



*Celebration  
of LIFE  
in  
ministry*

June 10, 2016 , 7:00 p.m.

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First United Methodist Church  
Sioux Falls, SD

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Dakotas Annual Conference of  
The United Methodist Church

# Worship Leaders

## **Presiding Minister, Preacher**

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Dakotas-Minnesota Area

## **Ecumenical Representative:**

The Right Reverend John Tarrant, Bishop of the South Dakota Diocese, The Episcopal Church

## **Lectors and Worship Assistants:**

Rev. Michelle Brennan, Order of Deacons

Rev. Theta Wagner Miller, Order of Elders

Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

Rev. Lou Whitmer, Scripture reader

Mr. Blaine Wilson, Conference Lay Leader

## **Worship Coordinators:**

Rev. Taylor Johnson

Rev. Matt Richards

Rev. Rebecca Trefz

Rev. Lou Whitmer

## **Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes:**

Sioux Falls First United Methodist Church

## **Organist:**

Marcia Klimes, Sioux Falls First UMC

## **Visuals and Technology:**

Doreen Gosmire, Conference Communications

Tammy Probst, Sioux Falls First UMC

JLynn Studios, Mitchell, SD

David Stucke, Conference Communications

Amanda Willis, Minnesota Conference

## **Dakotas Conference Cabinet**

### **Resident Bishop:**

Bruce R. Ough, Dakotas-Minnesota Area

### **Director of Ministries:**

Rev. Rebecca Trefz

### **District Superintendents:**

Rev. Randy Cross, Eastern Sunrise

Rev. Kevin Kloster, Prairie Hills

Rev. Keith Nelson, Sakakawea

Rev. Roger Spahr, Glacial Lakes

Special thanks to Sioux Falls First UMC for hosting the Celebration of Life and Ministry Worship Service and to all of those offering the gift of music during this service .

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The theme of this year's annual conference is "Living Generously Unleashing God's Gifts." We celebrate the ways in which we are answering God's call to use resources of all kinds to live out the Scriptural imperatives to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people and heal a broken world. Amanda Willis, communications associate for the Minnesota Annual Conference, created the graphics and layout for all printed material and this year's conference.

# Order of Worship

## Gathering

### Congregational Song

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*The United Methodist Hymnal 89  
Public Domain*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward,  
in the triumph song of life.

# *Call to Worship*

**Bishop:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**Bishop:** We gather together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence, and direction of the Holy Spirit. Please join in prayer together:

**All: Eternal and loving God, as we gather this day, may the power and grace of your Spirit be fully known to us. All that we are, and all that we have are gifts from you to be shared in service and love. By the power of your Spirit renew and restore us so that we can joyfully participate in your future of hope, justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

*All people are seated.*

## *Ecumenical Greeting*

*Greetings from Bishop John Tarrant, South Dakota Diocese, Episcopal Church*

### **The Recognition of Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism**

**Bishop:** Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God. Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers, the church - Christ's body - made visible in the world. We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation. Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry, I call upon all God's people gathered here, remember your baptism and be thankful.

**People: We remember our baptism and affirm our ministry together.**

## *A Time of Remembrance*

### **Congregational Song**

*For All the Saints (Verses 1 and 2)*

*The Faith We Sing 2283  
Public Domain*

For all the saints who've shown your love  
in how they live and where they move,  
for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,  
who sang your songs and share your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

## Memorial Video Presentation

Anyone present who has been part of the life and ministry of those being remembered are invited to stand in honor of them as they are memorialized. Complete memoirs can be found on pages 14-21 of this booklet.

### Clergy

Rev. Otto Edward "Ed" Kinzler (June 29, 2014)  
Rev. Theodor "Ted" Rath (July 7, 2015)  
Rev. Robert Nielsen (August 2, 2015)  
Rev. Robert Logan (August 31, 2015)  
Rev. Robert "Bob" Cappel (September 8, 2015)  
Rev. Jeanne Higgins (November 21, 2015)  
Rev. Richard "Dick" Salmonson (February 26, 2016)  
James "Jim" Pomeroy (April 8, 2016)

### Clergy Spouses

Bonnie Heckathorn (June 17, 2015)  
Margaret Janetzki (November 30, 2015)  
Margaret "Peg" Ritter (December 16, 2015)  
Ruth Hill (January 4, 2016)

**Bishop:** Gracious and Eternal God, all of creation is given by you.

**People:** It is by your grace and blessing these beloved ones we have named shared life with us. We treasure all from them that lives within us.

**Bishop:** Hold them in your arms of mercy, as we hold them in our memory.

**All:** As we once again entrust them to you, may we know that peace and joy which is eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Congregational Song

*For All the Saints (Verses 3 and 4)*

*The Faith We Sing 2283  
Public Domain*

For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.  
Following the hymn the retirees and their spouses come forward.

# *Recognition of the Retirement Class*

**Conference Lay Leader:** We celebrate the faithful service represented by this class of retirees and their spouses who have served alongside them. On behalf of the laity of the local congregations and the many persons whose were reached by the ministry of these persons, we offer our deepest gratitude.

**Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry:** On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry which has received their retirement requests, and on behalf of the Clergy Session which has granted their request, we honor these clergy entering retirement relationship with the Dakotas Conference.

Rev. Debra Ball-Kilbourne  
Rev. Judy Banwart  
Rev. John Bergh  
Rev. Laura Borman  
Rev. Jeri Burns  
Rev. Bill Gran  
Rev. Julie Nygard  
Rev. Warren Rhodes  
Rev. Val Rush  
Rev. James Waisanen

**Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry:** Your calling has been an invitation to share in the most blessed and tender moments of our lives: the holy within ordinary and the power of sacred ceremony. Together we have struggled, laughed, cried and grown.

**People:** You answered God's call to walk with us through our lives. You were there in moments of life, death, hope, despair, joy and sorrow. You steadfastly offered to us the presence of the living Christ.

**Conference Lay Leader:** Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you shared your gifts, you sacrificed and you learned.

**People:** You helped us all to relate to the Good News of Jesus Christ when you held candles with us on Christmas Eve, and sang triumphantly with us on Easter morning.

**Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry:** You brought care and compassion to families in grief and guided others on their journey to eternal life. In your presence we remembered that God does not abandon us.

**People:** You reminded us that death does not have the last word. In discouragement, you reminded us that we are beloved sons and daughters of the Creator.

**Bishop:** Let us pray: Together you represent over 205 years of service in ministry. Never underestimate that which God has already accomplished through you. Continue to be true to your calling, confident of the ever-present Spirit working through your lives. Please join me in prayer together:

**All:** Gracious God, you fill your servants with love and empower us with your Spirit. We give heartfelt thanks for the ministries of these faithful leaders and for the ways that you have ministered to us through them. In the days that follow, make your presence will be known to them as they continue to love and serve you. May they, like us, continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

*Used with permission (and adapted) from the West Ohio Conference.*

**Congregational Song**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Christ Beside Me*

*The Faith We Sing 2166  
Harald Høidahl, adapt. by James Quinn*

Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me shield in strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising light of my life.

Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me never to part.

