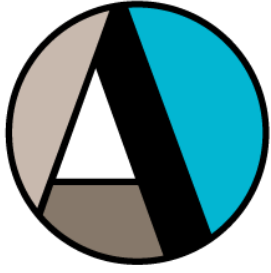


NOVEMBER 19, 2023



# Report to the ALL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

## **Asbury United Methodist Church**

2425 S Western Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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**Ministers** Entire Congregation

**Pastor** Kip Roozen

**Associate Pastor**

Matt Morrison

**Director of Children's Ministries**

Michelle Baird

**Director of Youth Ministries**

Emily Lawrence

**Office Manager** Roxie Pogany

**Financial Secretary** Sarah

Wagenaar

**Treasurer** Greg Richards

**Bishop** Lanette Plambeck

**District Superintendent** Rebecca

Trefz

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ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**—Nathan Grau, Chairperson*The Church Council – 2014 Book of Discipline*

*252.1. Purpose – The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference.*

This year the Administrative Council has been busy with creating a strategic plan. With the new mission and vision statements in place and the pandemic work essentially behind us, it was time to create a new strategic plan to put into practice our mission and vision. The Ad Council created a Task Force that spearheaded this work. This group, lead by Pastor Matt Morrison, included Nathan Grau, Tina Jackson, Cindy Nelson, and Pastor Kip Roozen. The team gathered information from a number of sources including demographic information from the conference, individual meetings with members, and two large group meetings with the congregation. After about eight months of work, the Asbury Commit Campaign was approved by the Ad Council in July. The campaign is centered around four goals: multi-generational, worship, discipleship, and service. Each major goal contained several initiatives that we plan to complete over the next three to five years. Implementing these goals began quickly. A part-time youth director was hired. Wednesday nights was enhanced with additional children and youth activities. Ad Council was in the process of changing from a committee structure with an Administrative Council to a single-board governance model. This form of governance should stream-line many administrative items so that we can focus on implementing the strategic plan and carry out the mission and vision of Asbury.

During the next year, we should expect some growing as we all learn to work within the new governance structure. In terms of the strategic plan, several new initiatives will commence. These include creating new teams to meet the needs of our plan, which will be offset by the redistribution of work within the new governance framework. These teams will focus on an adult discipleship team, a care team, and a hospitality team. We plan to create a neighborhood outreach program to better serve those right next door to us. We will continue to expand service opportunities to carry out the Lord's mission here on Earth.

I am excited about seeing the planning go from discussion to action, from ideas to living. It was intentionally designed to be a living and breathing plan that will grow and adapt to our internal and external needs and constituencies. I trust that this congregation is up to the task to help successfully implement these shared goals.

I have been very deeply grateful for the chance to serve Asbury in this roll. As I look back on the last five years highlighted by the completion of the MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative) campaign; the development of the purpose, mission, and vision statements; the COVID pandemic; and now the development of the Commit Campaign, I am thankful for the many who serve and care deeply about God's church at Asbury to help continue the work for generations to come.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES—Jeff Easter, Chairperson**

**We celebrate the following achievements for 2023:**

- Began the remodeling process on the United Childcare and Preschool rooms into a new youth area which includes meeting and social areas, classrooms and office area.
- Worked with a member to replace the furniture and lighting in the entry way.
- Replaced the roofing on the peaked portion of the building.
- Started the remodeling project in the Adult Choir room by replacing the lighting.
- Updated the exterior lighting on the Jefferson Avenue side of the building with a sensor to turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn, and installed LED lighting.
- Replaced the pew cushions and the upholstery in the Sanctuary.
- Repaired the cracks and resealed the parking lot. Restriped the parking lot.
- Replaced the asphalt on the west side of the garage.
- Improved drainage on the south end of the parking lot.
- Finished the landscaping around the sign at the northeast end of the parking lot.
- Created an area for Missions Team Room 005.

**We look forward to these goals in 2024:**

- Remodel the siding, fascia, soffit and window repair on the north end of the peaked portion of the building.
- Remodel the siding, fascia and soffit on the south A end of the peaked portion of the building.
- Install keyless entry for the building.
- Finish painting the exterior of the building.
- Replace the carpeting in the Fellowship Hall, Entryway, and Youth Hallway.
- Remodel the walls, ceiling, and carpet in the Adult Choir room.
- Repaint the Chapel.
- Repaint the Entryway.

- Repaint three classrooms in the Children's Wing.
- Install video surveillance equipment inside and outside the building.
- Replace the Choir Loft carpet.
- Update the landscaping on the north end of the building by removing the landscaping on the hill and return it to grass.
- Replace the laminate on the kitchen cabinets.
- Recover the chairs in the back of the Sanctuary.

**WORSHIP MINISTRIES—Pastor Matt Morrison**

Asbury's Worship Ministries underwent a period of evaluation as the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan invited congregational feedback to help us better evaluate our effectiveness and engagement in congregational worship. As a result of the planning process there were a few objectives prescribed through the strategic plan to help enhance our worship experiences on Sunday mornings.

The first objective was to change our Sunday schedule to facilitate improved hospitality, building and parking lot flow, and worship engagement. A survey was taken in July to help discern what schedule the congregation would prefer and the new schedule was adopted in September with Traditional Services at 8:00 and 9:15, adult discipleship at 10:15, and the Non-Traditional Service at 11:00. These service times were also adopted for Asbury's online services for consistency. A second objective was to move and revamp our approach to the Non-Traditional Service but it was determined that more time was needed to work with stakeholders in that service to determine what approaches would be most effective. This will be revisited in 2024. A final objective of the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan that impacted worship ministries was a shift to develop an option for a Children's Church time where the children would be dismissed after the Children's Message during services for a time of age-appropriate activities built around the theme of the Children's Message. This was initiated in September along with the change in service times.

Our Creative Planning Team continued to help plan message series meant to encourage, educate, and challenge us as a church. With an emphasis on our strategic plan through much of the year, we supplemented those efforts through series such as "Why Am I Here?" which focused on Asbury's core values and "Generation Gap" that addressed specific perspectives to help us better walk in unity as a multi-generational congregation in a season of change. We also considered some practical areas of growth to nurture our discipleship through series such as our "Uncomfortable" and "In God We Trust" series while also digging deeper into Scripture through our "The B.I.B.L.E" and "Questions Jesus Asked" series.

Our choirs and Worship Team continued to serve on a regular basis with the Adult, Children's, and Handbell Choirs all serving for Asbury's Traditional Services and the Non-Traditional Worship Team leading worship for the Non-Traditional Service. The combined Genesis and Joysingers Children's Choirs also presented the musical "Jonah" as a part of our "The B.I.B.L.E" series. For online worship, we continued pre-producing services in order to present the best possible "at home" experience while also using recorded choir elements throughout the week on the Asbury Facebook Campus.



We are thankful for the hard work of our volunteers and team leaders as we continue to seek ways to help people experience life-change with Christ through both in-person and online worship at Asbury.

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE—Trudy Baird, Chairperson**

Giving a memorial is a wonderful and meaningful way to memorialize and remember our loved ones. The Memorial Committee honors the desires of the contributors or the family in how the funds are used and distributed. The Committee also maintains the Memorial Tree as a “remembering space”; a visual remembrance of our loved ones who have gone before us. The Committee members met on April 24, 2023 and May 22, 2023. At that time it was decided that we didn’t need to meet every month and that the chairperson would call a meeting when necessary.

**We celebrate the following achievements for January 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023:**

- Worked with the Trustees Committee to place a holder for the Memorial Tree book of listings of names on the tree.
- Finalized the development of a Memorial Brochure which will assist people in knowing how to give memorials.
- Continued to add leaves to the Memorial Tree in honor of loved ones.
- Continued to honor the desires of the contributors or family in how memorial funds are used.
- Continued to send a thank you to those who gave a memorial.
- Started informing families of who gave memorials in memory of the family’s loved one and the total amount given.

**We look forward to accomplishing these goals in 2024:**

- Continue to add leaves to the Memorial Tree in honor of loved ones.
- Continue to recognize and send a thank you to those who gave in memory of someone.
- Continue to let families know who has given a memorial in memory of the family’s loved one.
- Continue to honor the desire of contributors or the family as to how memorial funds are used and distributed.

**Gifts received from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 were in memory of the following members and friends of Asbury:**

Shirley Chambers

Jim Beddow

Amy Morrison

There have been no requests for the use of memorial gifts this year.

**Memorial Checking Account:**

Balance on September 30, 2022	\$9,732.35
Deposits	7,217.84
Funds transferred out 10/31/2022 to 9/30/2023 (for designated memorials, bank fees and a returned check)	<u>720.53</u>
Balance on September 30, 2023	\$16,229.66

**MISSIONS TEAM**—Cindy Nelson, Chairperson

In his book *Don't Look Back: Methodist Hope for What Comes Next*, Will Willimon, a retired United Methodist bishop, states, "we've found that the single most influential factor in the life of a Methodist congregation is its external focus...Only when a congregation focuses on mission outside itself, must it rely upon Christ for help." Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) continues to be a church focused on mission outside itself. Through gifts of time and resources we are reaching out beyond our doors and making a difference here in Sioux Falls, in the region and around the world.

