



As we enjoy all that God's creation has to offer in the summer, I encourage each of us to not let things crowd Jesus and church out of our lives. Though we take vacation from work and routine – do we really want to take a vacation from our spiritual lives and the One who gives us life? Make a point to worship this summer, whether it is here at Milaca UMC or somewhere else; while vacationing or just visiting different churches or denominations to see what is happening in other parts of the Christian world.

I hope that you are praying daily for yourselves, me as your pastor, and our church for the changes we are embarking on to meet the Annual Conference's Gospel Imperatives to 1. Love God and Neighbor, 2. Reach New People, and 3. Heal a Broken World. We are seeking to have all our programs and activities align with the Gospel Imperatives of the MN Annual Conference. We are also working on a church mission statement that is short, concise & easy to remember, so that we live out the United Methodist denominations Mission Statement, which is, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." All of this is a big undertaking, but I know we can do it with the help of God to lead us, Christ to walk beside us, and the Holy Spirit to inspire us. Continue to pray for personal inspiration for an activity you can lead, help coordinate or financially support, that will be an outreach to our communities.

Blessings and See You in Church!
Pastor Joyce <><





WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY

July 7th – “Starfish Jesus” Mark 6:1-13. Communion
How many disciples does Jesus have? Marine biologists can help us find the answer. Hymns: Christ for the World We Sing; Let Us Be Bread; May You Run & Not Be Weary.

July 14th – “Punk Rock Blessings” Ephesians 1:3-14

Fat Mike thought it might be a good idea to create a space where “any punk rocker can go and celebrate our heritage.” Do Christians and punk rockers have something in common? Hymns: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Amazing Grace; Blessed Assurance; May You Run & Not Be Weary; Video “I’m So Blessed” by Cain.

July 21st – “Formula for Forgiveness” Ephesians 2:11-22

Don’t worry, there’s no math involved. Just apologize, make peace and forgive others as Christ has forgiven you. Hymns: We Are the Church; Just a Closer Walk With Thee; Help Us Accept Each Other; May You Run & Not Be Weary.

July 28th – “Thalassophobia” John 6:1-21

Jesus comforts his disciples on the Sea of Galilee by saying, “It is I; do not be afraid.” But is that what he really said? Hymns: Nearer, My God, to Thee; Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult; Stand By Me; May You Run & Not Be Weary.

VBS is Coming Soon!

Mon July 29th – Thurs August 1st

Mark your calendar & invite children who live near you to attend (flyers to share info are available). Don’t forget your grandchildren or great grandchildren, ask them to visit you for the week of July 29th – August 1st. We meet from 5:30 – 7:30, supper is provided each evening and our time together is filled with Bible learning, singing, arts and craft projects, science experiments, outdoor recreation, and tons of fun!
For Registration Online go to <https://vbsmate.com/DentVergasVbs>



Looking for Donations / loan of items needed!

Our VBS this summer has a camping theme and we need your help to set the appropriate atmosphere at the church. We need: tents, sleeping bags, kayaks, paddles, life jackets, Christmas trees (to create a forest look), portable fire pits (we’re going to roast marshmallows one night) and anything else you could lend us to help create a camping feel. Please mark your items (in an unobtrusive place) so we can return them to you.





PONTOON AND KAYAKING SUMMER SCHEDULE



Hosts will provide the main part of the meal. Bring something to contribute to the potluck meal and if you want an adult beverage – bring your own. We are still looking for hosts in August or anytime during the summer that is convenient for you. Call Pastor Joyce at 763-742-4241 and Sheri at 218-329-7465 so info about your date and time can be included in future newsletters and in the Sunday announcements.

Tues, July 9th 5 pm Jane Wasvick & Don's 25222 Dunton Locks Rd DL

Kayakers go to the Dunton Locks Park (entrance on Hwy 6), there is a spot on Muskrat Lake just left of the picnic shelter where you can put in a Kayak from the shore which is grass right up to the water. We will **load the Pontoon** from the dock right below our house. You can park right there and walk to the dock, there are steps, but a good handrail. We will pontoon into Muskrat Lake and meet the kayakers. We will likely cruise around Muskrat Lake, or the kayakers can go down the river if they want. We will then invite you up to the house, with plenty of parking up there and have a meal. I'll make taco meat and fixings and potluck anything else. Hope you can make it!



