



Dakota Messenger

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Looking Forward

Mark R. Weir, President



One of life's most difficult realities is not knowing what tomorrow will bring. I believe we can all agree that only God has ultimate control of tomorrow, yet even as we acknowledge His sovereignty we strive to do the best we can as we plan for the future. It has been said, "Live as if Jesus is coming today and plan as if His coming is delayed." The tension between the current situation versus future possibilities is one that I wrestle with regularly.

Since coming to the Dakotas almost two and a half years ago, there are many wonderful traits that I have come to appreciate among our people. Some of these include dedication, faithfulness, generosity, dogged determination, deep family connections, and a willingness to face challenges - the list goes on. I have referred to people of our Conference as "pragmatic progressives". Progressive in the sense that they are willing to try a new idea based on one very simple principle: It must work. Pragmatism characterizes our Dakota people which leaves little room for nonsense, and for that I am grateful.

Among the many wonderful realities that I find here, there are also some concerns.

First, we are an aging conference. While this is true across North America, each year Dakotans are burying more of our beloved members in the ground than we are in the watery grave of baptism. Nearly every quarter the various statistical reports show a slowly shrinking membership total. It was very moving when I experienced my first Dakota Campmeeting and saw the "Hall of Remembrance" slide show of all those who were no longer with us. Those precious people who have faithfully served in our churches for decades are rapidly disappearing treasures.

Second, the population shift has impacted many of our communities. Here at the Conference Office is a map that includes current and former Adventist churches across the Dakotas. Sadly, time and circumstances have taken their toll. In too many small towns there are few remaining businesses. Last summer, one dear lady asked me who I was going to send to live in her town to help revitalize the church. Unfortunately, I don't have people I can send, and even if I did, they would need some way to make a living. My heart hurts for the changing reality across the communities in our Conference. The contrast is that the populations of both Dakotas have been growing tremendously! While people are moving here, they simply aren't moving to Streeter, Redfield, or any number of other places where we used to have churches.

Continued on page 2

Here is where looking forward becomes a challenge; it means that something will likely need to be done differently. The Conference has limited influence in many areas. For example, we have no say in determining who your church lay leaders are. We do not tell you how to run your church boards. We don't pre-select your outreach strategies. Rather, we facilitate and provide resources, including pastoral coverage and offering the funds to help with evangelism.

For several months your administration and Executive Committee have been exploring how to best utilize our pastoral resources. The "grapevine" has offered many stories regarding this conversation. I want to try to clarify both our intent and our rationale.

Let's look at the rationale. About 18 months ago we began pairing each young pastor with a more seasoned pastor and by doing so, hoped to provide an opportunity for them to learn some of the nuances of ministry. In four areas across the conference, a young pastor was added to the district and then the district size was increased. For example, two two-church districts became one four-church district with two pastors - which sounded like a reasonable plan. In talking with the pastors involved however, all indicated that despite their best efforts, it wasn't working as expected. As a result, we are moving away from that model so that each of those eight pastors can focus on a smaller district. The underlying rationale for several places where re-districting will happen is focused on assisting the pastor by ministering to a smaller district and benefit the church family with more consistent pastoral coverage. (If you would like more specific information about this, please feel free to contact me.)

Now for the intent. It has been found that people in transition are more receptive to rethinking long held ideas and practices. This means we must increase our focus on the places where North and South Dakota are growing while continuing to ensure provision of pastoral care to all our existing churches. In some places this means there will be less pastoral coverage. Currently, in several locations the church family does not meet on Sabbath unless the pastor is there. No church will be ignored, but in some circumstances the pastor will not be there as often as he has been in the past.

I realize that this is uncomfortable for some. Please know that this is uncomfortable for me as well, and our Executive Committee has been wrestling with this for months. This process can be an opportunity for each of us, as well as for each of our churches. When we begin to think about tomorrow, about what the preferred future could be, and about what could be done to change the trends to revitalize a church, we will be there to help with two of the resources conferences can offer: pastoral coverage and financial assistance for outreach.