Our partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary, our signature ministry, continues to thrive. Our 2022 Advent/Christmas project provided indoor recess games/activities for every classroom. We organized meals for the staff during spring conferences and Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week. In May we wrote a Thank You note to every staff person. We also helped with Field Day and Bingo Night – and the congregation donated items for 13 raffle baskets for Bingo Night. Over the course of the year, we have delivered water-proof gloves, boxes of facial tissue, disinfecting wipes, underwear and breakfast bars for the office closet. Every student received a Valentine's Day bookmark and pencil.

In August we stuffed 500 conference folders, conducted a prayer walk around the school and provided greeters, traffic directors for Open House night along with snacks for the students. Two scooters were also donated for an Open House drawing. The staff enjoyed a pizza lunch during in-service in August and Goodcents subs during conferences in October. We welcomed all new staff with a note and gift card. Twenty-three teachers responded to our Adopt a Teacher/Classroom project this fall. Asbury volunteers have been matched with each teacher; they will provide encouragement and support throughout the school year.

Locally we continue our efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty through supporting the Banquet, Nightwatch and Sioux Falls Thrive. Volunteers served at Banquet West four times, prepared meals for Nightwatch five times and for SF Thrive/Kid Link at Laura B Anderson Elementary three times.

Beyond Sioux Falls, we supported the UMC Special Sunday Offerings, the Dakotas Annual Conference Miracle Offering, and Tree of Life in Mission, SD. Our newest project is a partnership with Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) based in Illinois with a new center in Jefferson, IA, just three hours from Sioux Falls. This fall we put together 88 Personal Dignity kits and 174 Student kits. Members of our congregation sewed 175+ cloth bags for this ministry! In September we hosted a MMDC Rice Meal Packing event. We packed 1200 bags which will feed 7200 hungry people. MMDC also offered to send us supplies for 2400

additional bags if we would invite area congregations to join us. Volunteers from Sioux Falls First, Sunnycrest, Hilltop, Southern Hills, Harrisburg, Canton and Hartford arrived and all the bags were packed.

As part of Asbury's Strategic Plan, we are committed to engaging our children and youth in hands-on mission activities and projects. To get started, children and youth helped us assemble and pack the MMDC Personal Dignity kits and Student kits. The youth have also adopted three Laura Wilder teachers/classrooms.

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on the goals set out in Asbury's Strategic Plan:

- Deepen our connection with the staff, students and families at Laura Wilder Elementary, our signature ministry.
- Engage volunteers in ministering to those in need in Sioux Falls.
- Promote awareness of regional, national and international mission projects through UMCOR and other nonprofits.
- Engage children and youth in hands-on mission activities and projects here in Sioux Falls and beyond.

As a Missions Team and as a congregation, we pray that God will continue to lead us in service to our brothers and sisters locally and globally. As the prophet Micah reminds us, "...O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

In Christ's service,

Cindy Nelson

Missions Team Chair

**Mission Contributions**  
**Cash Contributions October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023**

	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Money Paid Out</b>
<b>Mission Projects—Special Giving</b>		
Banquet	\$ 1,141.00	\$ 1,777.04
Camp Scholarships	\$ 304.20	\$ 0.00
Christmas Giving Center	\$ 1,762.00	\$ 1,782.00
Fellowship In Action	\$ 600.00	\$ 350.00
Furniture Missions	\$ 920.38	\$ 920.38
Laura Wilder Gloves	\$ 190.00	\$ 186.48
Laura Wilder Mission Project	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,645.18
Laura Wilder T-shirts	\$ 824.00	\$ 862.00
Midwest Mission	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
Mission Haiti	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00
Mission Other	\$ 99.10	\$ 95.69
MMDC—Personal Dignity Kits	\$ 612.52	\$ 1,527.90
MMDC—Rice Meals	\$ 1,635.92	\$ 3,022.48
MMDC—Student Kits	\$ 497.00	\$ 1,118.68
Nightwatch Canteen	\$ 1,666.71	\$ 1,084.99
Samaritan's Feet	\$ 63.19	\$ 623.07
Sioux Falls Thrive	\$ 2,604.00	\$ 2,604.00
Solar Ovens	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Tissues for Laura Wilder	\$ 110.00	\$ 90.00
Tree of Life	\$ 1,423.20	\$ 2,426.19
Uganda Mission Trip—Ryan Mix	\$ 1,342.00	\$ 1,342.00
	\$	\$
<b>Total Mission Projects—Special Giving</b>	<b>\$ 16,860.22</b>	<b>\$ 21,863.08</b>

**Mission Contributions**  
**Cash Contributions October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023**

	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Money Paid Out</b>
<b>Mission Projects—Budget</b>		
Community Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Laura Wilder Signature Ministry	\$ 447.43	\$ 447.43
Tree of Life—Meal Program	\$ 6,919.17	\$ 6,919.17
<b>Total Mission Projects—Budget</b>	<b>\$ 8,366.60</b>	<b>\$ 8,366.60</b>
<b>Conference Projects</b>		
2023 Annual Conference Miracle		
Offering	\$ 985.00	\$ 1,000.00
Human Relations Sunday	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00
Native American Sunday	\$ 75.00	\$ 65.00
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
Student Day	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
UMCOR	\$ 1,995.00	\$ 1,915.00
UMCOR Asylum Project	\$ 130.00	\$ 600.00
UMCOR Hunger Programs	\$ 661.00	\$ 1,114.30
UMCOR Sunday	\$ 1,521.21	\$ 1,521.21
UMCOR Ukraine Relief	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
World Communion Sunday	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Conference Projects</b>	<b>\$ 5,772.21</b>	<b>\$ 6,620.51</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,999.03</b>	<b>\$ 36,850.19</b>

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**—Jeff Rodman, Chairperson

A resolution by the Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) Charge Conference on December 5, 2005, established an Endowment Fund (“the Fund”). The Fund’s principal objectives are “the promotion and development of religious, charitable and educational activities, capital improvements, and for other non-recurring purposes not regularly budgeted by Asbury.”

The Endowment Committee was authorized, but not appointed until the 2019 Charge Conference. This is the third annual report to the Asbury Charge Conference.

Committee Members are Jeff Rodman, Chair (representing Stewardship and Finance); Nathan Grau (representing Administrative Council); Jeff Easter (representing Trustees); Trudy Baird (representing Memorial Committee); and Jeff Nelson (a member “at large.”); Pastor Kip serves as an Ex-Officio Member.

Duties of the committee include:

- A. Receive and accept (or reject) gifts designated for the endowment fund.
- B. Maintain a record of all gifts; and provide for the safe keeping and investment of the endowment fund.
- C. Arrange for an annual transfer from the fund to Asbury UMC based on the formula prescribed in the Resolution calculated as 5% of the twelve previous quarters average fund balance.
- D. Thank donors and communicate with them regarding any special provisions or restrictions relating to their gift.
- E. Promote and advertise the Endowment Fund throughout Asbury and its membership. Encourage estate planning by members and serve as a resource in their efforts.
- F. Report to the Administrative Council and the Charge Conference annually.

The Endowment Fund had a balance of **\$128,426.15** as of September 30, 2023. The fund balance on the same date last year was \$117,304.99.

These funds are held in separate accounts maintained under agreements with Dakotas United Methodist Foundation (with a balance of \$71,669.35) and the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation (with a balance of \$56,756.80). A donation in the amount of \$2,000 was received in the first quarter of this year from an Asbury member. The investment performance of both accounts has been similar for the nine-month period, with both funds experiencing growth of approximately 7% in the current year following double digit investment losses in 2022. The five- and ten-year average returns remain strong.



The Charge Conference Resolution establishing the Foundation includes a formula that directs an annual 5% distribution of the average of the trailing twelve quarters as of December 31st of each year. That formula serves to smooth the highs and lows of the investment markets in the calculation of the annual distribution.

Based on the formula, the committee recommended the distributions of \$4,198 in 2020, \$4,917 in 2021, \$5,694 in 2022, and \$4,017 in 2023. The recommendations were made to the Stewardship and Finance Committee in the third quarter of each year. The Stewardship and Finance Committee has made recommendations to the Administrative Council for utilization of the funds in the following year's budget.

We are executing our duties in administration of the Endowment fund. In 2024, we expect to be more active in communicating its benefits to the Asbury congregation and providing information on how the Endowment Fund can be used to accomplish charitable giving goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Rodman, Chair, Asbury UMC Endowment Committee

**STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**—Steve Mix, Chairperson

**We celebrate the following achievements for 2023:**

- Continued the “Give Now” opportunity on our website, sfasbury.org, for online donations.
- Completed the 2023 operating budget.
- Paid all conference apportionments on time.
- Reviewed all internal balance sheet accounts, informing committees of available resources.
- Raised money to cover the cost of new roof top A/C Units.
- Raised money to cover the cost to redo the pews.
- Applied for and received money from the Builders Club for building projects.

**We look forward to these goals in 2024:**

- Complete our 2024 operating and capital budgets.
- Pay conference apportionments on time.
- Promote the option of online giving.
- Raise money for more capital improvement options.
- Raise money for Full Time Youth Director.
- Raise money to remodel old daycare space for new Youth Rooms.

**ADULT MINISTRY TEAM—Pastor Matt Morrison**

Asbury's Adult Ministries continued to offer in-person small group and Bible study options while also looking for virtual options for adult discipleship.

In-person groups met through most of the year with the Caring Connections group doing spring and fall sessions and the Room 106 Adult Group led by Al Herrboldt doing book studies that included *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller, *Sermon on the Mount* by Amy-Jill Levine, and *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. We also had one *Immerse Bible Book Club* on Monday mornings led by Cindy Nelson that had been meeting previously and completed the entire series by the end of 2023.

