

In + Sight

Fall 2007

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Branding...

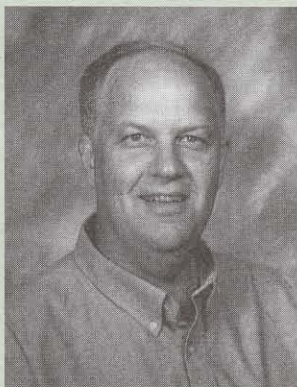
In the good ole' days, a brand meant something burned into the hide of cattle to identify the owner. Today it means - do people recognize who you are? If I say, "It's the real thing," you know that's Coke. If you see two golden arches, it's obviously McDonald's. There are many catchy tunes that you automatically associate with a business. That's branding.

In my travels and visits, I realized that sometimes the Dakotas United Methodist Charitable Foundation has a bit of a branding issue.

Here's what we're NOT:

- We're not Dakota Wesleyan University. While DWU is one of the ministries we support and we're both in Mitchell and both located on University Avenue - we are separate entities, but supportive of each other's work.
- We're not the Dakotas Annual Conference. While our office is located in the Conference Office and we receive a small portion

from apportionments, we are a separate corporation. We have our own Board and the funds we receive are not commingled with Conference funds. We do not exist without the Conference, we hold the United Methodist cross & flames in our logo and I also serve on commit-



Dr. Bruce L. Blumer

tees of the Conference. We were established to support the ministries and churches in the Dakotas, but we are not the Conference.

Here's what we ARE:

- We're a Foundation organized and established to conduct business in North Dakota and South Dakota.
- We hold endowment funds for the ministries of the Dakotas Annual Conference. The list of the ministries may be found on our website or call and we'll send you a list.
- We invest money for churches and ministries. We follow the Social Investing Principles of the United Methodist Church so our funds also make a Christian witness.

- We hold Named Endowments, which are funds typically established by families to support churches and/or ministries. Each year we send money to the churches or ministries in the person's name, as outlined in the documents when the fund was established.

- We write Charitable Gift Annuities - they provide the person income while they are living and then when they pass away, the balance is sent to the church and/or ministry they have indicated.

- We support local churches with workshops - Estate Planning, "Other Ways to Give," Stewardship, establishing an Endowment Committee.

- We provide Ministry Development matching grants of \$500 to local churches.

So if you'd like to write us a jingle, I could sing it on my visits to churches and donors around the Dakotas. I'm thinking it would be better than that branding option.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce", written in a cursive style.

New Accounts With The Foundation

Other Gifts:

Virginia Dettman – established a charitable trust fund that makes an annual distribution to music at Selby United Methodist Church, music at Dakota Wesleyan University, and to the Foundation's Ministerial Student Aid Endowment.

Ruth Erbele – passed away in July (spouse of late Rev. Walter Erbele). She had established a Charitable Gift Annuity in 1994 and the remainder is an undesignated gift to the Foundation.

Marjorie Haskins – added to the Haskins Endowment, which annually provides funds to local churches working on accessibility to their facilities. This endowment has been a great source for churches in their construction projects and those making it easier for all people to access their church.

Charitable Gift Annuities:

Velma Vincent – in establishing her SEVENTH gift annuity, Velma has left a wonderful legacy to Watertown 1st United Methodist Church and the Foundation, while providing her a steady source of income.

Frances Wagner – established by Frances as she closed in on her 90th birthday. She reached the plateau of providing an 11.3% return during her lifetime and ultimately a gift to Camping and the Foundation. Her faithfulness and prudent saving to establish this fund is a humbling testament.

Dr. Earl Butz – set up TWO gift annuities with the Foundation. The beneficiary of the first is to the Ministerial Student Aid Endowment, the second will be a tithe to the Foundation and remaining amount will be a direct gift to Sioux Falls 1st United Methodist Church.

Investment Accounts:

Jamestown 1st United Methodist Church – established two investments accounts on behalf of the Administrative Council. The Foundation offered them

an option of professional management of their funds instead of having that burden in the local church.

Beresford Zion United Methodist Church – established for the Administrative Board, who will use this fund to provide annual scholarships to graduating seniors who are planning on attending post-secondary education.

Zoar United Methodist Church – established on behalf of the Administrative Board to provide assistance with caring for the church cemetery.

What Your Funds Do!

Letter from student in seminary who received funds from the Foundation & Wesley Center of Religion:

I would like to thank the Dakotas Conference and the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation for this scholarship that I received early this summer. With rising tuition costs this scholarship is an expression of God's grace and provision for me. It is particularly important since students who attend Asbury Theological Seminary are not eligible for other United Methodist scholarships. This has been a long journey and the Conference's steadfast support of my education through this scholarship program has meant a lot to me.

Whenever I receive a scholarship gift, this verse from Luke 12:48 comes to mind: 'From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.' By the grace of God, I pray that I will be able to live according to this precious verse.

I continue to hold you all and the Dakotas Conference in my prayers.