I am an optimist. I do believe things can change. We currently have two VERY small-town churches that are missional, active, and focused. Even though there is hardly any "town" left in these two places the people, the local members, are amazingly dedicated to sharing the good news of a soon coming Savior as best they can, wherever they can. This can be the reality for all of our churches because I believe in the dedicated members of the Dakota Conference.

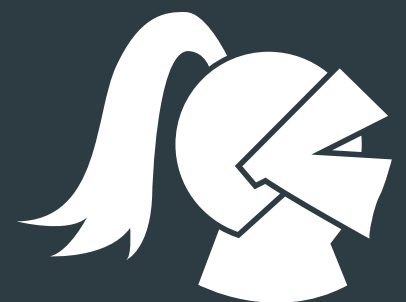
A TASTE OF HEAVEN

DAA/SRA/PVA All School Reunion

OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2022

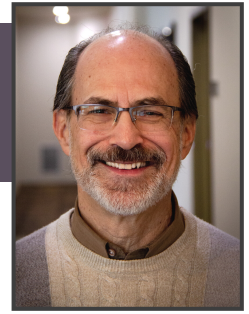
If you are a former student, faculty member, or just a friend, make plans now to attend a special Alumni Weekend honoring ALL classes.

Look forward to events like the Alumni vs. Student volleyball & basketball games, return of the Golf Scramble, DAK reunion with Mr. Brendan Krueger, and more!



Treasurer's Report

Mark Seibold, VP of Finance



It's often been said that there is "nothing quite so permanent as change". Every aspect of life is affected by the passage of time, even for those of us who are not fond of change! This is no less true for our churches and Conference.

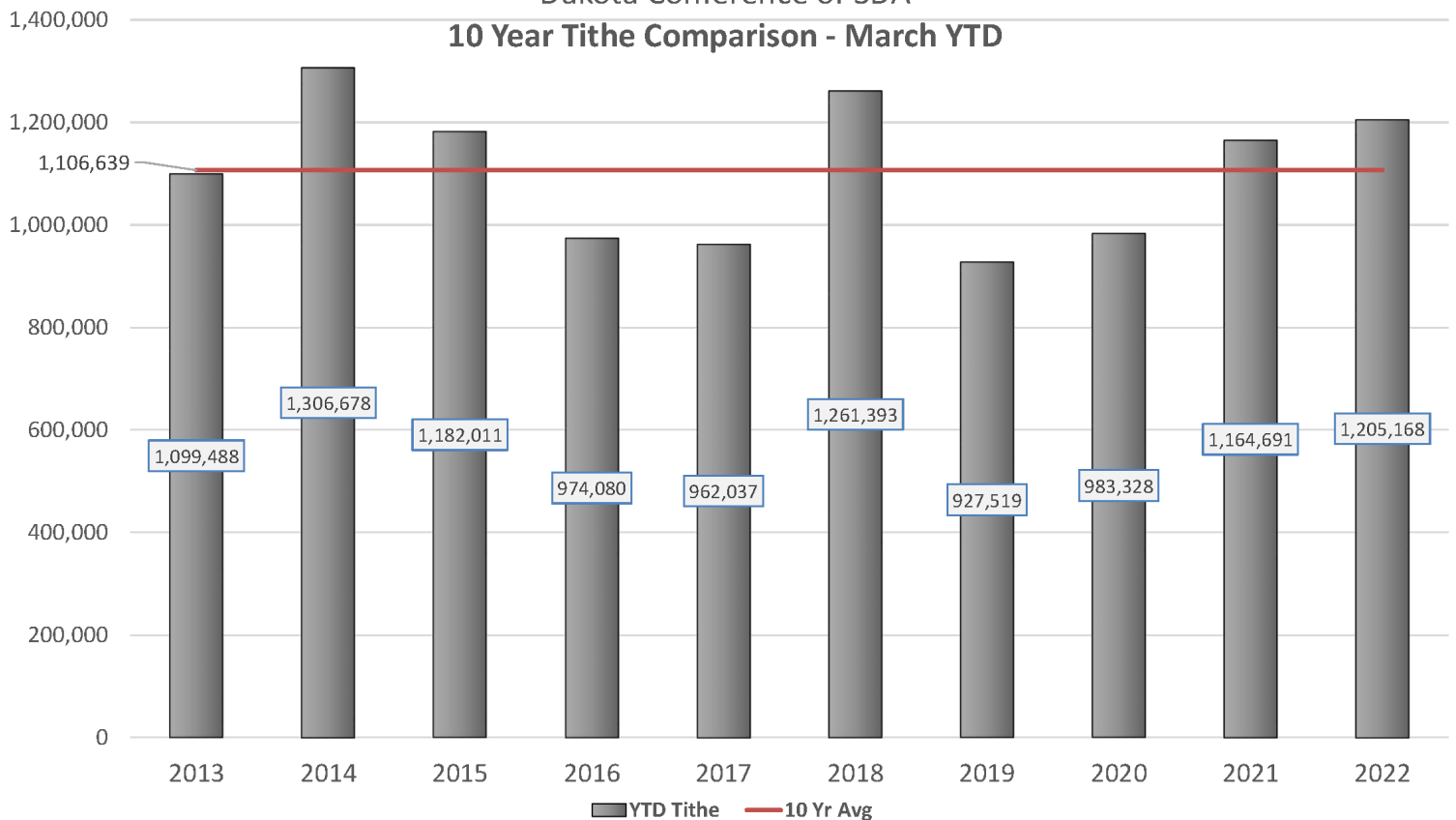
The Dakota Conference and church communities of my youth were largely centered around the agricultural sector. These were the days when farms and ranches were smaller and required more labor to operate - yet, even 50 years ago, the currents of our rural areas were already shifting. Larger equipment and automation often spelled the demise of the small family farm. Employment in larger Dakota towns became the rule for the few of my classmates that stayed. Even for those that had the opportunity to return after college, very few made a living on the farm. Most did not return at all.