The Lenten season saw us joining together on Wednesday nights for the study *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton with video reflections and discussion questions provided by the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences of the United Methodist Church. This resource was used on Wednesday nights both in person and virtually and on Sunday morning as a part of the Room 106 Adult Group.

A few additional Wednesday night adult groups were in development at the time of this writing as was an off-site "Fresh Expressions" group looking to meet at a local restaurant. We continue to explore new ways to connect the people of Asbury in groups as we seek to experience the life-changing love and grace of Jesus Christ as we nurture our discipleship.

**DIGITAL MINISTRIES TEAM—Pastor Matt Morrison**

The Asbury Digital Ministries Team continued to create opportunities for connection online through the Asbury Facebook Campus and online worship services in 2023. This year was focused on maintaining the quality and consistency of our online ministries rather than developing new areas due to Pastor Matt's involvement in Dakota Wesleyan University's Practical Church Leadership program and the development of the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan.

As of the writing of this report, the Asbury Facebook Campus has 501 members and our online worship attendance has remained relatively consistent on the Church Online Platform ([sfasbury.online.church](https://sfasbury.online.church)) while attendance on Facebook varies from week to week due to Facebook algorithms, guest speakers who have promoted their participation, and outside accounts promoting our services. Asbury's online services were featured on the United Methodist Church Facebook page twice this year giving us opportunities to connect with more people in more places, a few of whom have joined the Asbury Facebook Campus.

In addition to using existing discipleship tools for Asbury's New Member Classes, online service host training, and Children's Ministry Team training, we were also able to use online resources to include people in our Commit Campaign congregational meetings where over a dozen people who were unable to join us in person were able to give feedback to our strategic planning process.

Pastor Matt was also involved in coaching others in the area of Digital Ministries as he served as a coach for the Dakotas Conference in the development and launching of "The Sanctuary," an online expression of Methodism that initially started as an "Oasis Church" meant to be a connecting point for United Methodists who wished to remain United Methodists but were displaced due to disaffiliation. Pastor Matt's work with The Sanctuary is proving mutually beneficial as he advises their leadership in their approaches to online ministry and as Pastor Matt learns from some of their experimental approaches to ministry in ways that we might adopt for future online ministry strategies for Asbury.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**—Lonnie Hansen, President

We thank the Lord that we are able to meet and fellowship each month at 12:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. If you have never joined us please come and join us for devotions, a study or speaker and a delicious lunch or potluck twice a year. Our attendance has grown to about 20+ for each meeting this past year.

Throughout the year we have had speakers and programs from our program book called *Mosaic of Faith (We are All Part of God's Story)*. In June was our Annual SKIPDAY when we toured McCrossan Boys Ranch Museum and had lunch out together.

Several members have attended the District meeting, the Conference meeting in North Dakota, and Mission U in Mitchell in July. We currently have two of our Members on the District Board.

We have paid our Pledge to Missions of \$1,200 to Dakotas Conference and paid \$40 to Gifts in Memory for our four deceased members this past year. We have also collected monies in our World Bank offerings. We gave Special Recognition Pins to Diana Gregory, Ruth Jorgenson, and Linda Maxwell honoring them for the many hours in the past they have given to United Women in Faith (UWF) mission concerns. A donation was given to UWF Mission Projects in their names.

Our local Mission project is Union Gospel Mission (UGM), we take an offering each meeting to give to LampLighters Auxiliary of UGM. We also have a love offering of needed items each month.

We have provided cakes and served several funerals this past year and helped with serving other occasions in the church.

Comforters completed many blankets for the Tree of Life Mission.

**We look forward to these goals for 2024:**

- Reach out to more women in the church to come join us.
- Have a pledge service to meet our Pledge to Missions and other programs.
- Provide programs of interest to all our members.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE—JoJean Callison, Chairperson**

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church charges the Committee on Staff/Parish Relations with a broad range of responsibilities including: staff appointment and evaluation, consultation with staff regarding the use of gifts, skills, and time for effective mission and ministry including job descriptions, providing encouragement and support for the supposition of persons in candidacy for lay and ordained ministry, and in general, providing encouragement and support for the pastor and staff. The implementation of the goals detailed in the Commit Campaign provided opportunities to enhance the programming offered through Asbury United Methodist Church, particularly in the areas of children's and youth ministries. As we continue to evolve as a congregation, it is incumbent on the church at large, not only the members of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee to continue to support and encourage our staff in their many responsibilities.

**We celebrate the following achievements for 2023:**

- Set salary and compensation for 2024.
- Continued open communication between staff members and the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) members.
- Conducted evaluations of all staff members and set goals for the next year.
- Celebrated the reappointment of both pastors.
- Solicited gifts from members for the December Love Gift.
- Filled the interim position of Director of Youth and Next Generation Ministries and developed a job description to make it full-time in 2024.
- Rewrote the job description for the Director of Children's Ministries to better reflect the direction outlined in the Commit Campaign goals.
- Hosted a potluck to celebrate Pastor Matt's ordination as a full elder in the Dakotas Conference.

**We look forward to these goals in 2024:**

- Continue to provide support and care to all staff members.
- Continue open communication between SPRC members and staff.
- Complete budget and annual review forms.
- Continue to encourage staff to take personal time for rest, family, and spiritual growth.

- Remain cognizant of the way staff is allocated to best support Asbury’s mission.
- Continue to rewrite job descriptions and evaluation forms to provide a guiding document to ensure that all staff are given direction to grow in their positions.
- Acknowledge the challenges in providing a full staff, especially in the nursery.
- Continue to examine the compensation package offered to our staff to reflect equivalent positions and the priorities of Asbury’s mission and vision.

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**—Michelle Baird  
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM**—Morgan Mundt, Chairperson

**Children's Program Offerings:**

**Nursery Care:**

**January-August** Nursery care is available (as staffing allows) for children ages infant to five years; Sundays 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 5:45-8:00 p.m., as well as other special occasions (i.e. Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve). While in the nursery the children are cared for by qualified staff and they participate in Christ-centered activities appropriate for their ages.

**September-December** Times for nursery care changed due to schedule changes of activities at Asbury. New hours are: Sundays 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and Wednesdays 5:45-8:15 p.m.

**Sunday School for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

**January-May** Due to a lower volunteer base, Sunday School for Preschool through Grade 5 is as follows:

- Play 'n Worship: Infants through 2 years old and a parent (not being held at this time due to low volunteer base)
- Preschool: 3 years to 5 years not yet in Kindergarten
- Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- 3rd Grade, 4th Grade and 5th Grade

Each lesson is presented through various medias over the course of three Sundays. Sunday #1 is an introductory session where children practice their Bible navigation skills by finding the scripture we are exploring, and participating in discussion as well as a hands-on activity if time allows. Sunday #2 incorporates review of the lesson topic we have begun, a short Talk-About video, and an activity that supports the lesson focus. Sunday #3 builds more review of the lesson topic and includes an activity that supports the lesson focus.

All Sundays, we celebrate birthdays and kiddos enjoy a snack that represents a portion of the lesson in some way.

Each lesson includes a "Take Home" sheet that is sent via email/Remind to parents prior to it being covered in Sunday School, so as to help them introduce the topic to their children. This is a step in the direction of using the "Family Led/Church Supported" model introduced to us through MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative).



**September-December** The Sunday School model used in the past has transitioned out. Asbury has moved to a Children's Church model. Children (Kindergarten-5th Grade) are invited to Children's Church in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Children's Message at the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Children continue to explore the Children's Message through various activities such as science experiments, interactive story-time, crafts, cooking, etc. Children's Church is dismissed when worship is over.

### **Wednesday Night Activities:**

#### **(January-May)**

##### **Children's Choirs:**

\*Genesis Choir (4 years to 2nd Grade): 6:00-6:45 p.m.

\*Joysingers Choir (3rd Grade to 8th Grade): 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**SpArK!:** 3rd Grade to 5th Grade, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

As children grow in mind and body, they also grow in heart and soul. This weekly gathering nourishes and enriches children in faith so they can proclaim the good news of God's love and serve God and neighbor. Through mission projects, group activities, discussion, and Bible-ventures, children will realize their faith goes with them as they grow. All children are asked to bring their Bible each week.

#### **(September-December)**

**As of September, per the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan, Wednesday evenings have transitioned to a new model of programming. There is only one children's choir and "Sunday School" has moved to Wednesdays with two groups: sprouts and SpArK!**

##### **Children's Choirs:**

\*Joysingers Choir (Kindergarten-6th Grade): 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Joysingers sing once a month at the 9:15 a.m. worship.

**sprouts:** Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

These weekly gatherings will include faith-building games, stories, group discussions, mission projects, etc. Through it all children will grow in faith and in relationship with one another!

**SpArK!:** 3rd Grade to 5th Grade, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

These weekly gatherings will include faith-building games, stories, group discussions, mission projects, etc. Through it all children will grow in faith and in relationship with one another!

With a focus on the TIE (Train, Involve, Equip) model brought forth by the MCCI process, the Children's Ministry Team (CMT) was intentional in planning activities for children and families this year. Though the team did, and will likely continue to host events that are "just for fun", the goal is that the majority of the events we host answer "Yes" to at least one of the following questions:

1. Does this event TRAIN parents to be faith leaders of the home?
2. Does this event INVOLVE parents in the faith-formation of their children?
3. Does this event EQUIP parents to be effective faith leaders for their children?