SUMMER IS UPON US



The days will be longer, the weekends will seem shorter and the attendance on Sunday mornings will be lighter. Summer is a time of

change from our usual routine, a time for getting away from home, a time for vacations and recreation. We need the rest and relaxation of summer as much as we need the routines and activities of the rest of the year. Attendance gets lighter as does the giving, but the needs of God's ministry remain the same, please be sure your giving is current especially over the summer months. If you're not able to be in church because of vacations or time at the lake or cabin, please mail in or drop off your tithes and offerings at the church office.



We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments. These

are not necessarily our stories about how we became a Christian – some of us have been one all our lives, and they aren't just big event stories – most of us will never experience talking to a burning bush. These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week either ourselves or something we observed in others. Look for these moments and share them during the God Moments, Joys, & Concerns time.



Vacation Bible School Training & Decorating Days ~ Leader guides will be distributed asap and we will have a gathering after church on **July 14th** to talk over the material, learn some of the VBS songs for this year, and sort out responsibilities. We will also meet on Sunday **July 28th** to decorate and make final plans.

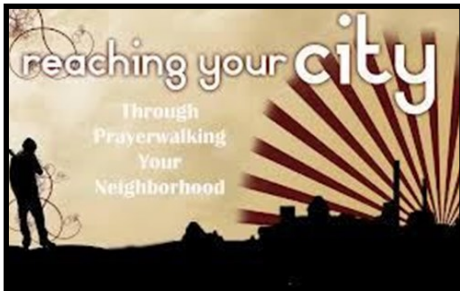
The Vergas Church Ladies

The Church Ladies participated in Shops and Hops with a bake sale. Proceeds were \$492. We will see what the city decides for next year and see if we will participate. These dollars will be added to the dollars we make for the rest of the year and then divided amongst various missions. Thank you to all who donated baked goods and helped with the sale.



Next meeting will be July 16th, 12:30 pm at Vergas church. Please join us!!

SWAP: Scripture Walk And Pray



10:30 – 11:30 am

Beginning Wed, July 10th at Dent UMC

Beginning Thurs, July 11th at Vergas UMC

Spiritual Focus: Learn to memorize and meditate on God's Word as we walk. Perhaps meet some of our neighbors, praying all the time for the community and what the Lord lays on our hearts.

This event will take place every Thursday through July. You may also walk and pray at other times that fit your schedule – instructions will be provided.



Blessings at the Beach

Building upon an idea that came up during our Spring Bible study of the book "Multiplying Love", Members of Vergas UMC are going to meet at the public beach **3pm Wednesday July 10 & 24**. Our purpose is to go beyond our church doors to meet people and bless whomever is present with ice cream treats, the offer of hearing a Bible story and coloring a sheet that matches the story. Donations of money to purchase treats and volunteer time on any Wednesday to hand out treats are greatly appreciated. For more info on how you can be a part of this ministry, talk with Rick Nelson or Pastor Joyce.

Free Faith Float Fests

Dent UMC will be inviting the community to come to the church the **last Wednesday of the months of July, and August** to have a free pop float (a variety of flavors will be available), enjoy some indoor or outdoor games and visit with their fellow neighbors in Dent. Donations of pop, ice cream, time and games are appreciated. Talk to anyone on the Leadership Team or Pastor Joyce for more info about this exciting outreach ministry!