Of course, the impact of this progression is evidenced today in our Conference. Many small churches are long closed, and as much as we hate to see multi-generation congregations dwindle, it's hard to see a reversal of this trend any time soon. As with individuals, the Conference must adapt and plan for change.

With the ongoing migration away from rural communities, we must carefully consider where to allocate the precious resources of funds and time that God has provided. While there is no intention to diminish the importance of our small rural congregations, it's important to direct our resources where growth potential exists if we are to attract new members and make a "Kingdom difference" in Dakota. Of course, this inevitably points towards urban outreach.

We ask your prayerful understanding, support, and input as your leadership contemplates and makes decisions to move forward in a meaningful way to address the needs of our members - and future members! - in the promotion of better living and striving for God's soon-coming Kingdom.

Dakota Conference of SDA
10 Year Tithe Comparison - March YTD



Dakota Summer Camps

Ted Struntz, Youth & Young Adults Director



"Why am I here?" It was the summer of 1997, and as I drove through the entrance of Nosoca Pines Ranch, our Adventist camp for the Carolina Conference, I wondered why I had chosen to work at camp. I had a really good job near home that would pay a lot better for the summer, I wouldn't have had to travel 900 miles from home, and I could have slept in my own bed in a state that didn't reach 119 degrees during the heat of the day. But there I was ready to begin.

As the days - and soon weeks - went by, I discovered the answer to my question. I wasn't spending my summer at camp because it was a fun summer job, even though it was; it was because God knew my life would be forever transformed by the young people I met that summer. And after that summer, I chose to go back, year after year, to continue to be a part of the life-changing experience that takes place each summer during camp - both for the campers and for the staff.

Summer camp isn't a summer job; it is a ministry. I realized this as I was teaching the campers horsemanship. Through this activity, campers shared what was going on in their lives. I heard stories of heartache, loss, and triumph. I was able to show kids that were bullied that they were important and special. I got to celebrate with them as they conquered fears and stepped out of their comfort zones. As the summer came to a close, I knew I would be back, and for five summers, I found myself at Nosoca Pines. I realized that camp was where a team of people come together to minister to kids for a summer - to not only transform lives but to be transformed as well.