We also use the **Art of Invitation**. It is a face-to-face and personalized invitation to participate in select leadership roles within the children's program at Asbury. Opportunities include teaching Sunday School and leading in one of the many areas of Vacation Bible School

#### **Family/Community Events:**

**BINGO Night:** Friday, February 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Families spent the evening playing BINGO while enjoying desserts of all kinds, provided by the Children's Ministry Team. Prizes were awarded to winners. To better prepare for this event, we asked that guests register.

**Palm Sunday Donkey Parade:** Sunday, April 2, 10:00-10:45 a.m.

People of all ages were invited to a Palm Sunday procession. The Children's Ministry Team hosted this event on the north lawn. Julie Ashworth and Lizzie Hansen read the book, "Caleb's Colt," followed by a parade with a donkey from McCrossan's Boys Ranch. Individually packaged goodie bags including a donkey-shaped cookie, a small container of frosting and a small container of sprinkles were served. To better prepare for this event, we asked that guests register.

**Mother's Day Celebration:** Sunday, May 14, 10:15-10:45 a.m.

All women and their families were invited to enjoy some time together making a keepsake photo craft together. Moms were also gifted a muffin mix with the poem, "If You Give a Mom a Muffin" attached. This event was hosted in the Fellowship Hall and took the place of our regular Sunday School lesson for the day. To better plan for this event, CMT asked that guests register.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Sunday, July 16-Wednesday, July 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

STELLAR VBS was the summer event that helped discover what it means to shine Jesus'

light! At STELLAR VBS, families explored how Jesus shined hope, love, forgiveness, and joy to the world-and how we can do the same with his power! The week was filled with faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help us grow in friendship with Jesus!

STELLAR VBS was filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences guests could see, hear, and touch! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that helped faith flow into real life. Plus guests discovered how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings!

STELLAR VBS allowed guests to explore what it means to *shine Jesus' light* in everyday life through these Bible Points:

- When life feels dark, *shine Jesus' light!*
- When people don't get along, *shine Jesus' light!*
- When good things happen, *shine Jesus' light!*
- When people are sad, *shine Jesus' light!*

To help CMT better plan for this event, families were asked to register for this event. No deadline was established because registrations came in slowly this year.

**Friendsgiving:** Friday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

CMT hosted it's version of Friendsgiving! Guests were invited to bring a snack to share, while hanging out chatting and viewing the movie, "Elemental". People of ALL ages were invited and everyone was encouraged to bring friends and family. This was a great way to spend an evening together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays!

**Advent Workshop:** Sunday, December 3, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of celebrating the start of Advent! Festivities will begin at noon with a Soup and Sandwich Social Hour. Guests are invited to bring a pot of soup to share. Serving will begin at 12:00 p.m. At one o'clock the Advent Workshop will begin! Here, guests will find a variety of activities for all ages, music, treats and more! Registration for the event and those bringing soup will be required with a deadline of November 26 so preparations can be made accordingly.

### **Children Only Events:**

**End-of-the-School-Year Party:** Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Children enjoyed ice cream sundaes, games and a piñata out on the north lawn as an “End-of-the-Year” celebration before summer break.

**Third Grade Bible Sunday:** Sunday, September 10

Six children in total received a Bible as a gift from Asbury. Three children received theirs during the 9:00 a.m. worship service and three other children received theirs during the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

**Third Grade Bible Retreat:** Friday, September 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Six children received their Bible during the retreat. All third graders used their new Bibles in ways to help them become accustomed to navigating their new treasure. They ate pizza, made Bible Brownies and went on a church-wide scavenger hunt.

### **Camperships**

Campership fundraising did not take place because we had funds left over. This year we used some of those funds to send 20 children to camp.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES—Catrina Standifer**

**New Years Eve Lock In:**

The youth spent New Year's Eve with their friends at a lock in at Asbury on Saturday, December 31, 2022 9:00 p.m.-Sunday, January 1, 2023 7:00 a.m. This was a night full of fun, games, and a time to ring in the New Year together!

**Youth Families at Air Madness:**

The youth went to Air Madness on Friday, March 24.

**Wednesday Night Youth Group:**

The middle school and high school students met as one youth group.

**Youth Discipleship:**

Sunday morning Youth Discipleship is also a combined group of middle school and high school.

**Confirmation:**

Three students were confirmed on July 11, 2023.

Catrina Standifer resigned in May 2023 in preparation for her marriage.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES—Emily Lawrence**

The Youth Ministries Team is grateful to the congregation for their continued support in the lives of Asbury's youth. When I started as interim youth director in July of 2023, I found that Youth Ministries is indeed alive and well at Asbury! There has been considerable revitalization in this area, which we know will make a difference in the lives of our middle school and high school students.

**The Youth celebrated the following in 2023:**

The newly revitalized Youth Ministry Team researched and developed a new strategy for youth ministries incorporating Asbury's overall Mission and Vision. Our approach emphasizes relational connections with peers and mentors, community service and outreach, and curriculum designed to explore faith, gain knowledge, and develop lasting relationships with Christ. One of the most important aspects of this strategy was the implementation of Life Groups. This is a format in which all students are placed in a small group of their peers, along with adults who care about their lives and their faith. We are exploring ideas relating to life, spirituality, service, and issues teens care about. The launch of the Life Group format on September 6, 2023, has met with success, with 15-20 students attending youth activities on Wednesday evenings.

Some concepts:

1. Mentorship. Students have consistent guidance and support from adult mentors who walk beside them on their faith journeys.
2. Energy. We strive to be creative and energetic in everything we do: we want youth to want to be here.
3. Student-led. Student ownership is at the core of our program. Our goal is to have youth involved in all aspects of ministry.

This year, we are excited to connect with the Missions Team to offer service opportunities for our students called "Teens in Action." As Asbury strives to be an intergenerational congregation, involvement in other areas of ministry has been an important goal for our team. Through this, students are learning to express Jesus's love for others by engaging in service with their church, their community, and beyond. In September of 2023 we packed 87 Personal Dignity kits alongside members of the Missions Team for Midwest Missions, and a few students helped with the church rice packing event. Our newest outreach project is through Asbury's Signature Ministry at Laura Wilder Elementary in which each of our three Life

Groups have adopted a teacher for the school year.

A new year of confirmation began in October 2023, with two students participating in weekly classes.

This fall we planned and hosted a table at Augustana's Faith Fair on September 19. I attended chapel at Augustana and then participated with two volunteers during the fair, in which areas of strength at Asbury and opportunities available were discussed with students and faculty.

**Looking ahead in 2024:**

We are looking forward to youth attending the DAKyouth fall retreat in Aberdeen. Breaking students out of their routines to experience the life changing love and grace of Jesus Christ in their communities and the greater world is a goal we are excited to explore further in 2024.

As per Asbury's Commit Campaign and resultant strategic plan, we are looking forward to the completion of a remodel of the former United Childcare and Preschool rooms into rooms for use by Youth Ministries. Moving the rooms is in line with the goals outlined in Asbury's strategic plan which benefits our congregation and provides updates to the building. We feel confident that the investment in our young people will bring energy and vitality to our church body and are excited as we see the project take shape.

Another area of growth we are seeking to enhance is in the new area of Youth and Next-Generation Ministries, which is in line with Asbury's Strategic Plan. To start, in 2024, we are seeking to collaborate with Children's Ministries to develop a comprehensive scope and strategy for children, youth, young adults, and families. This will also include deepening the "Parent-Partnership" in the Youth Ministry Team, working alongside parents in discipleship, and becoming a deep source of support in these vital relationships.

**Youth Ministry Team Members:**

Emily Lawrence

Julie Ashworth

Vinny Campbell-Morrison

Amy Caselli

Carly Ellsworth

Ralph Lawrence

**Confirmation Leaders:**

Emily Lawrence

Vinny Campbell-Morrison

**Life Group Leaders, Middle School:**

Vinny Campbell-Morrison

Amy Caselli

Adam Ellsworth

Kristina Jackson

**Life Group Leaders, High School**

Carly Ellsworth

Ralph Lawrence



**ASSOCIATE PASTOR—Matt Morrison**

2023 was a year that will forever be etched on my memory. It was the year that I was finally ordained as an Elder at the Dakotas Annual Conference Celebration of Life in Ministry Service on June 9 at First United Methodist in Sioux Falls. Unfortunately, it was also the year that Amy's 10 year fight with cancer ended as she passed away peacefully on August 5 in our home. I have been so thankful to have the people of Asbury with me as we celebrated a ministry milestone and as they have supported and encourage our family in our time of loss.

Much of our ministry efforts together this year were focused around the development of the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan. This project came about as I continued my work with the Practical Church Leadership (PCL) program at Dakota Wesleyan University. The PCL program is a graduate-level certification program that covers half of the coursework of a Master of Business Arts degree and equips pastors in the areas of finance and stewardship, vision and strategy, governance, communications, and personnel and volunteer management. In addition to classes in these areas, each student is required to complete an applied project, which is where Asbury's strategic planning process was born.