© Adora Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

*All people are seated.*

# *Proclamation*

**Scripture**

Matthew 22:15-22

Read by Rev. Lou Whitmer

**Sermon**

*The Things That Are God's*

Bishop Bruce Ough

**Offering**

*The offering of this 2016 Celebration of Life in Ministry service will the ministerial student aid fund for the Dakotas Conference.*

**Offertory**

Vocalists directed by Rev. Steve Ziebarth

*During the doxology candidates for commissioning come forward from among the laity, and those for ordination come from among the gathered clergy.*

**Doxology**

*Tune: The Church's One Foundation*

Words by Ruth C. Duck

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

Refreshed by living waters, renewed by living bread,  
may we, your sons and daughters,  
by your own hand be led.  
Accept the gifts we offer; receive the lives we owe.  
Unite us in your service; may seeds of justice grow!

© Pilgrim Press

*All people are seated.*

# *Commissioning and Ordination*

## **Presentation of Persons to be Commissioned or Ordained**

**Conference Lay Leader:** On behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates,

**Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry:** and on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, which has also examined and approved these candidates.

**Both:** We present these person to be commissioned for the work of a deacon:

Melissa Marie Gall

**Both:** We present these person to be commissioned for the work of an elder:

Nicole Marie Anderson

**Both:** We present these persons to be ordained as elders in Christ's holy Church:

Kathleen Gail Chesney

Clay Michael Lundberg

Margaret Lorene Stempson

**Bishop:** Sisters and brothers in Christ, these persons stand here today, elected into conference membership and recommended for commissioning and ordination. The Church has discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character, possessing the necessary gifts and signs of God's grace, and believes them to be duly called to serve God in ministry. I ask you, people of God, do you trust they are called by God's grace to be commissioned or ordained, and received as clergy members of the Annual Conference?

**All: We do trust! Thanks be to God.**

**Bishop:** Will you uphold them in their ministry?

**All: With God's help, we will!**

## **The General Examination of the Candidates**

**Bishop:** My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to a commissioned or ordained ministry. The church now confirms your calling. Remember that you are called to serve rather than to be served, to proclaim the faith of the church and no other, to look after the concerns of God above all. So that we may know you believe yourselves to be called by God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:

**Bishop:** Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of ordained ministry?

**Candidates:** I do so believe.

**Bishop:** Do you believe in the Triune God and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**Candidates:** I do so believe and confess.



**Bishop:** Are you persuaded that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and are the unique and authoritative standard for the church's faith and life?

**Candidates:** I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

**Bishop:** Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

**Candidates:** I will, with the help of God.

**Bishop:** Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

**Candidates:** I will, with the help of God.

**Bishop:** Will you, in the exercise of your ministry, lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ, to participate in the life and work of the community, and to seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

**Candidates:** I will, with the help of God.

**Bishop:** Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting its order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

**Candidates:** I will, with the help of God.

**Bishop:** May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection.

**The bishop prays for all candidates:** Living God, we give you thanks for these servants who have responded to your call upon their lives. May these servants understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy. We trust you will fill them with grace and power, patience and wisdom, to accomplish the tasks that lie before them, all to your honor and glory, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*During the hymn, the candidates for commissioning are robed by a retiring member of the Conference.*

### **Congregational Song**

*Take My Life (verse 1)*

*By Chris Tomlin, Graces Ridley Havergal,  
Hanri Abraham Cesar Malan, Louie Giglio*

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise  
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee

© sixsteps Music

**Bishop:** To those being commissioned, I ask: Do you believe God has called you to the life and work of a commissioned ministry in residency?

**Candidates:** I do so believe.

**Bishop:** Will you give yourself to this time of preparation, examination, and discernment, for the work of God in the world, and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ's Church, trusting God to form within you the ability to lead and equip others for ministries of service in the world?

**Candidates:** Following Christ, I will.

**Bishop:** Will you join with others in residency for continued learning and mutual support in the practice of ministry among the people of God?

**Candidates:** With God's help, I will.

### The Commissioning of Provisional Members

*The candidates go to the bishop and kneel.*

**Bishop:** Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Melissa Marie Gall, Nicole Marie Anderson. Send her to be a faithful servant leader among the people, to lead the church in service, to proclaim the Word of God, and to equip others for ministry, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*During the hymn, the commissioned persons return to their seats, now among the gathered clergy. The ordinands come forward.*

### Congregational Song

*Take My Life (verse 2)*

*By Chris Tomlin, Graces Ridley Havergal,  
Hanri Abraham Cesar Malan, Louie Giglio*

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee  
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect and use every power as You choose

Here am I, all of me, take my life, it's all for Thee

© sixsteps Music

### The Examination of Elder Candidates

*The bishop examines the candidates for ordination as elder:*

**Bishop:** An elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: to preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, order the life of the congregation, counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin; to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world; to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people; and to take a responsible place in the government of the Church and in service in and to the community. These are the duties of an elder.

Do you believe that God has called you to the lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service, which is the work of an elder?

**Ordinands:** I do so believe.

**Bishop:** Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the order of elders? Will you give yourself to God through the order of elders in order to sustain and build each other in prayer, study, worship, and service?

**Ordinands:** I will, with the help of God, and the help of my sisters and brothers in the order of elders.

### The Ordination of Elder Candidates

*Candidates kneel before the bishop and representatives join the bishop in the laying on of hands. Those who have been a part of an*

*ordinand's life and faith journey are invited to stand during the laying on of hands as a sign of support.*

**Bishop:** Almighty God, pour upon Kathleen Gail Chesney, Clay Michael Lundberg, Margaret Lorene Stempson, the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in Christ's holy church.

**Bishop:** Clay, Margaret, Kathleen take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, to administer the Holy Sacraments, and to order the life of the Church; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*An elder's stole is given to the new elders by a retiring elder of the Annual Conference.*

### **Thanksgiving and Footwashing**

*As a symbol of servanthood, the bishop assisted by a deacon, washes the feet of the newly ordained elders.*

### **Congregational Song**

*Take My Life (verse 3)*

*By Chris Tomlin, Graces Ridley Havergal,  
Hanri Abraham Cesar Malan, Louie Giglio*

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne  
Take my love, my Lord I pour at Your feet, its treasure store  
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee

Here am I, all of me, take my life, it's all for Thee

© sixsteps Music

**Bishop:** Almighty God, we give you thanks for these clergy and we remember all of those who have gone before us in life and ministry. We thank you for your presence that surrounds and sustains us in the work to which we are called. We thank you for raising up among us these faithful servants. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others; in Christ's name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

## *Invitation to Servant Ministry*

*We all have gifts for ministry in Christ's church, but some are called to more specialized ministries. Servant ministry is offered in many forms, be it laity or clergy. Anyone who wishes to make a commitment to servant ministry, in whatever form it might take, is invited to come forward to pray with members of the clergy and laity of the conference.*

### **Congregational Song**

*Here I Am, Lord*

*The United Methodist Hymnal 593  
Daniel Schutte*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

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**Bishop:** We thank you, God, for raising up among us faithful servants for ministry in your Church. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## *Sending Forth*

**Dismissal with Blessing**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

*Words: Ruth C. Duck*

**Deacon:** Go in peace, open to the call and the grace of God.

**Bishop:** The blessing of God's unfailing love, Christ's unceasing presence, and the Spirit's unsurpassed gifts be with us all

now and forever.

**All: Amen and Amen!**

### **Congregational Song**

*We Are Singing*

*The Faith We Sing 2235b*

We are singing in the light of God  
we are singing in the light of God.  
We are singing in the light of God  
we are singing in the light of God.  
We are singing, Ooo  
we are singing in the light of God.  
We are singing, Ooo  
we are singing in the light of God.

