



New Places for New People:

**Multiplication Across the
Dakotas-Minnesota Area**

Jesus told the disciples that they would be his witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. We have inherited that commission. Those early disciples found themselves hitting the road, proclaiming the gospel, gathering people, and starting new churches. The Christian witness continues because we pass on the faith from generation to generation. The gospel is enduring, but the world has changed dramatically over the past 2,000 years. So we must keep hitting the road, proclaiming the gospel in fresh and contemporary ways that modern ears can hear, and we must keep starting new churches as we enter new communities and connect with people who have no connection to Christianity or The United Methodist Church.

Experience has taught us that the most effective way to reach new people is through a new church or outreach effort. People want to be part of something as it is beginning and made up of other people who are new, like them. Data has shown that the newer the congregation, the greater the number of professions of faith.

Throughout the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church, and thanks in part to your generosity through our respective Thrive and Reach • Renew • Rejoice fundraising efforts, we have made a significant investment in multiplication: helping existing congregations start a new worship service or a new campus, and sending planters out into brand new mission fields. We want to keep creating more doors for people to meet Jesus and discover the joy and abundant life that comes from living in connection to Christ. And we want to deepen their faith in intentional Christian community.

This booklet is a testament to the fact that you are making a difference through your prayers, financial investments, and ministry engagement. See and celebrate all the places where we are hitting the road, proclaiming the gospel in fresh ways, and daring to reach new people by loving boldly.





Dakotas-Minnesota Area

The United Methodist Church

The State of Church Planting in 2019

Here's a look at both existing and emerging projects across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area—including new churches, new sites of existing churches, new services, and restarts—along with a more in-depth look at several projects that represent the breadth and depth of the church-planting efforts across the Area. Is your church ready to multiply and reach new people for Christ?

Current Reality of Church Planting in the Dakotas and Minnesota

The Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences are committed to expanding our ministry.

- We have an ambitious goal of seeing **3 percent annual growth** or **18 new starts per year** between the two conferences.
- We have a vision for **ethnic and style diversity** of new places for new people, including parachute plants, new services, and new sites.
- We have **developed systems and point leaders** for evaluating, equipping, coaching, and funding new start-up ventures.
- We have established **regular accountability protocols** with scheduled stakeholder meetings and metrics for all planters.
- We have **ongoing training opportunities for leaders** regardless of their stage, including online and in-person training, and a “New Church Planter Academy.”
- We seek to come alongside churches and individuals to help them live fully into their vision with a **“bottom-up”** (not top-down) **approach**.

Collaborative Capacity-Building Strategy

The two conferences collaborate, led by the area director of new church development, to create systems with team leaders and grow our capacity to support projects. We’re focused on:

Engaging potential planters through recruiting.

Evaluating potential planters using a multi-axial approach.

Equipping appointed planters with “on-demand” and “on-site” training.

Empowering planters with performance coaching for accountability.

Expanding existing churches with new service/site training and coaching.

Economic and administrative guidance to promote long-term financial sustainability.



Tier One Active Plant

These church plants are actively moving toward sustainability. They have an assessed leader, regular coaching and stakeholder meetings, agreed-upon metrics, and an accountable funding plan.

Dakotas

- Celebrate Recovery (Bismarck, ND)
- First African UMC (Fargo, ND)
- Fusion Church (Mitchell, SD)*
- The Journey at Spirit Lake (Sheyenne, ND)*
- Mission Fargo, ND
- Hmong Faith United Methodist Fellowship (Oakdale)
- Iglesia Piedra Viva (Minneapolis)
- Metro Families United Church (Minneapolis)
- Mission Newport
- New City Church (Minneapolis)
- North Summit Church (Blaine)
- Northern Light Church (Anoka)*

Minnesota

- The Beloved (St. Paul)
- Cottage Grove Planting Project
- Crossroads (Elko New Market)
- Embrace Church—St. Croix Campus (Lakeland)*
- Rapha Tabernacle of Glory, Haitian (St. Paul)
- Recovering Love (St. Paul)
- Uptown Church (Minneapolis)

* Represents planting projects that have recently established a sustainable presence.

↓ The Journey at Spirit Lake

The Journey at Spirit Lake in Sheyenne, North Dakota, is reaching Native American families across the Spirit Lake Nation. Worship is on Sunday evenings and typically attracts 45. Since the first service, which took place on Easter Sunday 2017, there have been at least seven baptisms. A Wednesday evening youth group is helping young people grow closer to God. The congregation hosts a Vacation Bible School in the summer. And each month, people engage in a service project or outreach effort. "I am happy that I can come to a church where I can be Indian and Christian too," said one member.