Here, in the Dakota Conference, we have something that few other conferences have - two summer camps. This unique ministry provides our Conference with a great opportunity to impact communities not just in the Dakotas but from other states that send campers to us. We have been entrusted with this ministry. This is a ministry that each one of you can be part of in so many ways. I love hearing how churches are helping campers to come to Flag Mountain or Northern Lights. I want to share my deep appreciation to each of you who has donated time and money to make both of our camps a place where ministry happens. In so many cases, you have helped change a child's life forever!

The 2022 Dakota Adventist Camps season is almost here! Right now, young adults are deciding if this is a ministry they want to be personally involved with. Families are deciding whether or not they are going to send their precious kids to camp. Please join me in praying for each individual who will enter one of our camps. Pray that we have safety. Pray that the Holy Spirit is felt, and God's power is seen. If you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to be more active in this ministry, please get in touch with me. I want you to know the joy that comes from supporting this great ministry called Summer Camp.

**Come
to Dakota
Summer
Camps**

Flag Mountain

cub camp, ages 8-10 • June 15-19 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • June 19-26 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • June 26-July 3 • \$275

Northern Lights

cub camp, ages 8-10 • July 13-17 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • July 17-24 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • July 24-31 • \$275

Register online at:

dakotayouthandyoungadults.org



Employees on the Move

Jodi Dossenko, Communication Director



Elder Darren and Linda Purdy (left) have accepted the pastoral position in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and will be moving this month. The Purdys have spent the last eight years in the Rapid City, Hermosa district - adding Spearfish two years ago. The couple has roots in Iowa and are excited to live closer to family.

Elder Jason and Grace Logan (right) have joined the pastoral team and have begun pastoring at the Invitation Hill Adventist Church in Dickinson, North Dakota. The couple comes to us from Greeley, Colorado, and have three children with a son-in-law joining the family later this month.



After spending 34 years, Charlie O'Hare (left) is retiring at the end of June. He was hired to pastor in the Williston church district immediately following seminary in 1988 by Elder Don Shelton, former president of the Dakota Conference. Charlie and Joann also pastored in the Wahpeton and Rapid City districts during their time here. In 2008, he transitioned into the office as trust director and estimates he has helped 300-400 individuals write wills, trusts, power of attorney documents, and healthcare directives. He will be greatly missed!



ANCHORED

JUNE 1-4, 2022

DAKOTA CAMPMEETING



2022 DAKOTA CAMPMEETING RESERVATION: JUNE 1-4, 2022

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

NAMES OF PEOPLE SHARING YOUR ROOM: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF MATTRESSES NEEDED: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "DAKOTA CONFERENCE". SEND FULL PAYMENT WITH RESERVATION TO DAKOTA CONFERENCE. FULL TIME RESERVATIONS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER DAILY STAYS. RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE ONLINE AT DAKOTAADVENTIST.ORG

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE.

DORM ROOM - STANDARD ROOM, INCLUDES BEDS/MATTRESSES ONLY. LINENS, TOWELS, & PERSONAL TOILETRIES ARE NOT PROVIDED.

DORM ROOM - FULL TIME: \$100/WEEK

DORM ROOM - DAILY: \$35/DAY

REFRIGERATOR - \$25 (UPON AVAILABILITY)