We are called in the light of God  
we are called in the light of God.  
We are called in the light of God  
we are called in the light of God.  
We are called, Ooo  
we are called in the light of God.  
We are called, Ooo  
we are called in the light of God.

We are walking in the light of God  
we are walking in the light of God.  
We are walking in the light of God  
we are walking in the light of God.  
We are walking, Ooo  
we are walking in the light of God.  
We are walking, Ooo  
we are walking in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing in light of God  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing, Ooo  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing, Ooo  
we are dancing in the light of God.

We are praising in the light of God  
we are praising in the light of God.  
We are praising in the light of God  
we are praising in the light of God.  
We are praising, Ooo  
we are praising in the light of God.  
We are praising, Ooo

# *In memory* < *Clergy*

## *Otto “Ed” Kinzler Jr.*

The Rev. Dr. Otto Edward “Ed” Kinzler Jr., age 90, of Larimore, N.D., passed away on Monday, June 29, 2015, at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, N.D. Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 2, 2015, at the United Methodist Church in Larimore.



Interment was in North Dakota Veterans Cemetery at Mandan, N.D., with military honors and flag presentation.

Otto Edward Kinzler Jr., was born on Sept. 14, 1924, in Norma, N.D., to the Rev. Otto Edward and Hellen Beatrice (Garriot) Kinzler. He was the second of five children. Ed was active in all sports and musical activities at Fairmount, N.D., where he graduated from high school.

In June 1943 he was drafted into the U.S. Navy and served as a sonar operator on a sub chaser in the South Pacific. In the summer of 1945, he was appointed to Navy Officer Training School at Oregon State University. In 1946 he was released from the Navy.

Ed entered Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., in the fall of 1946, graduating in 1949 with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1949 he married Lois Lane, of Minneapolis, and they had five children.

He was received on trial by the North Dakota Conference (Methodist) in 1949 and served the Methodist churches at Casselton-Wheatland-Absaraka (1949-1951). In 1951, he entered Asbury Theological Seminary and graduated in 1953 with a master of divinity degree. He was admitted into full connection, ordained deacon, and elected elder in 1953.

Ed entered the Navy as a chaplain in 1953. He served in Korea and Vietnam with the Marine Corps. He was awarded the

Bronze Star for service in Vietnam. While stationed at Naval Air Station in Puerto Rico he was also adjunct professor of Inter American University in San Juan, teaching courses in religion and speech at the air station.

Ed retired from the Navy in September 1971 with the rank of Commander. He and Lois were divorced in February 1973, and he married Beverly Nelson Oberlander.

He served United Methodist Churches in North Dakota at Rocklake-Clyde-Egeland United Presbyterian (1972-1974), Minot North Hill-Des Lacs (1974-1978), Larimore (1978-1981), and Devils Lake (1981-1986).

Ed earned a doctor of divinity degree in 1981 from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He retired from the ministry in 1986 while serving at Devils Lake. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly; two daughters: Chris Burton (and husband Herb), of Rowlette, Texas, and Eunice Haring (and husband Gordon), of Ashland, Va.; three sons: Dan (and wife Mary), of Jacksonville, Fla., Phil (and wife Karin), of Sagle, Idaho, and Paul (and wife Tiffaney), of Nampa, Idaho; one step-son, Rick Oberlander (and wife Margaret), of Bismarck, N.D.; two step-daughters: Valarie Johnson (and husband Vaughn), of Perth, N.D., and Renae Ash (and husband Wayne), of Sydney, Mont.; 24 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; one sister, Jean Englerth of Hastings, Mich.; two brothers: the Rev. Francis Kinzler (and wife Velma), of Lidgerwood, N.D., and the Rev. Wally Kinzler (and wife Betty), of Ames, Iowa

Ed was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Mabel.

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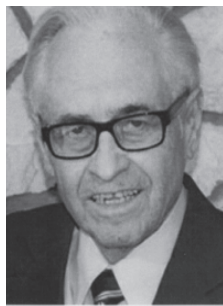
## *Theodor “Ted” Rath*

The Rev. Dr. Theodor “Ted” Rath, 85, of Devils Lake, N.D., and Sun Lakes, Ariz., passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at a Gilbert, Ariz., nursing home. Funeral services were held on Friday, July 17, 2015, at the First United Methodist Church in Devils Lake, with the Rev. Lori Broschat officiating. Interment was in the IOOF Cemetery in Cando, N.D., with military honors.

Theodor Berthold Rath was born on April 12, 1930, to Jake J.

and Elizabeth (Aichele) Rath, at Tuttle, N.D. He was the oldest of five children. In the summer of 1949, he enrolled at college but left to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. His tour of duty was in the Kanto Plains District northwest of Tokyo, Japan, at a facility that treated and rehabilitated wounded American soldiers. While in Japan, he taught Sunday Bible classes to Japanese junior and senior high school girls.

After serving his tour of duty, he returned to the United States to continue his college education. He married Bernice Huber on Dec. 27, 1955, in Beulah, N.D. In 1957 he received his bachelor's degree in history and religion from Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa. He then attended the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Ill., and received a master of divinity degree in 1960. In 1980, he received a doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill.



Ted began his ministry in 1955, when he became a probationary member of the Dakota Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He was ordained elder by the Dakota Conference in 1960.

He served EUB, Methodist, and United Methodist churches in North Dakota at McClusky-Mercer (1960-1965), McClusky EUB-McClusky Methodist-Mercer (1965-1968), Cavalier Trinity (1968-1970), Cavalier Trinity-Concrete (1970-1973), Cavalier Trinity-Concrete-Hamilton (1973-1981), Cando-Churchs Ferry-Starkweather (1981-1985), and Cando-Starkweather (1985-1995).

Ted retired in 1995 and was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2005. He chaired the Commission on Archives and History for both the North Dakota Conference and Dakotas Conference.

In June of 1996, he travelled to the Ukraine to visit ancestral

villages in the vicinity of Odessa. He then traveled to southwest Germany and northeastern France.

After his retirement, Ted and Bernice moved to Rocklake, N.D., where they lived until September 1997. He served the North Parish, consisting of the Sarles Lutheran Church (ELCA) and Presbyterian churches at Calvin and Hannah, N.D., for seven years and was involved with the Russia Initiative, an extension ministry of the UMC.

During retirement, Ted engaged his lifelong passion for studying the prophets by writing a book on Isaiah. The book, "Isaiah: A Ride in the Chariot," was published posthumously in 2015 by AuthorHouse.

Ted and Bernice were residents of Sun Lakes, Ariz., and Devils Lake, N.D. In Arizona they attended the United Methodist Church in Chandler, Ariz. On Palm Sunday, 2014, they received the inaugural Joyce Hammack Humanitarian award for expanding the vision of the congregation's ministry.

Ted is survived by his wife, Bernice, of Sun Lakes; two daughters: Corleen Schwan (and friend Jim Bachmeier), of Devils Lake, and LoAnn Catsibris (and husband Nick), of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two sons: Nolan (and wife Stacy), of Chandler, Ariz., and Mylen (and wife Lori), of Chandler, Ariz.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Ruby Meyer (and husband Art), of Seattle, Wash.; a sister-in-law, Mavis Rath, of Bismarck, N.D.; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant sister, Doloris, in 1935; two brothers: Ray and Leon; and his father- and mother-in-law: Daniel and Katie Huber.