We spent much of the last few months of 2022 engaging in stakeholder conversations with Asbury members, ministry teams, and committees as a Strategic Planning Team (SPT), that included Pastor Kip, Nathan Grau, Tina Jackson, Cindy Nelson, and me, worked on designing the process we would use to develop the strategic plan. In January of 2023 we had our first congregational meeting with both in-person and online options which was attended by over 60 Asbury congregants. We learned much about Asbury's strengths, challenges, and gaps while also hearing about the dreams the people of Asbury had for us as a church. This information helped to shape our "Why Am I Here?" message series where we were able to talk about the core values that emerged from our conversation, the ways they are present at Asbury, and the opportunities we have to live them out more fully as a congregation.

The SPT used these findings, as well as recent demographic studies, to do a SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Treats) analysis, core values assessment, and demographic report to help in the development of strategic development for our financial, missional, programatic, ministry, and operational approaches. This development gave clarity to the content of our second congregational meeting in April where we were able to hear from the congregation with a more specific focus on areas of ministry that had been recurring themes throughout the strategic planning process.

The SPT then began to define project objectives, deliverables, and key performance measures to be included in the strategic plan. A first draft of the plan was created and made available for congregational comment for three weeks. Once feedback was received, the SPT then

developed the final draft of the plan that was submitted to Asbury's Administrative Council for approval on July 6.

The final Commit Campaign Strategic Plan consists of four goal areas. The first goal area is in living out our core value of being a multi-generational congregation. We hope to do this by enhancing our ministry for children, youth, and families. A few of the objectives of this goal are to work toward the hiring of a full-time Director of Youth and Next Generation Ministries in 2024, shift our discipleship focus for Children's and Youth Ministries from Sunday morning to Wednesday night (completed in September), and redesigning a space for middle and high school Youth Ministries (underway).

The second goal area is to enhance our worship experiences on Sunday mornings. Objectives of this goal are to change Asbury's Sunday morning schedule to facilitate improved hospitality (completed in September), providing an option for Children's Church during the second Traditional Service and the Non-Traditional Service (completed in September), maintain a fully-staffed nursery during all services (in progress), and recruit and train volunteers to host all Asbury online services (in progress).

The third goal area is a focus on discipleship. Objectives of this goal are to change Asbury's governance structure from a committee-based structure with Administrative Council to a simplified-accountability model (set to launch January 1, 2024), develop a leadership training process, and evaluate and create new teams. This new governance model will allow for more people to actively engage in ministry work through various teams rather than being tied up in committee meetings. This goal area will be implemented primarily in 2024 as the new governance structure will require new systems to support and equip ministry teams and to create new teams based on existing gaps and emerging opportunities.

The final goal area is in the area of service. While this is often cited as a strength of Asbury, the objectives of this goal are to develop outreach strategies to connect with the neighborhood surrounding Asbury, to develop strategies to involve Children and Youth Ministries in Asbury Missions initiatives, and to develop a partnership with Midwest Mission Distribution Center. All of these objectives began to be implemented in 2023 and will continue to inform the work that we do in service in the years to come.

In addition to leading the efforts of the Strategic Planning Team and helping to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the Commit Campaign Strategic Plan, I also completed the Practical Church Leadership program where I had the opportunity to share about our work as a part of my final presentation in July.

In addition to our strategic planning work, I continued to work in the area of Digital Ministries through the ongoing cultivation of the Asbury Facebook Campus (which has over 500

members at the time of this writing) and through Asbury's online worship services. Other ministry tasks that I continued to engage in included preaching once or twice each month before taking a break when Amy passed away in August, leading worship for the Non-Traditional Service, sharing in congregational care with Pastor Kip, writing pieces for the newsletter and bulletin, and meeting with various teams and committees for planning and ministry coordination.

In many ways, 2023 was a year that was devoted to strategic development that will guide our ministry for the next 3-5 years while seeking to continue to meet the needs of our congregational life together in the present. As we more intentionally engage in future-oriented, intentional approaches to ministry and develop tools to more effectively equip our ministry teams and develop leaders for the work that God has called us to, it is my hope that we will experience greater clarity around our mission, our ministries, and how we are called to live into our vision to be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Matt

**PASTOR**—Rev. Kip Roozen

**Commit Campaign Strategic Plan** – Asbury’s mission is to provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others. We are directed by Jesus’ command to love God and love others. Our desire is to follow Jesus and become more like Christ. We seek to put our faith into action by serving others.

In 2019 Asbury underwent a visioning process to develop updated statements of our Purpose, Vision, and Mission.

**Our Purpose: To experience the life-changing love and grace of Jesus Christ.** That is our “Why?” Why does Asbury exist? We exist to experience the transforming, life-changing love and grace of Jesus.

**Our Vision: To be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.** That is our “Where?” Where are we heading? What do we see in the distance that we are traveling toward? We will be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

**Our Mission: To provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others.** That is our “How?” How will we provide life-changing experiences with Christ? We will love and accept all. We will nurture discipleship. We will serve others.

These statements were introduced in January 2020 to the congregation with the intent of using them as a framework to form a strategic plan for Asbury going forward. That plan was delayed due to the pandemic, but resumed in late 2022.

A Strategic Planning Team was formed to guide this work – Nathan Grau, Tina Jackson, Matt Morrison, Cindy Nelson, and me. We had excellent guidance from Pastor Matt as he was going through the Practical Church Leadership program through Dakotas Wesleyan University – which provided a built-in instructor and coach as we navigated the process. We spent several months conversing, learning, and prayerfully discerning where God might be calling us as we dreamed and planned and prepared for the future of our ministry at Asbury.

We named the process the Commit Campaign based on Proverbs 16:3 – “Commit your work to God, and your plans will be established.” Our desire was to commit ourselves to be the church that God was calling Asbury to become in the years ahead. The verse from Proverbs reminds us of the importance of committing our work to God, trusting in God’s guidance and prevenient grace – a grace that goes ahead of us.

The Commit Campaign process involved two well-attended congregational meetings. We had one-on-one conversations with Asbury members. We held conversations with various Asbury teams and committees. We looked at some demographic studies and assessments of our current organizational structure and operating procedures.

After prayerful consideration and many hours of conversation, four goals emerged. Our prayer and desire is that the initiatives developed around those four goals will help us live into our Vision to be a community that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

You can read the Strategic Plan in full on Asbury's webpage under the "About Us" tab. Also, read Pastor Matt's Charge Conference report for more information. The four goals are:

**GOAL 1 – Multi-generational: Enhance our Ministry for children, youth, and families.** Some of the objectives include: Hiring a full-time Director of Youth and Next-Generation Ministries in 2024. This fall, we shifted our discipleship focus for Children from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights. The attendance numbers indicate this move was positive for sprouts and SpArk! Our Wednesday children's ministry has been averaging 19 children – with an average of 22 at the Joysingers children's choir. By comparison, we had an average of 11 children at Sunday School (January-May). We have averaged 19 youth on Wednesdays this fall. That is also a significant increase. We are in the process of remodeling four rooms for middle and high school Youth Ministries. Our goal is to raise \$40-45,000 for the project. Over \$30,000 has been given at this writing – including a \$10,000 challenge gift, a \$10,000+ endowment disbursement, \$6,500 special offerings and \$5,800 from memorials gifts.

**GOAL 2 – Worship: Enhance worship experiences on Sunday mornings.** Some of our objectives include changing our Sunday morning schedule to facilitate improved hospitality, building and parking lot flow, and worship engagement. We shifted worship times to 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m. this fall to provide a hospitable space between services. We are now providing Children's Church as an option for kids during the second Traditional Service and the Non-Traditional Service with dismissal after the Children's Message. The attendance numbers have averaged 12 per Sunday – slightly more than the former Sunday School average of 11. We are working to maintain a fully staffed nursery during all services and to recruit and train volunteers to host all online services. We presently have two adult groups at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays – Caring Connections and Room 106 group.

**GOAL 3 – Discipleship: Enhance leadership development and team building.** Our objectives include changing Asbury's governance structure to a simplified accountability model. Leadership development and volunteer engagement was a recurring theme as we discussed current challenges faced in our ministry at Asbury. We want to do a better job recruiting,

training, and supporting leaders and volunteers. We want people empowered and valued in ways that lead to deeper engagement and ministry. We are beginning the transition in 2024 with a nine person Leadership Team.

**GOAL 4 – Serve: Enhance service opportunities to our neighborhood, community, and beyond.** Our objectives include developing outreach strategies to connect with the Asbury neighborhood, to involve Children’s and Youth Ministries in Asbury Missions, and develop our partnership with Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Missions and outreach is one of Asbury’s strengths. It is a core value that helps us fulfill our mission to provide life-changing experiences with Jesus as we serve others. Our Missions Team has done an excellent job of establishing and growing our partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary (Asbury’s signature ministry). At the same time, we recognize that there is room for us to grow in the ways that we engage our neighborhood and make disciples through our missional attitude.

The needs of our neighborhood are varied with a rapidly rising percentage of single-parent households. In 2010, 43% of the neighborhood was single-parent households. Last year (2022) it rose to 54.7%. The average age in our neighborhood is trending younger than the state of South Dakota. 58.3% of the population is made up of Millennials (27-42) and Generation Z (11-26) – that is, people ages 11 through 42.

The data from the 2021 American Beliefs Study also shows that those in our neighborhood have a high value for community involvement and social justice advocacy. That means we have an opportunity to connect those in our neighborhood with our core value of mission and outreach, if we can develop relationships with them.

These recommendations are designed to help Asbury move with strategic intention as we seek to fulfill Asbury’s vision. In this process, existing ministries are invited to prioritize their work around the strategic plan as new ministries are developed to address current gaps and opportunities that Asbury has in front of us as we invest in the future of the church.