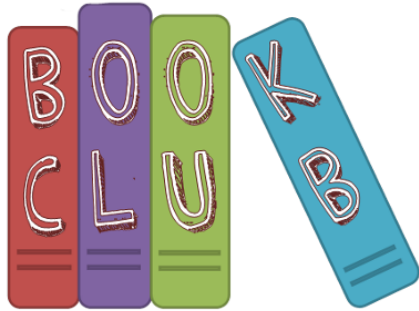
Meets at Mysteries
Café
9am on the 1st
Wednesday of the
month

Dent Breakfast Club



SPPRC

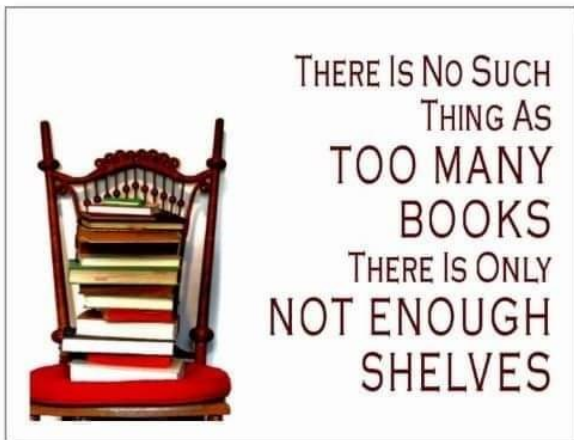
Sunday, July 7th
12pm at Vergas



Next Meeting
Tues, July 2nd 12:30pm
The Dug Out in Dent
Book of Your Choice

Ad Council

Wednesday, July 17th
Dent 3:00pm
Vergas 6:30pm



2024 The Bridge Food Pantry - Monthly Donation Needs

- July - Canned Fruit
- August - Personal Care Items
- September - Breakfast Items
- October - Tomato Products
- November - Baking Items
- December - Canned Meats

**Please ensure all items are new, unopened, and not expired. **



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Church Quarterly Mission July / August / September

Vergas Mission



Vergas UMC Mission of the Quarter is Salvation Army ~ The past couple of years have been some of the hardest we've faced as a nation. As we continue to struggle through the pandemic, civil unrest, and natural disasters that uproot families, we find courage and strength in love.

Please join the effort to put love above all else and show families in need that love exists beyond the most difficult situations.

**"Above all, love." ~
1 PETER 4:8**

Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission for May was spent doing the "Bless the Community" free dinner on June 21st. We had under 50 people attend the dinner.

The Ice Cream Treats at the Park is going twice a month with the first event having about 25 people touched.



Dent Mission of the Quarter



This is a wonderful and special event that Dent holds every year. The community children are invited to come and shop for gifts for Christmas for their family members. They will be assisted with shopping, all gifts will be wrapped and refreshments are served.

The event is from 9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday in December. Same day as Dent's Santa Day.

Dent UMC will be collecting donations and money to help put this event together



JULY VOLUNTEERS LISTS

July Ushers	
Rob & Ivy M.	
July Liturgist	
Doris C.	
July	Fellowship
07	Peggy Meissner
14	Lisa Wrabek
21	Darlene & Austin H.
28	Ivy & Rob M.

July	Vergas	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
07	Tonya J.	Faye	Eileen G.
14	Bev F.	Byron & Connie Z	Connie Z.
21	Lana J.	NEEDED	Lana J.
28	NEEDED	David & Carla R.	Faye C.

If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



THE **UPPER ROOM**
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Dent UMC - Upper Room Devotionals for July & August are available.



Vergas Birthday's

- July 2nd Jim Scheer
- July 22nd Wayne Bancroft
- July 23rd Zoie Zitzow
- July 27th Bryan Giese
- July 28th Alwyn Martinson

Dent Birthday's

- July 4th Lowell Larson
- July 5th Myron Steinhofer
- July 6th Dorothy Woods
- July 15th Nancy Hovey



A Thought for The Day

Listen to your elder's advice, not because they are always right but because they have more experiences of being wrong.