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## *Robert Nielsen*

The Rev. Dr. Robert Nielsen, 94, passed away on Aug. 2, 2015, in Grimes, Iowa, with his family by his side. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.



Robert Parker Nielsen was born on Jan. 29, 1921, to A.W. and Belva M. Nielsen in Denver, Colo. On April 12, 1941, he married his high school sweetheart, Leona "Betty" Stevens. Duty called him to military service in 1942, and he joined the Army Air Corps. He was a chaplain in the service, where he was encouraged to further his education and become a minister.

Bob graduated from Morningside College in 1950. In 1953 he graduated with a bachelor of divinity degree from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls.

In 1951 he was received on trial in the South Dakota Conference (Methodist) and elected deacon in 1952. He was

admitted into full connection in 1953 and ordained an elder.

Bob served Methodist and United Methodist churches in the South Dakota Conference at Burbank and Elk Point-Richland (1948-1950), Chester-Colton (1950-1951), Wessington Springs (1953-1959), Groton-Bath-Andover (1959-1961), Groton-Bath (1961-1963), Sioux Falls Wesley (1963-1967), Huron First (1967-1974), and Mitchell First (1974-1983).

He then served as Northern District superintendent from 1983 to 1986, when he retired. In retirement, he was appointed to Alexandria-Fulton (1987-1989), and later served at Onida.

In March 1987 Bob became chaplain and pastoral care manager at Mitchell Methodist Hospital, where he served until its closing. He and Betty then moved to the Sioux Falls area, where he did occasional pulpit supply and served as on-call chaplain for Sioux Valley Hospital until 2007.

Dakota Wesleyan University presented him with an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1973. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 1998.

Bob served as a trustee on the boards for Dakota Wesleyan University, Wesley Acres, and the Methodist Hospital, all in Mitchell. He chaired the steering and planning committee which created a youth care facility in Huron. He enjoyed bowling, pool, and golf.

He is survived by two sons: Bob (and wife Diane), of Geneva,

Ill., and Jim (and wife Penny), of Corsica, S.D.; one daughter, Lynette Hilgenberg (and husband Brian), of West Des Moines, Iowa; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and his sister, Sally Nierman, of Kansas City, Kan.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Betty, on Jan. 19, 2011.

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## *Robert Logan*

The Rev. Robert Logan, 87, passed away on Monday, Aug. 31, 2015, at Des Moines, Iowa. Funeral services were held on Friday, Sept. 4, 2015, at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines.



Robert A. Logan was born on Nov. 26, 1927, to Clem and Grace (Hollenbeck) Logan in Bryceland, Minn.

He married Marjorie Ann Mukomela on Dec. 29, 1952, at the Langdon Presbyterian Church. They lived in Mayville, N.D., while Bob finished his senior year at Mayville State. He was

serving as the supply pastor for the Hannah-Wales-Maida Methodist churches at the time (1951-1953). They moved to Colesburg, Iowa, where he served the church there and attended the University of Dubuque.

In 1953 Bob was received on trial by the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church and discontinued in 1954. He was licensed as a probationer in 1954 by the Dakota Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He was ordained elder and full member in 1957.

He served EUB churches in North Dakota at New Rockford (1954-1955), and Bowbells-Coteau (1955-1957).

Bob and Marjorie then moved to Naperville, Ill., where Bob attended Evangelical Theological Seminary, earning his bachelor of divinity degree. He served at Eden, Wis. (1957-1960).

They returned to North Dakota and served EUB churches at Kindred-Zion (1960-1962), Williston (1962-1964), Streeter-Hope (1964-1967), and Streeter-Medina (1967-1968).

Bob then served United Methodist churches in North Dakota at Martin-Harvey (1968-1969), Harvey-Martin-Chaseley (1969-1975), and Bismarck First (1975-1976). He transferred to the Minnesota Conference (1976-1978) and served in Lamberton, Minn., before returning to North Dakota and serving at McClusky-Goodrich (1978-1981), Cavalier Trinity-Concrete-Hamilton (1981-1984), and Napoleon-Braddock (1984-1989).

Bob retired in 1989, and they moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he served as visitation pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. In 1993 they moved to Des Moines. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2001.

Bob and Marjorie were Nebraska Cornhusker fans. In his spare time Bob enjoyed reading.

Robert is survived by his children: Roberta Schmidt (and husband Jeffrey), David Logan (and wife Rose), and Jeffrey Logan (and wife Kim); eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Rex Logan; and many other family members.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie, on March 9, 2014; one daughter, Barbara Thiege; his parents; and five siblings: Clayton, Wayne, Viola, Dale and Gloria.

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## *Robert "Bob" Cappel*

Pastor Robert "Bob" Cappel, 70, of Yankton, S.D., died on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015, in hospice care at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015, at First United Methodist Church in Yankton, with the Rev. Ron Johnson officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery in McCook, Neb., at a later date.

Robert Lewis Cappel was born on June 26, 1945, in Denver, Colo., to Robert and Julia Cappel, of McCook, Neb. He grew up in McCook, graduating from McCook High School in 1964 and Peru State College in 1969. He excelled in high school and college baseball.

Bob began a lengthy career with the YMCA, working in



Lincoln, Neb., and St. Louis, Mo. After making his home in Texas, he became the assistant executive director of the Longview YMCA and later the executive director of the YMCA in both



Orange and Big Spring, Texas. In 1992, Bob was appointed the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce in Lexington, Neb. He later moved to Yankton, where he served as executive director of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce until his retirement in 2010.

Bob married Carolyn (Chafee) Pawlitschek on May 22, 1999, in

Yankton. He was involved at Yankton First UMC as lay leader (2004-2010) and a lay speaker and was an elected equalization lay member of the Dakotas Conference. At the time of his death, he was a licensed local pastor, serving as associate

pastor at the Yankton First UMC.

Bob is remembered for his firm handshakes and hugs, as well as his lifelong love of the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He received various awards and recognitions but was proudest of his children and grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Cappel, of Yankton; three daughters: Angela Cappel and Carrie Cappel, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Meredith Cappel, of New York, N.Y.; one son Aaron Cappel (and wife Stephanie), of Wylie, Texas; stepchildren Nathan and Stacy Dahms, of Melbourne, Fla., and Katelyn "Kels" Pawlitschek, of Winnebago, Minn.; two sisters: LaDonna Karre (and husband Tom) and Christine Cappel (and husband Dirk); two brothers: Rich Cappel (and wife Deb) and Charles Cappel (and wife Jan); four grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents.

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## *Jeanne Higgins*

The Rev. Jeanne Higgins, 72, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, surrounded by family at her home in Spearfish, S.D. A



memorial service was held on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, at the United Church of Christ in Spearfish. Inurnment was at Black Hills National Cemetery.

Jeanne DeVries was born on Nov. 26, 1942, in Northfield, Minn., to the Rev. John and Marjory (Test) DeVries. She was raised in South Dakota, graduating from Gregory High School in 1960 and Dakota Wesleyan University in 1964.

She then attended Garrett Theological Seminary.

Jeanne married Gordon Higgins on Dec. 27, 1964. The couple lived in Illinois, where Jeanne worked at Mum Print Shop in Evanston. She then became a certified teacher in the State of Illinois and taught school in Manhattan, Ill.

