



2018 Annual Conference

June 7-9, 2018 Sioux Falls, SD

“Discover Joy: Live Deeply!”



2018 Annual Conference Session
June 7-9, 2018 | Sioux Falls, SD

Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Bishop's Episcopal Address:

“I desire to spread God’s love to every person in Dakotas; don’t you?” said Ough. “The Dakotas Conference is going on to perfection in love. When our conflicted, divided, broken world looks at the people called United Methodist practicing the three simple rules, they will exclaim, ...

Bishop Ough (cont'd)



‘Look at how they, in all of their diversity, love Jesus, love one another, and love us! They are a Love First church! There is hope for the world!’”

Progress on Journey Toward Vitality

- People professing their faith in Jesus through our churches increased by a whopping **112 percent.**
- Total professing membership increased **2.4 percent.**
- Weekly average attendance in Sunday School or other weekly education classes increased by **17 percent.**

Progress on the Journey Toward Vitality (cont'd)

- People served by our community ministries of outreach, justice, and mercy increased **11 percent to 193,954 individuals**.
- We are engaged in **18 church plants and multiplication projects** across the Dakotas Conference.
- For the seventh consecutive year, the Dakotas had an increase in average worship attendance—which **grew by 5.5 percent**.

Teaching sessions with Olu Brown

Rev. Olu Brown explored the importance of knowing, claiming, and reclaiming our personal “why” stories. One of the worst things that can happen is for us to become “professional Christians”—doing church, worship, and prayer by the numbers, he said. He urged us to be “catalyst evangelists”—those who go before to create an opportunity or atmosphere to connect people to Jesus.



2017-2018 Missional Report



The Dakotas Annual Conference is reaching the next person for Jesus. On Thursday morning, Annual Conference attendees learned about how the conference and churches are creating a culture of call in a variety of settings—laity pursuing new ministry paths, new clergy growing in leadership, churches launching new services. Clergy and laity shared their God stories about answering God's call.

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Lydia Project

United Methodists in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota are invited knit or crochet 10,000 purple scarves. This initiative the Lydia Project, after Lydia in Acts 16.



Festival at the Baseball Park

Attendees enjoyed time in fellowship of music and food at the Sioux Falls Canaries Baseball Park on Thursday evening. Each district fielded a kickball team. The games kicked off with a barbershop quartet singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Referees for the evening included Bishop Ough, Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Keith Shew, and Jeff Pospisil. The Southeast District walked away as the victors.



2019 Budget approved with a 4.4% decrease

	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	\$ Change
Developing Missional Leaders	631,663	551,000	-80,663
Equipping Missional Congregations	320,500	275,000	-45,500
Extending Missional Impact	1,351,155	1,236,759	-114,396
Generating Missional Resources	84,250	75,000	-9,250
Support Services	1,268,810	1,289,227	+20,418
Cabinet	762,396	720,000	-42,396
Savings Fund	0	100,000	+100,000
Subtotal	4,418,773	4,246,986	-171,787
Pension & Insurance	56,000	0	-56,000
Direct Bills to Churches	2,831,728	2,739,851	-91,877
Subtotal	2,887,728	2,739,851	-147,877
Total	7,306,501	6,986,837	-319,664

2019 General Conference delegates elected



Rev. Rebecca Trefz
Clergy Delegate



Beata Ferris
Lay Delegate



Rev. Roger Spahr
Alt. Clergy Delegate



Matthew Bader
Alt. Lay Delegate

2018 Miracle Offering Called: One Word, Many Ways



To date **\$43,000** received and more than **500** names of people taking the next step to God's call. Names and funds are still being received.



Live Deeply!