Crossroads—Elko New Market ↑

Since launching weekly worship on Easter Sunday of 2015, Crossroads Church in Elko New Market, Minnesota, has thrived as a congregation focused on "where faith and life meet."

Now an independent, self-sustaining daughter church of multi-campus Crossroads Church that worships about 50 each week, it is led by co-Pastors Gordon and Melissa Deuel and meets inside of an elementary school. Bible studies, a weekly prayer group, and both children's and youth ministry are core to its mission to help people come to know Jesus. The church participates in (and brings coffee to) virtually every city event, and members of the church play a key role in making connections that expand its reach.

"You might be the only gospel someone reads," Gordon Deuel has been known to tell members. "We want to be the church for the unchurched before they'd ever step into a church."

Tier Two Active New Service, New Site, or Restart

These congregations are starting a second service or site to reach new people. They have an approved leader and, in many cases, have chosen to have conference coaching, stakeholder meetings, and accountability metrics. Some also receive modest conference support.

Dakotas

NEW SITES:

- Canyon Lake UMC (Rapid City, SD)
- Embrace Church—Sertoma Campus (Sioux Falls, SD)
- Legacy South (Bismarck, ND)

RESTARTS:

- ARK UMC (North Sioux City, SD)
- Aurora UMC (SD)
- Hurley UMC (SD)
- Parker UMC (SD)
- White UMC (SD)
- Unite Church (Salem, SD)

NEW SERVICES:

- Arlington UMC (SD)
- Burke UMC (SD)
- Dell Rapids UMC (SD)
- First UMC (Sioux Falls, SD)
- Flame of Faith UMC (West Fargo, ND)
- Gettysburg UMC (SD)
- Hartford UMC (SD)
- Kellerton UMC (Hazel, SD)

- Sunnycrest Church (Sioux Falls, SD)
- United in Faith Parish Churches of Burke and Herrick (SD)

Minnesota

NEW SITES:

- Centennial UMC—St. Anthony Park Campus (St. Paul)
- The Well (Apple Valley)

RESTART:

- Vineyard UMC (Hutchinson)

NEW SERVICES:

- Brooklyn UMC (Brooklyn Center)
- Christ UMC (Cannon Falls)
- Fairmount Avenue UMC (St. Paul)
- Fridley UMC
- Le Sueur UMC
- Lydia Zion UMC (Jordan)
- Park Avenue UMC (Minneapolis)
- Stewartville UMC



Unite Church ↑

A few years ago, attendance at Unite Church in Salem, South Dakota, had declined to the point that only 25 to 30 were coming to worship each week, and the congregation was in a precarious financial state. Since relaunching in 2017, attendance has grown to more than 100—and the church embraced a more contemporary worship style that has helped to attract younger families. “We walked in and it was sunny and joyful, and there were kids all over the place, and everyone was smiling,” said one new member. Unite partners with multi-campus Embrace Church and live streams Embrace’s sermons most Sundays. Unite is now thriving and passionate about reaching the next generation of believers.

Lydia Zion UMC

Lydia Zion UMC in Jordan, Minnesota, started a weekly bilingual (English and Spanish) worship service in May 2018 that typically welcomes 20 to 30 people not previously connected to a faith community. The service is led by Rev. Larry Kasten and Milton Jones, whom Kasten met working a side gig as a substitute school bus driver. The church recently hired Jones as a quarter-time pastor, and he’s been leading worship services at a local mobile home park and other non-traditional places in an effort to create a more welcoming atmosphere for the unchurched. “Everybody has the ability to be reached,” said Kasten.