The couple moved to South Dakota, where she taught school in Hot Springs and Winner. She returned to school and received a master of arts degree in counseling from St. Mary's College in Minnesota. Jeanne worked with Missouri Shores Women's Crisis Center in Pierre and also started "Time with Jeanne," an in-service training program for hospitals, nursing homes and other organizations, that helped with stress management and communications skills.

In 1989 Jeanne was consecrated as a diaconal minister in the South Dakota Conference of The United Methodist Church. She served in campus ministry at Black Hills State University in Spearfish (1987-1995), as coordinator of campus support services at Jamestown College (1995-1996), and as supply pastor at the United Methodist Church in Cleveland, N.D. (1996-Dec. 1997).

In 1997, she was ordained deacon in full connection by the Dakotas Conference. From January 1998 to 1999, Jeanne was appointed to Huron First UMC, where she was a counselor and helped with adult ministries. She then served at Lead-Deadwood Trinity (Oct. 1999-2002), Meade/Lawrence County Jail ministry and Sturgis First UMC (2002-2004), and Sturgis (2004-2006). She returned to Black Hills State University as director of united ministries and Meade County Jail ministry (2006-2008). She retired in 2008. Jeanne also served with jail ministries for the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, S.D.

Jeanne enjoyed music and wrote the popular hymn "It's a Miracle."

Jeanne is survived by her husband, the Rev. Gordon Higgins; their two children: John Higgins (and wife Mae Kilker), and Keren Ferrell (and husband Bruce); four grandchildren; and three younger siblings: Don DeVries (and wife Sheila), Eileen Wilson (and husband Rev. Peary), and Beverly Hempel.

# Richard “Dick” Salmonson

The Rev. Richard “Dick” Salmonson, 81, of Mitchell, S.D., died on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, due to complications following surgery at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D. Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, at the First United Methodist Church in Mitchell, with the Revs. Kathy Hartgraves, Katie Rowen, and Rob Salmonson officiating. Burial was in the Mizpah Cemetery at Plankinton, S.D.



Richard Lee Salmonson was born on June 12, 1934, in Graceville, Minn., to Rolland and Myrtle (Gallinger) Salmonson. After graduating from high school in Ortonville, Minn., Dick worked

as a Standard Oil dealer for eight years in partnership with his father.

On Oct. 24, 1955, Dick married Margaret Walter in Jeffersonville, Ind. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 until 1957 and then was a reserve with the National Guard of Minnesota.

He attended the Minnesota School of Business and graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1968. He served the Ethan Methodist Church as a student supply pastor (1965-1968).

Dick then enrolled at St. Paul School of Theology, serving at

Meadville-Wheeling, Mo. (1968-1971), and graduating in 1971.

In 1969 he was ordained deacon and admitted as a probationary member of the South Dakota Conference (United Methodist). In 1971 he was ordained elder and admitted into full connection.

He served South Dakota United Methodist Churches at Todd-Mellette Larger Parish (1971-1974), Clear Lake-Gary (1974-1979), Huron First (1979-1984), Lead (1984-1992), and Mount Vernon-Plankinton (1992-1996).

He retired in 1996 but continued to fill pulpits in United Methodist, UCC, and Lutheran churches in the region. He was honored as Jubilee Clergy in 2015.

Dick was active in the communities where he and Margaret lived. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Kiwanis, and Lions Club, and enjoyed singing with the barbershop chorus, church choirs and quartets.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret; two sons: Joel Salmonson (and wife Kristie), of Mitchell, and the Rev. Rob Salmonson (and wife Vicki), of Flandreau, S.D.; three daughters: Michelle Hoffman, of Mitchell, Greta Salmonson, of Yankton, and Jessica Salmonson, of West Concord, Minn.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Jo Logan, of Lamoni, Iowa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents.

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# James “Jim” Pomeroy

The Rev. Dr. James “Jim” Pomeroy, age 79, of Fargo, N.D., died Friday, April 8, 2016, at Villa Maria in Fargo, under hospice care. A memorial service was held Thursday, April 14, 2016, at First United Methodist Church in Fargo. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Fargo.



James Robert Pomeroy was born on Dec. 16, 1936, to John “Bob” and Anna (Hampson) Pomeroy. He attended Fargo public schools, graduating from Fargo Central High School. During these years, he was active in a male quartet known as “The Uncalled Four.” He graduated from North Dakota

Agricultural College at Fargo with a bachelor of science degree in 1958.

Jim, along with the other three quartet members, prepared

for the Methodist ministry at Drew Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where he graduated in 1961. He was ordained deacon and admitted on trial by the North Dakota Conference (Methodist) in 1959 and elected member in full connection and elder in 1961.

Jim served Methodist churches in North Dakota at Napoleon-Braddock (1961-1964), Napoleon EUB-Napoleon Methodist (1964-1967), and Ellendale-Guelph (1967-1968). He held administrative positions for the North Dakota Conference as director of Christian education (1968-1969) and associate area program director (1969-1975). He then served at Minot Trinity and as Minot State College campus pastor (1975-1979) and was district superintendent for the Central District (1979-1984). He then served the United Methodist Church in North Dakota at Valley City (1984-1994) and in South Dakota at Watertown First (1994-1999) and Dell Rapids-Colman (1999-2002).

In the 1970s Jim led training events for church leaders

throughout the region, and was involved in United Methodist camping throughout his career. He earned his doctor of ministry degree in 1980 at McCormick Theological Seminary.

In 1971 Jim married Mavis "May" Merkel, of Ellendale, N.D. For the next 20 years, he and his family cherished time at their cabin, which he built at Spiritwood Lake, near Jamestown, N.D.

Jim retired in 2002. In 2006 he was elected to the North Dakota State Senate, serving one 4-year term and advocating for education, workers' rights, and women's rights. He was

honored by the Dakotas Conference as Jubilee Clergy in 2010.

"Pastor Jim" will be remembered for his daily visits to hospitalized and infirm congregants and his musical talents, which he shared with the church choir and local singing groups. He remained a steadfast NDSU Bison fan.

He is survived by his wife, May; his daughter, Kristen Fischer (and husband Monte) and two grandchildren, all of Fargo; his sister, Mary Ann Hagen of Seattle, Wash; and many cousins.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents.

## *In memory* < *Clergy Spouses*

### *Bonnie Heckathorn*

Bonnie Lee Heckathorn, 63, wife of the Rev. Roger Smith, of New Bethlehem, Penn., died Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at her residence. The funeral service was held on Sunday, June 21,

2015, at the Alcorn Funeral Home in Hawthorn, Penn., with Pastor Jimmy Swogger officiating. Interment was in the Grove Hill Cemetery in Oil City, Penn.



Bonnie Lee Heckathorn was born on Oct. 18, 1951, in Franklin, Penn., to Clifford Lawrence Barnes and Helen Marjorie (Bargar) Heckathorn.

She married the Rev. Roger A. Smith

on Aug. 7, 2010.

Bonnie felt the call of God to Christian service. She completed correspondence courses with bible colleges in Florida and

Illinois and was ordained by a Christian ministry in Texas. She was a volunteer live-in caregiver for much of her life.

