

DAKOTAS UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

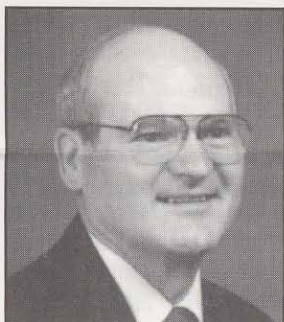
“Gifts, Legacies, Endowments for Ministry”

SPRING

NEWSLETTER

2000

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY



Dear Friends:

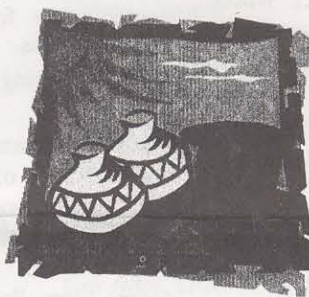
At the beginning of this year I attended the Southwest District Clergy Retreat. The subject was “Grace” and it was led by Bishop Coyner and Perry Wilson. “Grace” is an interesting word and concept. At one point we were asked to define it or describe it, which is not an easy task.

One thought concept is that “Grace is doing what is needful to or for another, at a specific time or place in their life, as God did through Jesus Christ at a specific time or place for me in my life.”

If it weren't for God's grace, we would have plenty of cause for despair. In the book of Isaiah the prophet puts words to the people's desperation. They realize that they have gone off course and not listened for divine guidance. In their agony, they blame God for their own hardened hearts, even asserting that God should have forced them into being faithful! Yet in the midst of this gut-level honesty, Isaiah affirms, “we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

This image of our relationship with God is a stewardship issue because it forces us to answer the question, “between God and ourselves, which is the Potter and which is the pot?”

Stewardship is knowing that we are not the creator and then deciding to live our lives for or on behalf of the One who is. A potter is free to decide the design of various pots. God has fashioned a call to ministry for each of us. As stewards, we are to live according to that design. Like clay, we are continually being reshaped by God. God offers to forgive and recreate according to the changing needs within God's purpose. God has shaped us to hold the Gospel within our lives and to share that with others as is needful. Just as God has shared the grace of Jesus Christ with us at a time and point in history as was needful to me and you.



“O Lord...you are the potter; we are the clay.”

A. Julian Wigen

FOUNDATION WORKING WITH CONFERENCE

Your Dakotas United Methodist Foundation is in conversations with the Annual Conference on the possible establishment of a “Capital Development Office” within the Foundation to assist the Annual Conference in raising some needed capital funds. More information will be coming at Annual Conference.

Making a Gift?

There are many ways to make gifts to charity. Your Dakotas UM Foundation offers several plans that allow you to support your local church or a particular ministry.

- *The easiest way is through your Will. When establishing or up-dating your will, simply instruct your attorney to list the Foundation as a beneficiary (for a set dollar amount or a percentage) to be used to establish an Endowment to benefit a particular Ministry.*

- *Insurance also makes a good gift. Simply contact your insurance company and request a change in the beneficiary. You may even gift the policy to the Foundation and deduct the premium payments.*

- *Some gift arrangements provide life-time incomes and are great opportunities to provide support for special ministries. Call the Foundation Office for information and assistance.*

FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$100,000 ENDOWMENT GIFT FOR MISSIONS

"My Grandparents were never ones who wanted attention called to them in any way, but my Grandfather did want their gift to encourage others to give to the church."

With these words Marc Nagel, on behalf of his Mother and other family members, shared why his Grandparents, Maurice & Lenore Gordon, stipulated in their trust arrangement their desire to share the story of their gift.

Maurice Homer Gordon was born December 29, 1907 on his parents farm south of Berlin, ND. He grew up on the farm and attended Badger County country school. He was a barber by trade having graduated from the Barber College in Omaha, Nebraska. He continued to barber until shortly before his death.

Lenore Edna Gordon was born October 3, 1913 in Oldham, South Dakota. Her parents moved to Blue Grass, North Dakota in 1917 and to Nortonville in 1922 where they were engaged in farming. Lenore attended the Nortonville public school.

