

FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS



FINANCIAL EQUIPPING: WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Budgets, spreadsheets, audits – these hardly seem like ministry tools of the local church! Yet that is exactly what they are. Treasurers, bookkeepers, financial secretaries - those who work with these tools are essential ministry partners. Developing a missional budget, setting up endowments, planning ways to fund new initiatives – these are the activities of ministry teams – the Finance, Trustees, Stewardship Committees. Providing spiritual and organizational leadership around these ministries is the role of the pastoral leader! So often we place the ministry of finance, accounting, and stewardship as administrative or “back office” work when in fact, these are all essential ministries in achieving the mission and vision of the church.

Our role as an Annual Conference is to equip you for this ministry - to provide training, education, and resources for you as ministry partners and leaders. The Dakotas Annual Conference and Foundation have provided several equipping opportunities. Yet we know more is needed to truly help you strengthen the financial health of your church and grow a deep spiritual culture of generosity.

To help us better understand your needs, we have created a short survey for you to complete. The survey can be completed online (<https://www.dakotasumc.org/resources/forms/245>) or by using the paper version. There are three different surveys depending on your ministry role.

- Pastor
- Treasurer, Bookkeeper, or Financial Secretary
- Leader of the Finance, Trustees, or Stewardship Committee

If you are the pastor, please share the enclosed paper copy or the specific link to the individuals in each of the roles listed and ask for their participation.

Surveys are due April 30th! We are excited to review your feedback, better understand your needs, and respond with resources to be equip you in ministry! Thank you for your participation!

Diane Owen, Area Program Director
Financial Well-being and Generosity Ministries

CONTACT INFO

Finance Office
Jeff Pospisil
JoAnn Schlimgen
Dana Bassett
605-990-7786
finance@dakotasumc.org

Benefits Office
Leana Stunes
605-990-7785
benefits@dakotasumc.org

Foundation Office
Sheri Meister
Diane Weller
Kelsey Morgan
605-990-7790
info@dakotasumf.org

Lilly Grant Program
Diane Owen
612-230-2169
diane.owen@dkmnareaumc.org

www.dakotasumc.org
www.dakotasumf.org

PO Box 460
Mitchell, SD 57301

ESTATE PLANNING: ANYONE CAN GIVE!

People often shy away from estate planning because of the myth: you must be wealthy to give a gift. This myth is far from the truth. If there are ministries that have impacted you, or you have a love for your church, consider the following ways to give. A bequest in your will designated to your church, naming the church as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, or establishing an endowment or donor-advised fund that will continue into perpetuity. Charitable Remainder Trusts allow you to make a future gift to your church while receiving income during your lifetime.

If you'd like to discuss how legacy giving fits your story, please contact the Foundation office. We'll work with you to find options that fit your wishes and the needs of the church or ministry you'd like to support.

ONE IN THREE AMERICANS HAVE PREDIABETES

One in three Americans is estimated to have prediabetes and 90% are unaware of this condition. Prediabetes is a condition, in which blood glucose or hemoglobin A1C levels (reflects average glucose over three months) are higher than normal but not yet high enough to diagnose diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness and kidney failure in the U.S. and is a major contributor to other health problems. Diabetes requires life-long daily management. The costs associated with diabetes are high, both for the person with diabetes and his or her employer and community. Good news is: ***in most cases, diabetes can be prevented!***

Wespath offers a Diabetes Prevention Toolkit tailored to the UMC. John Wesley promoted good stewardship of physical health and well-being through practices such as: maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet, and getting regular exercise. These practices also help prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. ToolKit includes: Prediabetes FAQ, Congregational Tips, and a Prediabetes screening test. If interested, please contact Leana Stunes, at leana.stunes@dakotasumc.org or 605-990-7785.

E-GIVING + YOUR CHURCH

Giving is such an important part of our faith. As Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In other words, when we give our treasure (money, time, talents) to the work of Jesus Christ, our heart is moved towards Jesus and His church.

During this pandemic, it has been challenging to even the most faithful to give regularly when there have been long periods that we couldn't worship together in person. Perhaps you've seen these changes in giving patterns as well.

To make it as easy as possible for people to give and have their heart moved towards Jesus, most churches should offer electronic giving. If your church already does, like so many others, fantastic! If not, consider these options:

- Ask your church's bank or credit union to help set you up.
- Vanco: <https://www.vancopayments.com>
- PushPay: <https://pushpay.com>
- ShareFaith: <https://www.sharefaith.com>
- Subsplash: <https://www.subsplash.com>