She enjoyed interior decorating and cooking and authored two books. She made friends easily, cared deeply for others, and remembered names easily.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Roger A. Smith; a son, Rex L. Heckathorn; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; her father, the Rev. Clifford L. Barnes (and his wife, Elizabeth); four sisters: Judy A. Heckathorn, Marjorie A. Heckathorn, Patricia J. Heckathorn and Laura A. Heckathorn; and a brother, the Rev. Robert M. Heckathorn.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Helen M. Heckathorn; step-father, Ferdinand C. Heckathorn, Sr.; a daughter, Barbara A. Messina; and five brothers: Ferdinand C. Heckathorn, Jr., Marvin L. Heckathorn, James S. Heckathorn, Thomas J. Heckathorn and Donald E. Heckathorn.

### *Margaret Janetzki*

Margaret Janetzki, 92, surviving spouse of the Rev. Wendell Janetzki, passed away on Monday, Nov. 30, 2015. There was no funeral. Her body was donated to science and later was interred at the Lehr City Cemetery in Lehr, N.D., where her husband and son are laid to rest. At that time a memorial service was held at the United Methodist Church in Ashley, N.D.

Margaret Blume was born on Aug. 27, 1923, to John and

Magdalena (Yost) Blume in Castor, Alberta, Canada. The third youngest of seven children, she grew up in rural Alberta. She passed her Royal Conservatory of Music exams on the piano and graduated from Meadowview High School in Castor and Henderson Business School in Calgary. She was employed by the Castor Bank.

On May 22, 1946, Margaret married the Rev. Wendell E.

Janetzki at the Evangelical Church in Castor. Together they served Evangelical, EUB, and United Methodist churches in the Northwest Canada Conference and in the North Dakota and South Dakota conferences.



Margaret faithfully served as church organist and pianist for more than 50 years. She enjoyed accompanying her husband when he played his trumpet or violin, as well as church choirs, soloists, quartets and other musical ensembles. She was active in the church community in many capacities: welcoming and hosting

visiting missionaries, pastors, and members of musical groups; participating in the women's circles at the local and conference levels; teaching youth in Sunday school; and directing and teaching Bible school. She enjoyed gardening, crocheting,

knitting, cooking, and traveling.

Wendell passed away on June 8, 1986, while they were living at Ashley. Margaret remained in her home until the spring of 2009, when she moved to Claddagh Enriched Care apartments in Brasher Falls, N.Y. In 2010 she returned to Canada to be closer to family. For the past four years, she resided at West End Villa (Extendicare) in Ottawa, Ontario.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Mardelle "Dee" Sczygiel, of Ottawa, Ontario; one granddaughter; two great-granddaughters; a brother-in-law, Edwin Janetzki (and wife Erna), of Edmonton, Alberta; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wendell; one son, Kenneth; two sisters: Esther (1925-1927) and Christina (1978); and four brothers: Conrad (2003), Harry (2003), George (1992), and Reuben (1977).

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## Margaret "Peg" Ritter

Margaret "Peg" Ritter, 86, widow of the Rev. Charles Ritter, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. Funeral services were held

on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, at Dow Rummel Halladay Peterson Chapel, with interment at Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls.



Margaret Anna Ehlers was born on March 29, 1928, to Pastor Arne and Anna Ehlers in West Point, Neb. She moved with her parents and beloved sister, Arlys, numerous times during her childhood. She attended Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa, and it was in

college where she met her future husband, Charles "Chuck" Ritter. They were married on June 3, 1951.

Chuck served EUB churches in North Dakota at New Rockford, Casselton, Tuttle-Goodrich, and Wahpeton. In 1968 he was

appointed to Sioux Falls Sunnycrest-Ellis-Montrose United Methodist churches, which he served until his death on Oct. 19, 1971.

Peg taught music for six schools in the Sioux Falls School District from 1969 to 1995. In 1990 she was honored as Teacher of the Year by the Association for Retired Citizens in South Dakota.

She attended church services at the First Baptist Church and then at Dow Rummel Retirement Village, where she moved after suffering a stroke in 2004.

Peg is survived by three sons: Mark Ritter (and wife Jacqueline), of Dayton, Minn., Tim Ritter (and wife Cindy), of Andover, Minn., and Paul Ritter (and wife Jan), of Sioux Falls; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck; her parents; and her sister, Arlys Aijian.

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## Ruth Hill

Ruth Hill, 87, formerly of Mountain, N.D., passed away on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016, at the Aneta Parkview Health Center in Aneta, N.D. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, at Brooks Funeral Home in Langdon, N.D.

Ruth Esther Senecal was born on July 6, 1928, to Harvey and Salome (Kortmann) Senecal, in Calvin, N.D. She was the

youngest of three. Her father was a Presbyterian pastor in North Dakota and Minnesota, and her mother was a homemaker.

In 1948 Ruth graduated from Ellendale High School, where she met Gerald Kingsbury Hill. They were married on Aug. 20, 1950, at the First Methodist Church in Jamestown, N.D.

Ruth attended Jamestown College. After graduation, she

and Jerry moved to Kentucky, where he attended Asbury Theological Seminary. Then they moved to New Jersey, and Jerry graduated from Drew Theological Seminary.



Ruth was a homemaker while her husband was a Methodist pastor in North Dakota and South Dakota from 1953 to 1964. Jerry pursued further education at Columbia University in New York City, receiving his doctorate in 1969 and returning to North Dakota.

In 1969 Ruth enrolled at the University of Minnesota, where she received her masters in social work. She worked at Children's Village in Fargo, N.D. In 1983, they

moved to Walnut Creek, Calif., where Gerald had his own practice, and Ruth worked at Shell Oil.

Ruth and Jerry were divorced Sept. 3, 1993, after 43 years of marriage. Jerry passed away Feb. 18, 2001.

Ruth's interests were backpacking, cooking and family history. After she returned to the Dakotas, she devoted much of her time and energy to typing her dad's diaries.

She is survived by one daughter, Nita Starr; two sons: Gerald Hill and Thomas Hill; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Mary Rodriguez; her sister and her brother.

## Retirees

### Debra Ball-Kilbourne

I suppose that the call to ministry actually came to me as a child, in that our family was a Christian family and many of the things that it was involved in and cared about revolved



around the outreach activities and people of the two congregations to which my parents were a part of. Even as a child, I had an innate feeling that my life would be a part of the church in some way. I knew no women who were ordained of course, and never assumed that God had called me to a professional role in the church, however. In fact, following the deaths

of Dad and two Sudanese brothers during my early high school years, a period of deep theological questioning ensued within me. Eventually, my involvement in formalized worship and participation in the church ceased. Still, the theological questions were there. Leading me to at least minor at college in religion and philosophy. A brief encounter with a group of high school UMYF students at First United Methodist Church in Storm Lake, Iowa -- who wanted to produce a Good Friday drama -- had as much to do with clarifying my call as anything, for that initial experience with them led to a two-year series of experiences with their church -- involving preaching, worship leadership, visitation to the ill and newcomers, youth group mentoring, Christian education under a wonderful Christian pastor of the Iowa conference, Dr. Harrison Dawes and his wife, Donnis. In retrospect, I believe I can say that I was a (well-paid) Elisha Project intern. Throughout the experience, the Dawes' saw in me things I would never have seen in myself and were

skilled at bringing them to my awareness. They asked such leading questions as, "Debra, what skills did you use in this experience that God has given and you are honing?" The call was there all along, but may well have been ignored without the keen leadership of the Dawes' who were near retirement. Of course, I have needed to access that call to ministry many times throughout the years! And I have needed to say "yes" many, many times!