Maurice and Lenore were married July 30, 1932 and moved to Millarton, North Dakota in 1933. Maurice continued to barber to support them. Barb (short for barber) and Lenny, as they were known by family and friends, bought a ½ section of land west of Millarton in December 1944 for

back taxes. This land and 5 acres around their home was the only land they ever owned or farmed. Lenore served as postmistress in Millarton for over 25 years retiring in 1977.

Maurice and Lenore were members of the Millarton Lutheran church, the only church in town, until it closed. They then returned to their church roots joining the United Methodist Church in Nortonville, North Dakota. Lenore was a member of the UMW and both were Sunday School teachers for many years. They were always proud of their church and ready to clean, paint, or do whatever was necessary to beautify and help the church.

They had a deep and abiding love for one another finding simple joy in being in each other's presence. They lived very simply and saved their money to help their church and family. Lenore entered the Edgeley Nursing Home in 1989 due to Alzheimer's Disease. Maurice missed her deeply when she was moved away from home and he died May 25, 1994. Lenore later died in the Wishek Nursing Home on July 1, 1999.

Barb and Lenny had one daughter, Helen Nagel of Bismarck, North Dakota. Helen and her husband, Richard, are members of McCabe United Methodist Church. They have 5 children (Jerry, Marc, Pam, David, & Penny) and 11 grandchildren. Marc, a United Methodist pastor on parental leave from the Wisconsin Annual Conference, is serving as volunteer Executive Director of Interfaith Service to Latin America out of Minneapolis, MN. Penny's husband, Scott Carlson, also from Bismarck is a United Methodist pastor serving Hope UMC in Eau Claire, WI.

In giving this gift to the Dakotas Conference, Marc relates that, Maurice often noted that he felt he had never done enough in expressing his gratitude for



*Generous Stewardship
Brings joy to all!*

the love of Christ in his life. He was one who always found a way to talk of Christ's love with others and he wanted this gift to continue to spread that word of love. He also noted that he hoped in giving this gift others would see that even simple folks such as he and Lenore had the capability of saving and giving a gift of love toward the ministry of the church.

So, not only was this gift a way of saying thank-you for all that Christ meant to both of them, it was also a challenge to all followers of Jesus Christ to do likewise.

The Gordon's expression of thanks and challenge to each of us will live on through the **Maurice H. and Lenore E. Gordon Endowment**. Through a trust set up by the Gordon's the Foundation received a gift of Savings Bonds valued at \$100,000. Eighty percent of the net earnings will be used for Missions to share the message of Christ's love with others, while the remaining twenty percent will be reinvested back into the principal to keep up with inflation and provide greater resources for the future..

We give thanks to persons like the Gordon's for their thoughtful planning and continual reminder to share the blessings of God with others in the name of Christ.

You can

CREATE A LEGACY

by leaving a bequest to the Foundation establishing an endowment to benefit your Local Church or some Ministry of the Dakotas Conference.



*For information call
Dr. A. Julian Wigen
(605) 996-6552*



Working
together
great things
happen!

NAMED ENDOWMENTS

The Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the following Named Endowments.

- **The Erma C. House Endowment** was established by Erma C. House to benefit the Ministries of the Dakotas Annual Conference. Erma is from Aberdeen, SD and has been a lifelong United Methodist. She has a special love for the work and ministry of the Church and wants that work to continue. The net earnings will be distributed by the Foundation Board.

- **The Gordon & Elise Rollins Endowment** is unique in that it will provide monthly income to Mitchell First United Methodist Church to be used for its Mission Program. This endowment is established by the Rollins, of Mitchell.

- **The Manville and Alice Stoltenow Endowment**, established by Manville and Alice Stoltenow of Wahpeton, ND, will provide annual income to assist children, youth and adults to participate in camping and retreat events sponsored by the Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

- **The Frank Traver Scholarship Endowment** has been established to honor the memory of Frank Traver, a former pastor and faculty member at SDSU in Brookings. This will provide funds to the SDSU Campus Ministry Committee to grant a "United Methodist Leadership Scholarship" at SDSU.