CAMPGROUND WITH HOOK-UP - RV/CAMPERS/TENTS

CAMPGROUND - FULL TIME: \$50/WEEK

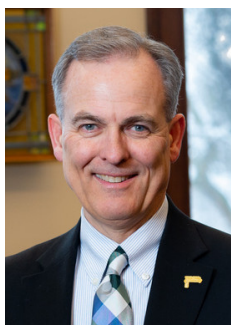
CAMPGROUND - DAILY: \$18/DAY

CAMPGROUND WITHOUT HOOK-UP - TENTS/SELF-CONTAINED RVS

CAMPGROUND - \$10/WEEK

Dakota Campmeeting Speakers

June 1-4, 2022, Located at Dakota Adventist Academy



DR. JOHN MCVAY

John McVay is the president of Walla Walla University. He previously served as a professor, associate dean, and dean of the Andrews University seminary program. He has taught at Pacific Union College in the Religion Department and ministered as senior pastor of the campus church. Prior to his ministry at PUC, he served as a pastor in Iowa and Georgia. He achieved a Ph.D. in New Testament from England's University of Sheffield and is the author of the forthcoming Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary on Ephesians. John and his wife Pam have two children, Marshall McVay and Macy Weir, both pastors, and two grandchildren.

ELDER MIKE TUCKER

Mike Tucker is a former speaker of Faith for Today Television, and host of the award-winning television program, Lifestyle Magazine. He conducts seminars like Mad About Marriage and serves as a teaching pastor for Canyon Creek Project. Mike has served as a pastor, counselor, high school Bible teacher, youth pastor, a pastor's pastor for the Adventist denomination, and senior chaplain for medical and psychiatric facilities. He has authored several books and describes himself as the happiest bad golfer you will ever meet. He lives with his wife, Pam, and enjoys spending time with his daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.



DR. KENDRA HALOVIK VALENTINE

Kendra Haloviak Valentine is a professor of New Testament studies in the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University. She earned a bachelor's in Theology and English from Columbia Union College, a master's in New Testament from Andrews University, and a doctorate in New Testament and Ethics at the Graduate Theological Union. Kendra has served as a pastor and teacher and has presented over forty seminars on the book of Revelation. She is a published author and is currently writing a book on how people read the gospel of Mark. Kendra is married to Gil and the couple have two sons and four grandchildren.

ELDER GIL WEBB

Gil Webb is a retired minister and former vice president of administration for Mid-America Union. A graduate of Oakwood University, he entered full-time ministry in 1976. During his 44 years in ministry, Gil has served in many conference positions including youth and Pathfinder director, education superintendent, assistant to the president, and ministerial director. His ministry experience has allowed him to engage church officers in effective leadership and function. Gil and Pat, his wife of 44 years, have two children and four grandchildren and have other children in their lives that affectionately call them nana and papa.



DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI

Mark Piotrowski is vice president of administration and human resources director for the Dakota Conference. Born in Poland, his family moved around Austria, Italy and Australia until they finally settled in South Africa when he was eleven years old. After moving to the United States in 1995, he earned a doctorate of ministry from Andrews University and wrote his dissertation on intercessory prayer strategy for evangelism. He has served as an army chaplain, church pastor, conference prayer ministries coordinator and speaks four languages. Mark and his wife Elbie have two daughters, Cherise and Adeline.

PAM TUCKER

After 25 years in retail management, Pam worked at various Christian ministries before transitioning into full time gospel music. She has produced three albums and performed with Steve Green, Rudy Micellii, Steve Darmody, and Wintley Phipps. Her ministry has taken her all over and she has appeared on 3ABN, the Hope Channel, and several international Christian television programs. In addition, Pam writes and records devotionals for Christian radio. Her passion is to bring the love of God to others through her music, personal testimony, and written word. Pam lives in Texas with her husband, Mike. She has one daughter, Christina.