This strategic plan is a working document, meaning that Asbury’s new Leadership Team will continue to evaluate and adapt it to address changing needs and circumstances. This strategic plan provides practical and spiritual direction for us as a church over the next 3-5 years.

I am excited for what it will mean for us as a church as we put it into practice. Our hope is that we are seeing a glimpse of God’s future – and have a plan to move in that direction.

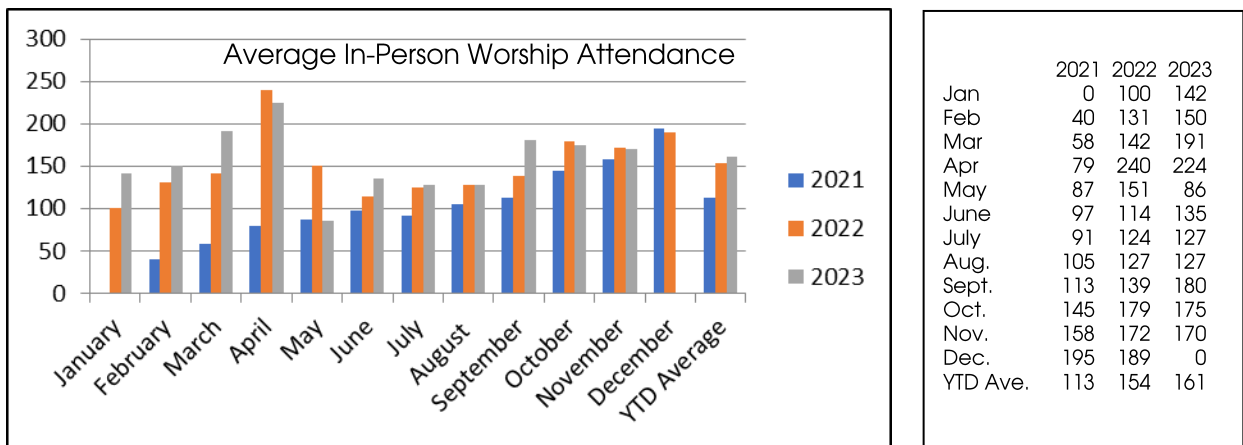
**Worship.** Our in-person worship attendance is growing. We returned to in-person Sunday worship during Lent on Sunday, February 21, 2021. We had not met in-person for Sunday

worship since March 22, 2020.

We use the sfasbury.online.church platform as well as our Facebook page, Facebook Campus, and Worship by Phone (605-221-1769) for online worship. We continue to prerecord services to gain better production quality and greater reliability than streaming. We have considered live-streaming one of the in-person services, but at this time lack needed volunteers. Traditional Worship – 8:00 a.m.; Traditional Worship – 9:15 a.m.; Non-Traditional – 11:00 a.m.

I am grateful for the faithfulness, commitment, outreach and dedication of those that worship. I give thanks for the dedicated leaders, servants, choirs, directors, musicians, liturgists, soloists, AV technicians, Worship Design Team, and many, many others who have been involved with online and in-person services.

**Worship Attendance.** In June 2019, we started streaming our 9:00 a.m. traditional service and our non-traditional service. We did not really advertise the online service in 2019 as we were developing our tech team and working out the kinks. We averaged about 12 persons (or devices) checking in per Sunday from June through mid-November. Our highest number of check-ins was 24 and our lowest was 6. Through October 2020 we averaged 141 persons (or devices) each Sunday. That represented an increase online of over 1000%. In 2021, our average online attendance by devices was 79. In 2021, our average Facebook Live views were 216. In 2023, our online attendance has averaged 44 persons (or devices), with average Facebook views at 241 through October. We have one or two calls a week on Worship by Phone. I praise God for people being reached.



Our average in-person worship attendance was 113 per Sunday in 2021. In 2022, we averaged 154 per Sunday. Through the first Sunday of November 2023, we have averaged 161 per Sunday. Our highest attendance this year has been 322 on Easter, April 9. The trend over the last few months: July and August averaged 127. September averaged 180. October averaged 175. November had 170 (November 5). Pre-pandemic our average in-person worship was close

to 300. The commitment of our adult choir, bell choir, band, along with the children's choir, have made a direct impact on in-person worship attendance. Thank you to those who lead and serve.

I have preached twenty-nine Sunday sermons since last Charge Conference – delivering messages eighty-three times. I also preached nine times at Wednesday Worship in 2023. We averaged five in-person on Wednesdays plus those online. We ceased having Wednesday worship following this year's Asbury Film Festival. I have also preached twice at Trail Ridge.

It has been great to work with our Worship Design Team on themes such as: Those Who Dream (Advent/Christmas 2022); Fix Your Eyes on Jesus (January 15); Why Am I Here? (Asbury's core values – February 5, 12, 19); Ash Wednesday (February 22); What We Give Up (Lent/Palm Sunday/Easter – February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9); Good Friday Tenebrae (April 7); Uncomfortable (April 16, 23, 30); The B.I.B.L.E. (May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4); Jonah Musical with Genesis and Joysingers – May 21); Confirmation Sunday – What My Dog Taught Me About God – Carly Ellsworth (June 11); Previews (June 18, 25, July 2); Asbury Film Festival – Remember the Titans, Pinocchio, A Man Called Otto, Mulan, Cyrano – (July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6); Commit Campaign Strategic Plan (August 13); Jordan Kjesbo (guest – August 20), Can These Bones Live? (Outdoor worship and picnic – August 27); Bruce Blumer (guest – September 3); Generation Gap (September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8); In God We Trust – Generosity Sunday (October 15, 22); Questions Jesus Asked (October 29, November 5, 12, 26); All Saints Day (November 5). Rebecca Trefz (Charge Conference – November 19); Light of the World (Advent/Christmas 2023).

**Nurturing Discipleship.** During the season of Lent, our Wednesday nights included a meal served by various teams with worship and study around tables. We used the Dakotas Conferences resource based on Adam Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. We averaged 70 people each evening.

Caring Connections, a fellowship group for women of all ages, led by Mary Millikan, Julie Nielsen, Dawn Rice, Barb Roozen, and Bonnie Shinn meets weekly Sunday mornings. A Bible Study led by Al Herrboldt meets on Sundays in Room 106. The Men's Group and United Women in Faith are meeting and the Coffee Fellowship meets weekly. Cindy Nelson led an Immerse Bible Book Club on Monday mornings. She is offering a 4-week Advent Study. Paul Zeeb will lead a Wednesday night small group using *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People*.

On Sunday, April 20, Barb and I hosted dessert following a connecting event called "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Individuals and couples signed up to meet at a restaurant with mystery guests for fellowship and food. They returned to Asbury for dessert and fellowship.

Our Digital Ministry Team, led by Pastor Matt, continues to develop Asbury's Facebook



Campus. The group has 502 members at this time – an increase of 10.6% since last year (454). Asbury's Facebook Campus is our primary hub for online ministry. The site includes Staff Check-In each weekday at 10:00 a.m. Staff members share announcements and a brief devotion. There are opportunities to share prayer requests, offer connection and encouragement. Sunday worship can be found on our Facebook Campus as well.

Our Mission Team has kept the needs of the community and world in the forefront of our mission to serve others. I am grateful to serve a church that remains generous and faithful.

**Children and Youth.** This fall, our Children's Ministry has shifted from Sundays to Wednesday evenings for nurturing discipleship. Our Youth Group continues on Wednesday evenings. Both groups are experiencing growth in numbers compared to last spring. Michelle Baird serves as the Director of Children's Ministries (20 hours per week). Catrina Standifer served as Youth Director (10 hours per week) through the spring. She resigned in preparation for her marriage. Emily Lawrence serves as Youth Director now (20 hours per week).

**Serving Others.** Asbury has remained active in our partnership with Laura Wilder Elementary School – our signature ministry. We have supported the school with a Wednesday night Prayer Walk, adoption of twenty teachers/classrooms, gift cards to new teachers, hand-written Thank You notes to teachers/staff, meals for teachers and staff, and serving at Open House. We are a sponsor for Cub Scout Pack 155 that meets at Asbury. Those are a few examples.

I would refer you to the Missions Team Report. Asbury has been very generous in responding to a variety of needs with continuing generosity. We continue to support Tree of Life Ministries, Mission, SD (\$9,350+); UMCOR (\$5,250+); Thrive (\$2,600); The Banquet West; Nightwatch Canteen; and many other missions. We gave over \$36,850 to a variety of missions.

We are developing our relationship with Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). As an example, through MMDC we packed 1,200 rice meal packets (7,200 meals) on a Sunday morning, September 17. Six area United Methodist Churches joined us in the afternoon as we packed another 2,400 packets (14,400 meals).

Asbury has a vital prayer ministry due to the leadership of Linda Van Loh who coordinates our email Prayer Chain and prayer letter. We have numerous committees and teams that serve Christ. Check out their reports.

Our Trustees continue to care for the building and property so we have a "home base" where we might nurture discipleship and serve others. Trustee projects have included new shingles on the sanctuary, some exterior and interior lighting, resealed the parking lot, and much more. Thanks for the generosity that helps us be good stewards of Christ's church. The group has

their eye on many future improvements and maintenance that need funding. See the Trustees report.

**Membership.** Our current membership is 490. We have welcomed 21 new members to our church family this year – twelve by transfer from other United Methodist Churches, two by transfer from other denominations, and seven by Profession of Faith (including three confirmands). Presently there are two youth in the confirmation program.