We deeply appreciate and want to thank these people who acted on their desire to enable the Ministry of Christ to be shared with others.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift in remembrance of a loved one is a fitting way to recognize the contributions of others in our lives. The Foundation provides this opportunity for you to say thanks for what someone has meant to you.

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY	FOR
Rev. Len Kruckenberg	Helen Kruckenberg	Board of Pensions Endow.
Reha Scherer Friese	Charlie Friese	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Rev. Norm Neumann	ND Camp Endowment
Harold Lint	Anna Lint	Wesley Acres Camp Endow.
Rev. Darald Leach	Lester & Helen Bumgardner	Darald Leach Camp Endow.
Frank Fraver	Cecil & Janet Miller	Board of Pensions Endow.
Rev. Darald Church	Art & Lorraine Scanson	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Bruce & Lorrie Middaugh	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Dwight & Signe Meier	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Ruth Church	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Sam & Eilene Graf	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Verna Eberhart	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Harry & Lorna Williams	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Phil & Mary Lee Lint	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Frances & Cecelia Tannehill	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Lionel & Marion Muthiah	Undesignated
Rev. Darald Church	Victor & Arlene Eberhart	Undesignated
Rev. Russell Dilley	Revs. Cecil & Janet Miller	Board of Pensions Endow.
Rev. Darald Leach	Rev./Mrs. Robert Brown	Darald Leach Camp Endow.
Rev. Edward Parker	Rev./Mrs. Eldon Reich	Board of Pensions Endow.
Glen A. Weiss	Clarice Weiss	Undesignated
Jesse D. & Jessie E. Vincent	Velma Vincent	Undesignated
Pat Petschow	Julian & Lois Wigen	Operational Endowment
Pat Petschow	Gustav & Sally Van Tassel	Board of Pensions Endow.
Eric Kroneman	Tom & Kay Becker	Lake Poinsett Camp Endow.
Rev. Darald Leach	John & Joan Hartung	Darald Leach Camp Endow.
Skylar Rai Herrera	Evelyn Whitney	F. & E. Whitney Endowment
Rev. Darald Leach	John & Joan Hartung	Darald Leach Camp Endow.
Wayne Hauschild	Duane & Carol Monteith	Undesignated
Bertha Sprunk	Rev./Mrs. Ervin Rudolph	Board of Pensions Endow.
Bertha Sprunk	Rev./Mrs. Dick Unkenholz	Board of Pensions Endow.
Rev. Darald Church	Eve Hook	Undesignated
Marian Haisch	Lloyd Haisch	Undesignated
Bertha Sprunk	Rev. Cecil & Janet Miller	Board of Pensions Endow.
Lucy Haskell	Reta Washnok	Undesignated
Lucy Haskell	Rev. Don & Marilyn Rahn	Undesignated
Bertha Sprunk	Norm Neumann	ND Camp Endowment
Dorothy Gernhardt	Revs. Cecil & Janet Miller	Board of Pensions Endow.



"In the final analysis, it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

Ann Landers

Clip and Return

To: Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, P.O. Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301-0460

Enclosed is my/our Gift in the amount of
\$_____.

Undesignated (to be used where needed).

Foundation's Permanent Endowment Fund.

For: _____
(List Ministry: Camps, DWU, etc.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please send me without cost information on:

How to include the Church in my will.

How to make a Charitable Gift and retain a life income benefit.

How to establish a "Named Endowment" to benefit a particular United Methodist Ministry.

YOU HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE!

Through your generous support the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation was able to make available Grants and Scholarship funds totaling \$20,278 to various ministries of the Conference.

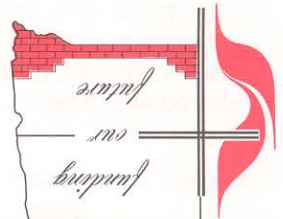
This amount is in addition to the \$20,000 which will be distributed, in varying amounts, to Dakota Wesleyan University, United Methodist Camps, Wesley Acres Retirement Residence, Sunnycrest Village Retirement Center and the Open Door Community Center.

*Dakotas
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Dakotas United Methodist Foundation



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