-Author Unknown
© Teach Me Genealogy



Let us
WORSHIP
Together

“Worship Times”

Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship
9am Worship Service

Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)



Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and [dentvergasumc.org](#)

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for August, is July 26, 2024.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

Email - Website - In person pick up at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

US Mail - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com

July / August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	6
		12:30pm Book Club The Dug Out Dent	9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	Lowell L. (D)	Myron S. (D)		Dorothy W. (D)
				<i>Happy Fourth of July!</i>			
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	12pm SPRC meeting in Vergas	5pm Kayaking at Jane Wasvick 25222 Dunton Locks Rd Detroit Lks	10:30 - 1130 am Dent SWAP Walk 3pm Ice Cream at the Beach	10:30 - 1130 am Vergas SWAP Walk		Relay for Life Event	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	VBS meeting after church	Nancy H. (D)	10:30 - 1130 am Dent SWAP Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	10:30 - 1130 am Vergas SWAP Walk 12:30pm Church Ladies			
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Wayne B. (V)	Zoie Z. (V)	10:30 - 1130 am Dent SWAP Walk 3pm Vergas Ice Cream at the Beach	10:30 - 1130 am Vergas SWAP Walk			Bryan G. (V)
							Renee S & Perry Wedding
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Alwyn M. (V)	5pm Kayaking at Lisa W's 32501 Starland Shore Dr, Dent	10:30 - 1130 am Dent SWAP Walk				
	VBS meeting after church	5:30 - 8:30pm VBS	5:30 - 8:30pm VBS	5:30 - 8:30pm VBS			
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		12:30pm Book Club	9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café		Looney Days Rummage Sale	Looney Days Rummage Sale	
					Looney Days Men's Brat's & Beans	Looney Days Men's Brat's & Beans	

Ad Council Minutes

Vergas United Methodist Church

June 19, 2024, 6:30 pm at the Church

Present: Jane Wasvick, David Reiten, , Joyce Slostad, Tonya Johnson, and Sheri Schoenberger

Absent: Lisa Wrabek, Faye Courneya, and Doreen Schwarzrock

Opening Prayer

Pastor Joyce opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer.

God Moments

The members shared God moments.

Review of Church Attendance

Sheri reviewed attendance which had remained steady in May averaging 27 in person and 32 online.

Secretary Report

The minutes from May 15th were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer report was accepted as handed out pending audit. Another bill was received from Marco for \$600 which is believed to be a scam. Faye and Sherri will work on this.

Trustee Report

Faye contacted Gary Wagaman and he will be able to do the entrance and look at the retainer wall and pad leaking into the kitchen toward the end of summer

David had surgery and reported that he had not met with Hanson's to complete thermostat work. He will check with Byron Zitzow to talk about fire extinguishers in the church, how many are needed and how to maintain them. He will ask about the fire system that alarms in the church. He will also address the sign by the road.

Mission

The Missions of the Quarter for the year.

1st Quarter, Relay for Life, Vergas Looneys

2nd Quarter, UMCOR

3rd Quarter, Salvation Army

4th Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

The local Mission dollars for April and May will be used for the Bless the Community meal. June dollars will be held to see what expenses are needed from the meal. The congregation has donated an additional \$100 for ice cream treats.

Pastor Report:

Pastor Joyce said she will take vacation days around the 4th of July but will not miss a Sunday. She will be gone August 7-14 and will need coverage for Sunday, August 11. She has been asked to give the opening prayer at the Relay for Life event in Perham on July 12. She has been asked to officiate Perry and Renee's wedding on July 27th. She shared a flyer that she worked on that lists our events and dates to hand out at the dinner and at the beach. She also shared the Summer Scape booklet in which we included an ad for the church.

Shops and Hops

Discussion was held on whether this should be done again. Consensus was to participate again but have a different outlook on the sale. Would be better to be closer to the people, have a tent setup, and provide snacks and single items for sale. Timing was also an issue so will see what the city decides to do.

Plants at the Church Entry

Bev Flateland proposed some changes to the front entrance. She will volunteer to plant and keep up the plants and seasonal flowers/items to keep the front looking nice. She requested dollars (under \$200) to purchase items to begin. Jane made a motion, seconded by David, to have Faye pay Bev for these items and proceed with the work.