Memories related to disaster response and, in particular, the Souris Valley flooding of 2011 remain vivid. The years of response and the pace of that response from the staffs of Vincent and Faith/Des Lacs, as well as the RAFT/UMCOR staff will always stay with me. More importantly, the joy of that time will remain with me! It wasn't always there, to be sure, but often we simply prayed together, made and ate soup and fresh bread together -- talking over the worst of the issues that needed solving, and finding new solutions that we didn't have before "breaking bread" together. Many times I came away from our simple meals and headed back to the RAFT office, believing that Christ had been in our midst. Those were indeed Emmaus moments--not merely problem solving meals!

Family, of course, is a memory. Gary -- my closest, wisest and most valued colleague, friend and confidant. For 40 years of ministry (in June) and 40 years of marriage (in September), I not only thank him but cherish him. I thank our children, Matthew (Heidi) and Zachary and grandchildren, Chloe, Jordan and Grayson. Gary and I never have enough "family time" to simply enjoy any of these special ones! I thank the people of the pew -in the parishes served across the

prairies and communities of the Dakotas I served as a pastor, District Superintendent - and for briefer periods - as Director of Mission Engagement or Bishops' Assistant of Disaster Response. I want to thank the volunteer and paid disaster-response case workers, particularly Val Reinhillier, Cathy Chesney, Bob and Ada Lower, Jim Dustin and Mary and Cal Hayenga, and Carlla Maki. I

am grateful to Mom and Dad who first shared the stories of the faith. I hope I have done half as well with the children on my lap in the parishes assigned to me and in my own family. And I thank our Creator God, who said "yes" to me!

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## *Judy Banwart*

When I was eight years old living in Burma I thought that I heard a call to ministry. As life progressed I wondered if I had misunderstood the call. However, nearly 50 years later, the call from God became so clear that I could not deny it. Despite all the excuses that I put before God, I had to answer and head to the exhilarating experience of seminary at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I have never regretted answering God's call to ministry.



One memory that stands out for me is the clergy session at the Dakotas 2009 Annual Conference in Rapid City.

Along with other candidates I had stood before the session to answer questions, been asked to step out to be considered and voted on, and then brought in to applause. I had many doubts about leaving the security of my home and former job, going back to school after 34 years, and was still amazed that God had

called me with all my inadequacies. When I stepped back into that clergy session, such joy filled my heart, and I felt that I was just where God wanted me to be. I felt such gratitude to God and to the Dakotas UMC!

I am thankful for parents who introduced me to God from infancy by Scripture reading, prayer, worship, and daily example showing me what it meant to be a Christian. Besides my parents, I appreciate my daughter, Tamara and her husband, Tim; and my son, Edward for their encouraging support in my answering the call to ministry. I am grateful for colleagues and faculty at seminary who were Christ-centered. Thank you to the leaders and congregations at Presbyterian Homes in Evanston, IL, the Libertyville, IL UMC, Hettinger UMC, Langdon UMC, and Nekoma Presbyterian Church from whom I have learned much and experienced their graciousness. I am very grateful for the encouragement and guidance of friends from my former church in Laramie, WY, and for the family that makes up Dakotas UMC Conference.

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## *John Bergh*



I was called to preach the Word of God as we try to reach out into a country that really doesn't know Jesus anymore. Jesus has helped and guided me every step of the way and I praise Him for being God.

I was awestruck by the outpouring of people when I graduated from Course of Study at age 63. The people of Calvary and Zion are very special.

I would like to thank Pastor Rick Fossum for helping me come to know Jesus. Pastor Debra Ball-Kilbourne for finding me as we were starting a new church and offering us Calvary/Zion. I would like to thank Pastor Dave Andrews who has been a rock solid friend and mentor. I thank the members of our ministerial group who always had my back. Most of all I would like to thank my wife, Sharon, who was really the backbone of our ministry. Thank you all, many more and may God bless you.

## Laura Borman



God gave me a desire to build relationships with people, to walk with them and share with them in the good and bad times that ever present love and grace. It could not be ignored even though it took me until her 50 to answer.

To have children recognize me and call out to me wherever I go in this neighborhood of ours warms my heart and tells me we are making a difference.

Many walked beside me and lifted me in their prayers. My husband Darold was a huge supporter.

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## Jeri Burns



My goal has always been to remain mindful of God's plan for my life. It was humbling to receive the rights and responsibilities that come with the title of Reverend. I have worked humbly and prayed daily to serve God and the title well.

I have a strong passion for pastoral ministry in health care. I was able to live out that passion by serving as a chaplain at Avera McKennan Hospital, Rapid City Regional Hospital, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and Promise Regional Medical Center.

Pastors and lay members alike have help form and inform my journey. I am thankful for all those who have been part of my ministry.

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## William M. Gran



Out of an awareness and acceptance of God's creating, redeeming, reconciling, transforming and empowering love, in and through God's presence, peace, power, grace, mercy, forgiveness and healing at work in my life and in the life of all of creation, I was called to share and show and invite others into those

blessings of what God can and does and is doing in them and in this world. My personal mission statement has been "Being, becoming and bringing healing and wholeness to all of life." My metaphor of and model for ministry has been "Being a mid-wife to new life."

Having to describe the one memory that means the most to me is a challenge, but I will share one memory that I think also illustrates the essential aspect of my ministry. It was having a vision of how in our Hartford UMC we would be able to do a live portrayal of the crucifixion of Christ using Ray Boltz's song "Watch the Lamb." In the portrayal at our community Good

Friday Service I played the role of the one who is explaining to his sons the meaning of the law and the prophets as they bring a lamb to sacrifice, but ends up carrying the cross for Christ. As Christ hangs before him on the cross, his sons come to say the lamb they had brought had run away. As they come to tell their dad the song ends like this: "Daddy, daddy, What have we seen here, There's so much that we don't understand, So I took them in my arms, And we turned and faced the cross, Then I said dear children watch the lamb." The people sat in silence for a long time, and then went out, transformed by the power of seeing, experiencing and knowing God's love in Christ for them. That memory describes my ministry. It has been one of working with others and inviting others to experience "Watching the Lamb", to help them see, experience and know the love of God through Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit at work in the midst of our lives ... in joys or struggles, in celebrations like births or baptisms or weddings or communion and in heartache like deaths and funerals and loss and changed circumstances of life, in working together as a church (as the people of God) to create meaningful worship experiences

through the Word and music and in our teaching and learning and serving and fellowship and outreach, in bringing reconciliation and healing and unity into broken relationships, in bringing laughter and love and fun and community building and opportunities, to meet Christ in confirmation and at church camps and youth ministry, in bringing hope into the midst of pain and uncertainty through the lives touched in hospital chaplaincy, in encouraging others to see how it is that Christ can live in them and through them as a consultant with The Good Samaritan Society. It has been a ministry of, as Bonhoeffer describes it "Life Together," "Watching the Lamb," "Tasting and seeing together what God can and is and does and will do." And for that I say, "Thanks be to God."