Last year, 53 members were removed by Charge Conference action. This past year we removed 17 members from our rolls – five by request, five by death, one by transfer to another denomination, and six by transfer to other United Methodist Churches.

We have grieved the death of five members. Our congregation was involved with the funerals/ memorial services of six who were buried through the ministry of Asbury since our last Conference. We remembered seven people on All Saints Sunday. I officiated at five of the funeral services. I give thanks to Jesus Christ for the precious gift of life and life eternal.

Asbury celebrated three baptisms in 2023 – one infant and two children.

I officiated at three weddings conducted through the ministry of Asbury this past year.

**Stewardship.** Asbury's 2023 Generosity Emphasis was held October 15 and 22. Our theme was "In God We Trust." On Generosity Sunday, October 22, we invited our members and friends to complete 2024 Estimate of Giving cards as an act of worship and commitment to Christ.

It is too early to know the complete results of the financial commitments for 2024. As of this writing, a total of 113 cards have been returned. Sixty cards indicate an intent to increase giving. Sixty-two of the individuals plan to give electronically. Electronic gifts equal \$248,987.60. Other commitments are \$180,596.00. At this preliminary point the total pledged is \$429,583.60. This total is \$8,106.60 more than was committed at this point last year. We also expect about \$65,500 based on those who have a history of giving, but did not complete a card. We expect another \$8,000 for other sources. Our unfunded "faith income" is estimated around \$109,566 – a huge stretch for our congregation.

We anticipate finishing 2023 on good financial footing with about \$50,000 in reserves. We are proposing a deficit budget for 2024, but we believe God is faithful and generous as we commit our work to God that our plans might be established (Proverbs 16:3). Our proposed 2024 General Budget is \$612,570. That is an increase of approximately \$57,000 over 2023. As a point of comparison, our 2020 budget was \$582,970. Our focus is not to simply grow a budget, but to grow in faith through generosity.

Thank you for your faithful giving and generosity that supports our vision to be a community

that is experiencing life change and growth because of Jesus.

**Dakotas Conference.** I currently serve on the Southeast District Board of Ordained Ministry. I am one of two clergy representatives on the Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees and started serving in the fall of 2021. I am also part of a Higher Ground clergy cohort – a wellness initiative of the Dakotas Conference which started in October and will conclude in July 2024.

**Thank You.** Thank you for the opportunity to serve in ministry together. Barb and I are grateful to be appointed to Asbury. I am thankful for Barb's support and partnership in ministry. And I give thanks that Asbury is blessed with a congregation full of ministers seeking to serve Christ in a variety of ways. Thank you to all the committee and team members who have served. Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who continue to serve in so many ways. Asbury is blessed with a dedicated, committed, competent staff. Thank You to Pastor Matt Morrison for sharing in pastoral ministry. We celebrate his ordination as an elder on June 9, 2023. We grieve the loss of Amy on August 5, 2023. Our hearts continues to ache with him and his family. We grieve, but we do not grieve without hope. Our hope is in Christ Jesus. Thank you to: Office Manager – Roxie Pogany; Director of Children's Ministries – Michelle Baird; Director of Youth Ministries – Emily Lawrence (and Catrina Standifer); Financial Secretary – Sarah Wagenaar; Organist – Julie Ostroot; Choir Director – Julie LeVan; Handbell Choir Director – Jolayne Hanson; Children's Choir Director – Julie Ashworth; Children's Pianist – Nick Jackson; Nursery – Kristy Twamley; Dawn Bain, Nikki Grau, Morgan Mundt, and Sadie Grau.

This is certainly a challenging, and yet exciting, time to be the Church. While we do not know what the future holds, we know who holds the future. And we press forward seeking to provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others. Thanks for your part in Christ's mission! It is an exciting time to be Asbury United Methodist Church!

In Ministry Together,

Kip Roozen

## ASBURY UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM

One of the objectives of Asbury's Commit Campaign Strategic Plan involved changing Asbury's governance structure from a committee-based/Administrative Council model to a simplified-accountability model. This move will result in the creation of a new Leadership Team that will replace the current Administrative Council. This team will provide strategic direction for Asbury and streamline ministry decision processes and will be partnered with new initiatives for team, volunteer, and leadership development to empower our teams to carry out the regular ministries of the church.

### **Mission of the Leadership Team**

To champion the mission statement of Asbury UMC which is "To provide life-changing experiences with Christ by loving and accepting all, nurturing discipleship, and serving others."

### **About the Leadership Team**

The Leadership Team is responsible to protect and champion the vision and values of Asbury UMC. The Team meets approximately 10 times per year.

The Leadership team consists of 9 lay members of Asbury UMC. The Senior Pastor, Financial Secretary and Associate Pastor serve as ex-officio members with full voice, but no vote.

All members serve a three-year term. Each member may serve up to two consecutive terms. In our inaugural year, the team will determine which three members will transition off at the end of 2024 and which three members will transition off at the end of 2025 to establish a regular rotation of new and returning members.

A layperson from the Leadership Team will be selected to be the chairperson for the team; they will partner with the Senior Pastor to lead the Leadership Team.

In addition to monthly meetings, each member of the Leadership Team also serves on one of three Leadership Team Groups: Staff-Parish Relations (SPR), Trustees, or Finance. These groups absorb all responsibilities of the administrative roles/groupings defined in the United Methodist Book of Discipline (SPR, Trustees, Administrative Team, Finance) including:

- Approve the annual budget
- Approve the hiring of employees
- Annual review of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor
- Approve all land acquisitions, facility construction and significant legal obligations
- When a special need exists, the Leadership Team can create a task force consisting of a sub-group of the Leadership Team and/or other church members.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Rogene Brown  
Jeff Easter  
Carly Ellsworth  
Nathan Grau  
Mike Nesheim  
Steve Mix  
Rennae Petersen  
Bonnie Shinn  
Anna Suckow

EX-OFFICIO: Senior Pastor Kip Roozen  
Associate Pastor Matt Morrison  
Financial Secretary Sarah Wagenaar

**LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

2024 Nathan Grau  
2024 Cindy Heidelberger  
2024 Morgan Mundt  
2024 Greg Richards

Committees will dissolve or be transitioned into teams in 2024.

**MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY**

**For Charge Conference Action**

**Deceased Members**

Jim Beddow  
Shirley Chambers  
Don Hurley  
Amy Morrison  
Don Nelson

**Funerals**

Jim Beddow  
Shirley Chambers  
Don Hurley  
Amy Morrison  
Don Nelson  
Betsy Semple

**Weddings Performed**

Ciara Millikan and Marc McSherry  
Kailee Olson and Ian Peterson  
Mara Davidson and Taylor Dendinger

**Children Baptized**

Hattie Marie Husher  
Landon Joseph Husby  
Warrior Wayne Husby

**Adult Baptized**

**Received by Profession of Faith**

Vinny Campbell-Morrison  
Callison Chap\*  
Elise Chap\*  
Donna Roberts  
Joyce Stotts  
Roy Stotts  
Caden Tarbox\*

\*Confirmed on 6/11/23

**Received by UMC Transfer**

Pat Bentley  
Ronald Dorsman  
Lynn Frederick  
Mary Frederick  
Judy Hines  
Carole Hurley  
Don Hurley  
Donna Kenison  
Lloyd Petersen  
Rennae Petersen  
Scott Roberts  
Evelyn St Peter

**Received Other Transfer**

Marlys Lawrence  
Scott Lawrence

**Reinstated**

**UMC Transfer Out**

Don Jensen  
Helen Jensen  
Dan Wagner  
Lynette Wagner  
Mary Wallinga  
Warren Wallinga

**Other Denomination Transfer Out**

Al Eriksen

**Withdrawn by Request**

Don Rasmussen  
Kim Rasmussen  
Jon Rodman  
Barb Siem  
Roger Siem

**MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY**

**Removal by Charge Conference**

Stacy Ahlers  
 Jessica Anderson  
 Jonathan Anderson  
 Nickalos Anderson  
 Stephanie Anderson  
 Amanda Baker  
 Stacy Batt  
 Benjamin Baymiller  
 Jenna Bresee  
 David Bruce  
 James Coulter  
 Kim Cunningham-Foster  
 Jeannette Dickinson  
 Mabel Dutor  
 Maliah Dutor  
 Maxwell Erpenbach  
 Meredith Foster  
 Bonnie Haack  
 Katie Haack  
 Danielle Hanson  
 Andrew Haraldson  
 John Haraldson  
 Tena Haraldson  
 Jason Headlee  
 Valerie Headlee  
 Marcia Hovdenes  
 Julie Hoyer  
 Christopher Jensen  
 Samantha Jensen  
 Kelle Koenig  
 Dawn Kunzmann  
 Timothy Lear  
 Chris Martinmaas  
 Boston Masters  
 Steve McFarland  
 Michael Mills  
 Rebecca Moeller  
 William Moeller

Curtis Morris  
 Brian Neal  
 Sue Reinholdson  
 Carol Robertson  
 Ryan Robinson  
 Jodi Ryder  
 Erica Schmidt  
 Brandy Scholwinski  
 Jim Shatter  
 Carrie Thompson  
 Joe Thompson  
 Jaime Whiting  
 Nolan Whiting  
 Lacey Wingert  
 Bryan Woodard