Campership

Doreen had sent an email asking about Camperships. She was directed to Connie Zitzow who takes care of the campership account.

Ice Cream Giveaway at Beach

Ice cream treats were given away on June 12th. This went well, giving away about 25 treats. This will continue as scheduled.

Bless the Community free meal at Lion's Park

There was a meeting after church on June 9th to firm up the plan. Jane picked up items from Sam's Club. Work will begin around 3 pm at the church. Jane will check with Faye to see how to pay for the items at the Mercantile.

New Mission Statement

Tonya led a discussion on what the new mission statement should include and what is important to our church. This should be short and easy to remember yet capture the thoughts of the congregation. Tonja led us through an exercise, accumulated the ideas, and documented the thoughts. See Tonya's notes. The Council is encouraged to think about this further, come up with some ideas, and discuss at the July meeting.

The next meeting will be on July 17th at 6:30 at the church.

Flood relief supplies urgently needed

June 27, 2024



Torrential rainfall has caused heavy flooding and river surging in the Midwest. Minnesota and Iowa are two of the states most affected by the devastating waters. Record levels of flooding led to basements, houses, and businesses being filled with water, causing thousands of people to evacuate.

Midwest Mission, one of seven cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) relief supply network, is sending disaster relief supplies to Minnesota and Iowa to assist with cleanup efforts. But after sending tornado relief supplies in late May, Midwest Mission's disaster relief supply is depleting and the organization needs our help.

In a [pastoral message shared earlier this week](#), Bishop Lanette Plambeck urged Minnesota United Methodists to assist with flood relief efforts. "Let us continue to embody the spirit of Christ's love and service in the coming days and weeks," she wrote. "Together, we can navigate these turbulent waters and emerge stronger, united by our commitment to one another and to God."

Here are three specific ways you can help:

- 1. Pray** for those who are affected by the flooding, and for the first responders and disaster relief teams who are providing help.
- 2. Send supplies** to Midwest Mission or a permanent collection site to help the organization prepare for future response. These items are most needed:
 - 5 gallon buckets and lids
 - 32-64 oz. Bottles of liquid laundry detergent
 - 16-40 oz. Bottles of liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - 16-34 oz. Bottles of liquid dish soap
 - Scrub brushes
 - Heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes)
 - Kitchen gloves

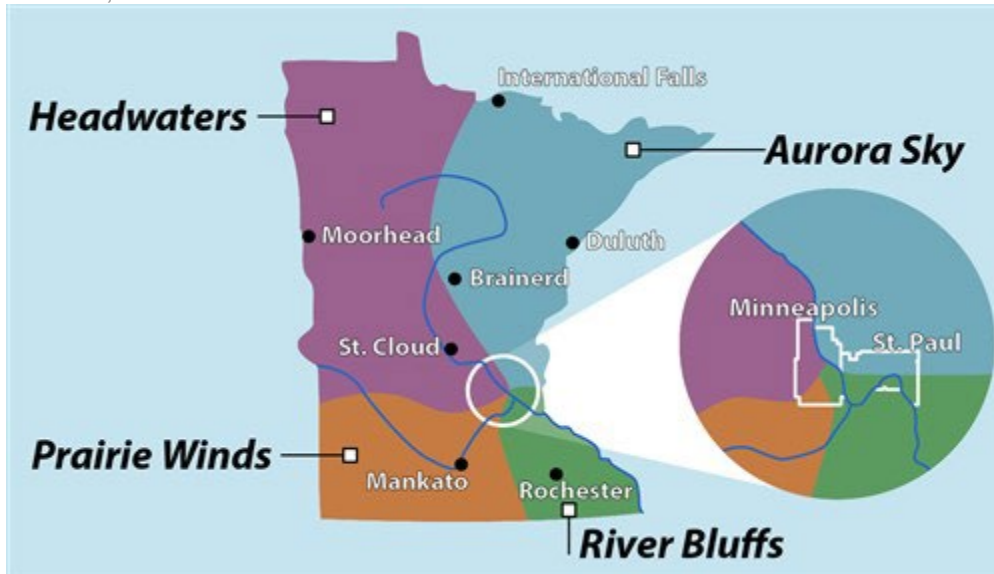
- Work gloves

3. Make a monetary donation towards disaster relief supplies (choose “Disaster Relief Supplies” under the “My Gift is For” tab) that allows Midwest Mission to be flexible and respond to specific requests. You can also **give directly to UMCOR**.