Tier Three Emerging Projects

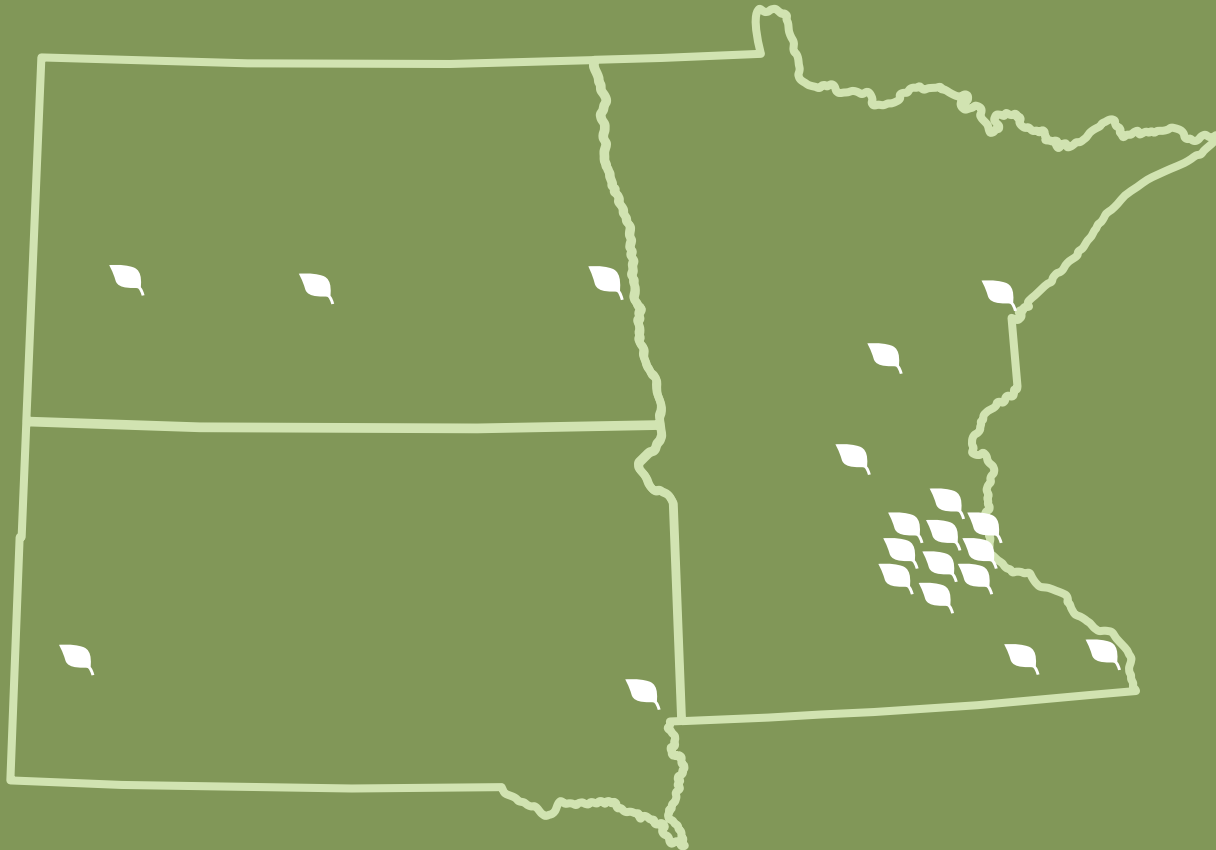
These are potential sites, each of which has people dreaming of a new place for new people. A partner has been identified and awaits additional partners to move it into an active project.

Dakotas

- Bismarck, ND
- Dickinson, ND
- East Sioux Falls, SD
- Fargo, ND
- Rapid City, SD

Minnesota

- Carver County
- Columbia Heights
- Cottage Grove
- Deerwood
- Duluth
- Karen immigrant (Twin Cities)
- La Crescent
- Lino Lakes
- Minneapolis (new campus of New City Church)
- Minneapolis' North Loop
- Rochester
- St. Cloud
- St. Michael
- Tibetan immigrant (Twin Cities)
- Washington County



Tier Four Desired Projects

These locations are ripe for new places for new people and represent areas where the two conferences hope to plant churches in the future. However, partners to lead these efforts have not yet been identified.

Dakotas

- Bismarck, ND
- Brookings, SD
- Chamberlain, SD
- Dickinson, ND
- Grand Forks, ND
- Horace, ND
- Jamestown, ND
- Minot, ND
- Piedmont, SD
- South Fargo, ND
- Summerset, SD
- Williston, ND

Minnesota

- Carver County
- Hugo
- Maple Grove
- Medina
- Moorhead
- Otsego
- Rochester
- Rogers
- Scott County
- Victoria
- Washington County



Embrace Church—St. Croix Campus, Lakeland, MN

Process for Church Planting in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area

1. Discerning

Discernment begins with a planter or parent church sensing a call from God to move out in mission.

2. Visioning

A specific group (cultural or geographic) of underserved people with a passion to establish a Christian presence among them is identified.

3. Gathering

Before public worship, the planter and team engage people with the vision, network within the community, and make connections with receptive people.

4. Disciple-Making

A Wesleyan model of church planting intentionally uses small groups for spiritual mentoring, leadership development, and multiplication.

5. Worshipping

After broad and deep community engagement leading to an ever growing number of committed people, momentum leads to launch public worship.

6. Maturing

Developing people, essential systems, healthy teams and spiritual practices over time brings a congregation to a viable, financially sustainable outcome.

7. Multiplying

Healthy churches multiply disciples, leaders, ministries, and congregations. A multiplication DNA, if set from the start, leads to church reproduction.



The Journey at Spirit Lake, Sheyenne, ND



Iglesia Piedra Viva, Minneapolis, MN



Mission Fargo, ND



Legacy South, Bismarck, ND

Explore how your church can multiply!

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