**Portland Ave UMC – Fulltime with housing allowance**

Bloomington is a first ring suburb of Twin Cities heavily developed in the 1950s. Its population within a 2.5-mile radius is 69,000. The community has experienced a diversified neighborhood with immigrant families and small business around the congregation are reflecting this change as well. The congregation is known for the annual holiday bazaar, and a strong mission partnership with Bloomington Valley View Elementary and Kennedy High School. In the fall of 2024, it launched a dinner church Fresh Expression and mission outreach team continues to do a mission project each month with great participation from the membership. One of the current goals is to create

small groups to develop lay leadership. The PORT's vision is "to be a safe harbor along life's journey" and its stated mission is "to grow followers of Jesus who change the world." Some missional needs are: 1. Outreach/evangelism 2. Leadership structure evaluation 3. Continuing excellent music ministries. The congregation is facing some challenges with declining membership and aging causing lay leaders to experience burnout. A new pastor with passion for peaching, effective communication, pastoral care, and administration skills, team spirit would be well received. They also look for a pastoral leader capable of vision who continues excellent outreach through the community dinner church. In-person AWA is around 45.

**Zion UMC in Danube, Faith UMC in Olivia, and Middle Creek UMC - Fulltime with parsonage**

Located in a rural farming community. Large number of elderly and retired persons live in the community and the population of Latine/Hispanics has been steadily growing. The closeness of the Lower Sioux Community provides unique interaction with the Native American population. The community has been facing challenges of job security and farm economy in general.

This three-point charge is known for its caring environment, ministry to children and youth, and exceptional hospitality. The joint youth group (about 10 youths) meets at Faith Olivia every Wednesday night. Desired pastoral leadership skills are excellence in preaching, bible study leadership, and collaboration with other ecumenical partner congregations in the community. Community engagement and presence of a pastor who understands the dynamics and uniqueness of rural ministry would be greatly appreciated. AWA is 30-35 at Zion Danube, 15 at Faith Olivia, and 20 at Middle Creek

**RIVER BLUFFS DISTRICT, MINNESOTA -**

**Michelle Hargrave, DS**

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None

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