Even in the midst of a crisis, there is *hope*. Together, we can bring hope to the darkest times, and share God’s love in a practical way. Thank you for your commitment to love your neighbors near and far, and provide healing to a hurting world.

Four new districts take effect July 1, make way for diversity and innovation

June 27, 2024



By: Christa Meland

On July 1, the Minnesota Conference will formally move from five to four districts, each of which has a new name:

- Headwaters (northwest): Superintended by Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink
- Aurora Sky (northeast): Superintended by Rev. Laurie Kantonen
- Prairie Winds (southwest): Superintended by Rev. Dr. Woojae Im
- River Bluffs (southeast): Superintended by Rev. Michelle Hargrave

[View an interactive map](#) to see which district you'll be in and which other churches will be in your district.

Each district will include a mix of urban, suburban, and rural churches. The district lines have been redrawn, with the new lines moving through and across what is now the Twin Cities District.

For the past two years, the Minnesota Conference has piloted having four district superintendents rather than five—with churches in the Big Waters District shared between them. Meanwhile, Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Bishop's Leadership Team (BLT) spent close to a year exploring redistricting possibilities and recommended the move from five to four districts. In late May, members of the 2024 Minnesota Annual Conference Session overwhelmingly voted in favor of the shift. The new district boundaries were set by Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Cabinet, in consultation with the BLT. The four districts will be served by four superintendents—to be called “conference superintendents” going forward.

The initial impetus for going to four districts was to reduce costs in recognition of financial realities facing the conference, but there are additional benefits that have shaped the shift as well: creating strategic alignment around our shared mission, addressing the metro-Greater Minnesota divide that conference constituents have named, and investing in innovation. The change provides new opportunities to live into our gospel imperatives to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new

people, and heal a broken world.

The superintendents voiced enthusiasm about their new districts and the breadth of geography that each one will cover.

“We have the opportunity, in this new structure, to develop relationships between the Twin Cities area and Greater Minnesota,” said Rev. Michelle Hargrave, superintendent of the new River Bluffs District. “We’ve already begun talking about possible pulpit exchanges and connections across the district. I am also excited about the added diversity that comes with this change.”

Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink, who will begin her role as a superintendent on July 1 when the new districts take effect, echoed that sentiment.

“I look forward to serving the clergy and churches in the Headwaters District,” she said. “Our diverse settings are our strength and something to be valued. We have much to learn from one another about the variety of expressions for following Jesus.”

The superintendents are also excited about the new names of the districts they will be leading—which were suggested by conference constituents and chosen by the BLT and the Cabinet.

When Rev. Laurie Kantonen heard the name of her district—Aurora Sky—her first thought was how frequent and widespread the aurora borealis has been this year. More people in more places have had the opportunity to see and appreciate the beauty of this night sky phenomena. But Kantonen also noted that you have to be paying attention to catch this wonder as it comes in the dark of night.

“I have often heard that God does some of God’s most amazing work in the dark,” she said. “I think we have so much opportunity in The United Methodist Church going forward, but we need to pay attention and watch for what God is doing in our midst.”

Bishop Lanette said when she visited each of the five current districts last year, both clergy and laity voiced concern about a perceived disconnect that seemed to separate the Twin Cities metro area from the rest of the conference. Their input motivated her to design a way forward that would help address that gap.

“I believe the four new districts provide an opportunity to close that gap and invite each district into new and renewed relationships that will foster unity, support, innovation, and mission effectiveness within the Minnesota Conference,” she said. “I am looking forward to the varied ways each district will embrace a new way forward and embody what it means to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

[Christa Meland](#) is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.