Cheryl (Sheri) L. Fadley,
Certified Candidate



Book of Memory

IN MEMORY OF: GIVEN BY: FOR:

Margee Walker Fine	Dean & Kay Snyder	Undesignated
Tess Aleson	Eldon & Donna Reich	Pensions
Verna Gehring		
Martha Neff	Karin Wentz	Neff Endowment
Janet Neff Wentz		
Jeffry Neff		
Leonard Jones	George & Pat Breidenbach	Archives Endowment
David Andersen	Boyd & Evelyn Blumer	Blumer Endowment
David Andersen	Bruce & Sharon Blumer	Pensions Endowment
David Andersen	Dick & Pat Unkenholz	Pensions Endowment
David Andersen	Julian & Lois Wigen	Operational Endowment
Delbert Jones	Harold & Lois Neff	Neff Endowment

In Honor of:
Frances Wagner's
90th birthday

Scott & Dyla Jensen

Storm Mountain Camp

DAKOTAS UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS of 2008

Vern Neff (1993) - Williston, ND
Deborah Kuhler (2004) - Huron, SD
Rev. Jerry Bass (2006) - Grand Forks, ND
Jo Harris (2006) - Brandon, SD

CLASS of 2009

Todd Loomer (1997) - Alexandria, SD
Robert Richardson (2001) - Jamestown, ND
Open (due to Bob Lower joining staff)
Al Vanderlaan (2005) - Watertown, SD

CLASS of 2010

Rev. Eric Grinager (1998) - Watertown, SD
Bruce Nearhood (2002) - Rapid City, SD
Linda Inniger (2006) - Fargo, ND
Kay Werremeyer (2006) - Dickinson, ND

CLASS of 2011

James Pedersen (1999) - Brookings, SD
Jeanette Gravseth (2006) - Bismarck, ND
Thomas Dravland (2007) - Pierre, SD
Rev. Eldon Reich (2007) - Aberdeen, SD

(Year) - Indicates first year on the Board



Barb Myers, Administrative Assistant



Bob Lower, Associate Director for ND

Two New Faces

Barb Myers began as the Administrative Assistant for the Foundation on July 16, 2007. Barb has over twenty years of experience in the Mitchell School System in computer assistance, clerical, and office management. She and her husband, Dayton, have three grown children. She is replacing Karon Davis, who is retiring after 23 years at the Foundation.

We are pleased to announce that the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation has added Bob Lower as a part-time staff member. As an Associate Director, Bob's main responsibilities will be to cultivate donors in North Dakota, to be a contact person for local churches, and to be a representative of the Foundation in North Dakota. This position began on September 1, 2007.

Bob & Ada Lower have been a blessing to the Dakotas Conference. For their six years of missionary work to children and

peoples of the Spirit Lake Reservation, they were recognized with the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism. We feel equally blessed to be able to have Bob's energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge in working for the Foundation.

In addition to his experience as a Conference missionary, Bob served in the Air Force, was a Professor of Business at Minot State University, and was responsible for teaching and the university's small business and economic development programs. He has been active in fund-raising and friend-raising.

As you all know, this geographically is a huge Conference. To have a person located in North Dakota, we'll be better able to serve the churches and individuals. Our hope is to grow this position as our connections grow. God has richly blessed this Foundation!

You will be able to reach Bob through the following contact information:
Bob Lower, 7 Courtland Drive, Minot, ND 58703
Cell: 701-721-0441
Email: rlower@DakotasUMF.org

Dakotas United Methodist Foundation

Dr. Bruce L. Blumer
Executive Director
bblumer@DakotasUMF.org

Bob Lower
Associate Director for ND
rlower@DakotaUMF.org

Barb Myers
Administrative Assistant
bmyers@DakotasUMF.org

Dakotas United
Methodist Foundation
P.O. Box 460
Mitchell, SD 57301
Toll-Free: 800-224-6552

“Faithfully caring for your gifts for the ministry of Christ in the Dakotas”

These \$500 matching grants were made available through the Erma House, James & Jeanette Anderson Endowments and your undesignated gifts!

- Bismarck 1st UMC, Bismarck, ND – New video camera to broadcast worship services to the communities of Bismarck and Mandan.
- Fargo Calvary UMC, Fargo, ND – Health/wellness/caring ministry - to provide visitation, prayers for healing, Grief Share, Meals of Love, and Quilts of Comfort to the congregation, daycare families and the community.
- Lisbon 1st UMC, Lisbon, ND – New sound system to integrate more singing and musicians and to enhance the worship service.
- Williston Faith UMC, Williston, ND – New Consecration Sunday program by Herb Miller to foster a deeper understanding of stewardship in the congregation.
- Wakonda/Irene/Viborg, UMC in SD – To enhance youth programming and parish education with a portable LCD projector and screen.
- Sioux Falls Wesley UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – Support for a middle school dance program to enhance individual self worth and to minister to the congregation and the community.
- Brookings 1st UMC, Brookings, SD – Reaching college age students and young adults through advertising, to inform them about the Agape House (campus ministry).
- Canton UMC, Canton, SD – To revive and spiritually center the Christian Education, Worship, and youth staff/programs by hiring a staff mentor.
- Webster UMC, Webster, SD – Support the AWANA program on Wednesday evenings for youth of the community.
- Aberdeen 1st UMC, Aberdeen, SD – Equipment and furnishings for an expanded preschool program, which is open to the community and provides educational opportunities to local colleges.
- Southern Hills UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – Partner to provide adult day care to minister to those with health and physical limitations, their care givers, and the church community.
- Cresbard UMC, Cresbard, SD – Materials to offer Old Testament and New Testament bible studies to the community (1/4 grant).
- Harrisburg UMC, Harrisburg, SD – Assistance to attend the National Youth Convention to assist in developing youth programming and ministry.
- Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND – Starting the program GriefShare, an outreach ministry to assist people in the grief issues related to the loss of loved ones.