DAKOTA CAMPMEETING 2022

DAY / TIME	WEDNESDAY - 1ST	THURSDAY - 2ND	FRIDAY - 3RD	SABBATH - 4TH	
7:30 - 8:15		BREAKFAST SERVED IN CAFETERIA			
8:30 - 9:45		ELDER GIL WEBB	ELDER MIKE TUCKER	9:15 - 10:45 SABBATH SCHOOL DR. MARK WEIR 10:50 - 12:20 CHURCH SERVICE DR. JOHN MCVAY	
9:45 - 10:00		15-MINUTE BREAK			
10:00 - 11:15		DR. KENDRA VALENTINE	ELDER GIL WEBB		
11:15 - 11:30		15-MINUTE BREAK			
11:30 - 12:40		ELDER MIKE TUCKER	DR. KENDRA VALENTINE		
12:30 - 1:30		CHECK-IN BEGINS	LUNCH SERVED IN CAFETERIA		
2:00 - 3:15		ELDER GIL WEBB	ELDER MIKE TUCKER		2:00 - 3:00 ANOINTING SERVICE 3:00 - 5:00 ROUND TABLE DR. JOHN MCVAY, ELDER MIKE TUCKER, DR. KENDRA VALENTINE, ELDER GIL WEBB, DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI, FACILITATOR: DR. MARK WEIR
3:15 - 3:30		15-MINUTE BREAK			
3:30 - 4:45		DR. KENDRA VALENTINE	DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI		
4:45 - 5:30		15-MINUTE BREAK			
5:30 - 6:15	SUPPER SERVED IN CAFETERIA				
6:45 - 8:30	DR. JOHN MCVAY	DR. JOHN MCVAY	DR. JOHN MCVAY	7:00 - 9:30 HALL OF REMEMBRANCE CLOSING REMARKS DR. MARK WEIR MUSIC CONCERT PAM TUCKER	
8:30 - 9:30	FELLOWSHIP				
SABBATH SCHEDULE DIFFERS; SUNDOWN IS 9:31					
KINDERGARTEN, 0-5 YEARS PRIMARY, 6-9 YEARS JUNIORS, 10-12 YEARS YOUTH, 13-17 YEARS YOUNG ADULTS, 18-40 YEARS** **RUNS FRIDAY EVENING - SABBATH		BRIENNE ENGELHART PR. ROY MORRIS PR. DARREL LINDENSMITH PR. JUSTIN WALKER PR. TED STRUNTZ			

Suggested items to bring if staying in the dorm:

- bedding for twin bed(s)
- mattress pad
- pillows
- bath / hand towels
- washcloths
- shower caddy / mat
- air freshener
- hand soap
- garbage bin / bags
- fan(s)
- toiletries
- ear plugs
- clothes hangers
- night light
- tissues (toilet paper provided)
- iron
- disinfectant wipes
- drinking water / cup

Please note: a standard dorm room includes beds/mattresses only. Linens, towels, and personal toiletries are NOT provided.

Dakota Conference

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck ND 58503-6301
www.dakotaadventist.org



DAKOTA MESSENGER
NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
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BISMARCK, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

April

- 2 Jamestown Regional
- 3 DAA Work Bee (8a-3p)
- 9 Education Sabbath
- 12-22 MAPS Spring Testing - Schools
- 18 Office Closed - Easter Monday
- 24-26 New in Ministry Meetings

May

- 1 K-12 Board of Education - Office (10am)
- 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10 Executive Committee - Zoom (7p)
- 20-22 DAA Graduation Weekend

June

- 1-4 Dakota Campmeeting
- 6-7 Office Closed
- 6-11 General Conference Session
- 15-19 Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)
- 19-26 Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- 26-3 Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

July

- 4 Office Closed - Independence Day
- 13-17 Cub Camp at Northern Lights (ages 8-10)
- 17-24 Junior Camp at Northern Lights (ages 11-13)
- 24-31 Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)

President, Evangelism, ASI
Mark Weir

VP of Admin, HR, Church Ministries
Mark Piotrowski

Admin Assistant, Receptionist
Jaelyn Pickett

Communication
Jodi Dossenko

Development, ABC
Lynette Miller

Youth & Young Adults, Camps
Ted Struntz

VP of Finance
Mark Seibold

Associate Treasurer
Cindy Miller

Treasury Clerk
Judy Weir

Trust Services
Charles O'Hare

Trust Services Admin Assist, Conf Clerk
Julie Brude

Maintenance Services
Marlin Miller

Education, Children's Ministries
Kelli Wasemiller

Field Officers
Adventist Community Services
Bob Forbes II

Men's Ministries
Randy Rubbert

Prayer Ministries
Barry St. Clair

Women's Ministries
Paulette Bullinger