My wife, Brenda, for her constant love, and both her being and sharing with me in this journey, through all of our moves and life's changes for us and our family and our unique and special ministries (both hers and mine). She has been my helpmate and friend, including her helping me to discover the

gift and power of God's Spirit at work in life and in the world. My daughters, Jennifer, Stephanie and Emily and their families (all our kids and grandkids) as they have shared in many of those ways and times of "Watching the Lamb" and helping others to do so as well in the midst of all of life, and for all of their love and laughter and life that we are so privileged to share together. Those in my birth family and home church of Scotland who helped me to first know the love of Christ. Friends, like Dr. Bob Nielsen, Hank Kor, Joel Higgins, and so many other pastors and friends and co-workers who have been my confidantes and encouragers along the way. For the Dakotas Conference and the UMC as a whole which has helped make possible this ministry. And for all those faithful and loving church members, hospital staff and now in GSS co-workers who have partnered with me in this amazing "Life Together" of "Watching the Lamb" and inviting and encouraging others to do so as well. When people ask me, "How are you?" as my email signature states: BG (Bill Gran & Blessed and Grateful!) So finally

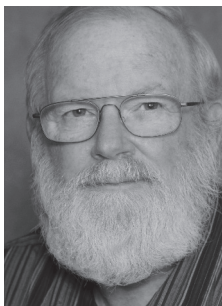
## Julie Nygaard



The Dakotas Conference is grateful for the care and service that Rev. Nygaard provided the following churches Valley City Epworth / Salem,

ND; New Rockford / Grace City, ND; Wesbster / Bristol, SD; Cresbard / Rockhman / Miranda, SD; Creasbard / Rockham, SD; Cresbard / Tolstoy, SD.

## Warren Rhodes



In my junior year in college a United Church of Christ church in New England, ND needed a pastor until they could call a full-time pastor. The pastor in my home church in Dickinson suggested that I apply. As I served that church I found that I had the gifts and graces for ministry. I also came to know that this is what I was called to do. Forty plus years later I am still amazed that they pay me to do something that I love to do so much.

In Freeborn, MN there was a member of my church who everyone thought was a miser. Only I know that once a month

he would come into my office with fifty dollar bills and list of needy people in the community. I would pay their bills at the store, give them gift card to pay for needed medication, and once a prom dress. He only required that I tell no one. KM I kept your secret all these years.

I would like to thank the Rev. Ted Nace who first saw my gift for ministry. Dr. Walter Cook my seminary professor who gave me the tools for ministry I have used all these years. Rev. Debra Ball-Kilbourne who ministered to me and my family after my accident. Rev. Frank McKeehan a friend through it all. All of my sisters and brothers in ministry in the Dakotas Conference whose ministry every day brings my wishes for the Dakotas Conference closer to fulfillment.



## *Valentine Rush*



There was a time in my life when I remember hungering for the Word. One night I couldn't sleep so I opened up my Bible and as I read, I heard God say, "I want you to preach the Gospel for me." I remember how excited I was to hear those words, but then reality set in and with that came a lot of fear. Eric Grinager was my pastor at the Egan UMC at that time and shortly after he left, Morris Nelson was sent to Flandreau-Egan. Both Eric and Morris were very instrumental in encouraging and directing me in my call to ministry.

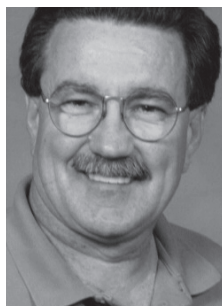
The one memory that means the most to me is a personal memory of the summer I spent prior to entering kindergarten. My parents sent me away to Crippled Children's School & Hospital in Sioux Falls. I had a hard time talking and pronouncing words so I spent the summer there learning how to talk. Later I spent a lot of time in grade school reading out loud to different teachers to help me improve my reading and speaking. The area in my life where I was the weakest is the one area that God later used to help me make my living as a

pastor. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me." God's grace taught me to trust in Him and God has never failed me. My friends, I am going to continue to trust in Him until my dying day and then I am going to spend eternity with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!

I want to thank Jesus for saving me! I want to thank God for calling me! I want to thank the Holy Spirit for helping me! I want to thank my parents, John and Evelyn, for raising me. I'm very grateful to my wife, Teresa, for 38 1/2 years of loving, encouraging, and walking with me. Also, I appreciate my children: Aaron and daughter-in-law, Liz, Sarah, and Jonathan for encouraging and putting up with me. I want to thank the members of the Egan UMC, United Church of Garretson, Jasper UMC, Salem UMC, Bowman UMC, and Winner UMC for encouraging and working with me as together we spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I want to thank the Bishops, District Superintendents, and my fellow pastors for their love and support. God bless each and every one of you!

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## *James Waisanen*



My wife and I felt the call to ministry at the same time. At age 35 we loaded up the U Haul and returned to school. After graduating from college we attended seminary at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. We graduated in 1992. Our first appointments were to Pierre, SD.

I was appointed to Tulare, SD in 1998 to a congregation that was in the process of uniting three churches. By August of 1999 we had built a new church building and it was paid for by January of 2000. We immediately began planning on building a new parsonage. The parsonage was built and paid for by 2005.

I would especially like to thank my wife, Cori, Rev. Leonard Haggin and Jacki, Rev. Edon Reich and Donna, and Rev. Jim Towler for helping me begin the process of ordained ministry.

# Candidates for Comissioning

## *Nicole Anderson*



Nicole is a recent graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. While attending Garrett-Evangelical, Nicole was a part of the ministry at Urban Village Church – Andersonville where she was their children's ministry coordinator and student pastor. Recently, Nicole was involved in non-profit work as a pastoral intern at Connections for the Homeless. During her time there, Nicole worked in a transitional homeless shelter. She is currently on the Elder track and Rev. Jen Tyler is her mentor.

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## *Melissa Gall*



Melissa is currently the Director of Youth Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Milbank, SD. She and her husband, Tyler, have two children, Lydia (6) and Henry (2). Melissa is finishing Basic Graduate Theological Studies: Deacon Studies program at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and is passionate about discipleship, which allows for making disciples who, in turn, create disciples. Melissa is on the Deacon track, and her mentor is Rev. Beth Conrad-Smart.

# Candidates for Ordination

## Kathy Chesney



Kathy Chesney grew up in Port Huron MI. She has a bachelors of Music Education degree from the Margaret Upton Conservatory of Music, Olivet College, a masters of science degree in Counseling from SDSU, and an MDiv from Sioux Falls Seminary. She is also a state-licensed/nationally-registered paramedic. Kathy serves the Philip United Church and First Presbyterian Church of Interior. Kathy is a faithful Chicago Cubs fan and enjoys spending time with people and her two cats, PK and K2. Kathy has been commissioned since 2010 and is being ordained an elder. Her mentor is Rev. James Persons.

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## Clay Lundberg



Clay Lundberg grew up in Gregory, SD, and graduated from the University of Sioux Falls with a BA in theology & philosophy and from Sioux Falls Seminary with his M.Div. He is currently serving the United Methodist Churches of Burke and Herrick in South Dakota and Jamison, Nebraska. He served as the associate pastor at Brookings First UMC from 2012-2015. His wife Linse teaches second grade in Gregory, SD. Aside from ministry, he enjoys hunting, traveling to see friends and family, and playing with his dog Indiana. Clay is being ordained an elder after being commissioned in 2013. His mentor is Rev. Ryan Mutzenberger.

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## Peggy Stempson



Margaret (Peggy) Stempson was born and raised in Southern California. She attended Cypress Community College and the California Polytechnic University of Pomona - graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies, and a minor in History. She attended Iliff School of Theology graduating in 2011. She serves the First United Methodist of Pierre, South Dakota as part of the pastoral team. She is passionate about camping ministries, and discipleship formation. Her hobbies include: connecting with family, hanging out with friends, playing with her cats, painting and knitting. Peggy is being ordained an elder after being commissioned in 2013 and her mentor is Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr.