11/28/2022—11/19/2023

**MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	November 28, 2022		539
<b>ADDITIONS</b>			
	1. Profession of Faith	7	
	2. Transfer from Other Denominations	2	
	3. Transfer from Other UMC	12	
	4. Reinstated membership	0	
	5. Membership Audit	0	
	TOTAL ADDITIONS		21
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>			
	1. Withdrawn by Request	5	
	2. Transfer to Other Denominations	1	
	3. Transfer to Other UMC	6	
	4. Deceased	5	
	5. Removal by Charge Conference	53	
	6. Removed by Conference Appointment	0	
	7. Membership Audit	0	
	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS		70
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	November 19, 2023		<b>490</b>

**OTHER ACTIVITY**

<b>CHILDREN BAPTIZED</b>	3
<b>ADULT BAPTIZED</b>	0
<b>NUMBER OF FUNERALS</b>	6
<b>WEDDINGS PERFORMED</b>	3



<b>AVERAGE CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>	161
Sundays (January 1, 2023-November 5, 2023)	
<b>AVERAGE ONLINE CHURCH ATTENDANCE BY DEVICES</b>	44
Sundays (January 1, 2023-November 5, 2023)	
<b>AVERAGE FACEBOOK LIVE VIEWS</b>	241
Sundays (January 1, 2023-November 5, 2023)	
<b>AVERAGE CHILDREN’S CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>	
(September 10, 2023-November 5, 2023)	
Children	12
Adult Leaders	4
<b>AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	
(January 1, 2023-May 14, 2023)	
Children	11
Youth	2
Adults	26
<b>AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	
(September 10, 2023-November 5, 2023)	
Adults	22
<b>AVERAGE WEDNESDAY EVENING ATTENDANCE</b>	
(September 6, 2023-November 1, 2023)	
Joysingers Choir	22
Children (sprouts and SpArK!)	19
Youth	19
Adult Leaders	13

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. EMIL H. EBERHART

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

This past year I have served on the Boutwells Landing Religious Advisory Committee. Happy to be living near our children and grandchildren.

We still live at Boutwells Landing in Oak Park Heights, MN.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. PENNY EBERHART

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

During this year I have conducted a Charge Conference at our local United Methodist Church in Stillwater, MN. I also served as an election judge as well as volunteered in our retirement community, Boutwells Landing. Being able to gather with family and friends is a gift.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. BILL GRAN

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 0

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Officiated: 2

12/19/2022—Mary Davidson

05/19/2023—Elaine “Butch” Foster

I continue to enjoy, appreciate and adapt to being “fully retired” for almost two years after 32 years as a parish pastor, 2 ½ years as a full time hospital chaplain, and 18 years and 3 days as a

Spiritual Ministries Consultant with the Good Samaritan Society. I am also grateful for the continued relationship with the Dakotas United Methodist Conference, including opportunities to serve on the Higher Ground Advisory Council, provide additional input for the Higher Ground Leadership/Planning Team, meeting 2-3 times a month with the retired United Methodist Church (UMC) clergy, and providing Spiritual Direction (currently one directee). I was also invited to meet with the Sioux Falls Wesley UMC to provide the perspective of "Why I would want to remain a UMC" as they considered their options related to staying or leaving the UMC.

Brenda and I traveled to Arizona and Texas for a 5 week "time away from Winter" from the end of January to the end of February, enjoying our times of traveling together (other than the dust storms, windy conditions, and witnessed accidents along I-10), time of sharing with our daughter and son-in-law in Tucson, "retreat time" at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale and sights in that area, as well as time in San Antonio and at South Padre Island.

We continue to appreciate the gift of just spending time with each other and our kids and grandkids, including the preparing and serving of Sunday family meals, watching grandkids play or perform in activities, supporting/encouraging our two oldest granddaughters in their "college careers", and being a part of a weekly Zoom FamJam. We also enjoyed our times in nature and with friends during our eight different 3-5 day camping trips this summer, a five day trip to Montana for a family member's graduation and extra time with family, and our regular "coffee times/get together's with friends". I have also gotten in a little more golf (almost once a week), enjoying both the beauty of being outdoors and time with friends.

Brenda continues to provide a few piano lessons (including for some of our grandkids), and is a part of a Monday Morning Bible study and prayer group, a monthly book club, and Asbury's United Women in Faith. We are also both enjoying being a part of Asbury's Adult Choir.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. ERIC GRINAGER

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Volunteer at Storm Mountain for three months.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE

ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. RONALD C JOHNSON

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 0

Baptisms Administered: 1

Funerals Officiated: 2

My wife Marsha and myself continue to live in Sioux Falls where we celebrated 49 years of marriage this year. We attend Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) whenever we can. I am a part of the ministry team that provides pulpit supply and pastoral care to the Gayville/Volin UMC. I do some pulpit supply in other churches. I am a board member for the Sunnycrest Retirement Village in Sioux Falls. I am a Spiritual Advisor at the Keystone Treatment Center in Canton, SD.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. GARY RAE - Retired United Methodist Pastor

Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Civil Air Patrol

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed: 0

Baptisms Administered: 0

Funerals Shared: 1

I continue to be an active Wing Chaplain in the USAF Aux. Civil Air Patrol. It is essentially my parish. I do some limited hospital calling and pastoral care for some. I have also contributed to some Lenten and Advent Devotions and study groups in a couple different churches. We worship online and in person in several churches which we support with our prayers and tithes.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. GAIL SHLANTA PEASLEY

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

I am fully retired. As a resident of Trail Ridge Retirement Community, I have just completed four years on the Spiritual Life Committee (serving as chairman for the past three years). My husband and I attend church regularly—usually in person. My son passed away February 2022. Others in family are well.

TO: ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM: THE REV. GERALD STOLP

RE: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Pastoral Acts: (to date---)

Number of Marriages Performed:	0
Baptisms Administered:	0
Funerals Officiated:	2

Comments: Second heart attack on June 23, 2023.

Gerald A. Stolp

**CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES**

Asbury United Methodist Church

November 28, 2022

Asbury's All-Church Conference, led by District Superintendent Rebecca Trefz, was held on Sunday, November 28, 2022 at Asbury United Methodist Church. The All-Church Conference was also livestreamed on Asbury's Facebook campus.

Those in attendance in-person: Don Baird, Trudy Baird, Jean Beddow, Joy Boyer, Matt Boyer, Rogene Brown, JoJean Callison, Jeff Easter, Bill Gran, Nathan Grau, Jim Gray, Cindy Heidelberger, Allen Herrboldt, Marilyn Herrboldt, Morgan Mundt, Bobbie Nesheim, Dale Nesheim, Dawn Rice, Greg Richards, Elaine Roberts, Barb Roozen, Paul Zeeb

Staff: Michelle Baird, Julie LeVan, Matt Morrison, Kip Roozen, Sarah Wagenaar

Those in attendance online: Ladene Bachtell, Sarah Burdick, Jill Easter, Dorine Gosmire, Nikki Grau, Eric Grinager, Mary Johnson, Shirley Leat, Bev McDowell, Randy Micka, Lorie Miller, Bruce Millikan, Julie Ostroot, Gary Rae, Bob Ruedebusch, Sandra Thorn, Marlys Vant Hul, Mary Wallinga

Special Guest: Rev. Rebecca Trefz

Welcome by Rev. Rebecca Trefz and call to order. Rebecca lead a devotion on Luke 24:13-35 The Road to Emmaus. There was discussion around the tables focusing on the following questions: Who, in your community, is God calling you to walk beside? Where have you seen God at work in your life/church/community in the past year? How do you need to run and tell people Jesus is alive?

Rebecca gave a Dakotas Conference update:

- There have been listening sessions for vision and values of the Conference. The topics most brought up are Values, Jesus and Connection.
- The Dakotas Conference has a new Bishop, Lanette Plambeck, who will start on January 1, 2023. The Conference also has a new Treasurer.
- General Conference has been postponed until 2024. 18 churches have chosen to disaffiliate from the Dakotas Conference. Some churches are in the discernment process.
- Oasis Churches: Churches are invited to be a place of spiritual care for those who do not want to leave the denomination but their church chose to disaffiliate. This may be a temporary, long term, or a virtual solution for some churches. The Oasis churches

might be a landing space until some areas are able to build a new United Methodist Church in the community. Oasis Churches can also provide technology, online services, funerals, bible study online, etc.

Retired Rev. Howard Grinager led the business meeting.

- Nominations of Leadership: Sadie Grau should be added to Children’s Ministry Team. Barb Schlenker should be added to Staff Parish Relations Committee.
- Membership Report: Vote passed to remove inactive members (under the heading For Administrative Council Action) listed on page 45 of the 2022 Charge Conference Book.
- Pastor’s Compensation Package: Vote passed to approve compensation for Pastor Kip and Pastor Matt. Pastor Kip base salary of \$66,521.00 and housing exclusion of \$10,000.00. Pastor Matt base salary of \$47,761.32 and housing exclusion of \$8,000.00
- Candidate for Ministry: Vote passed to approve Cindy Heidelberger to further her education toward Deaconship.
- Budget Report: The budget will be approved by Asbury’s Administrative Council.
- Building Insurance: The building insurance is up to date.
- Financial Audit: Howard encouraged Asbury to do a financial audit, it should be done every couple years.

Howard closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Baird and Morgan Mundt

Asbury United Methodist Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of October 31, 2023  
Cash Basis

	<u>Oct 31,23</u>	<u>Oct 31,22</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
1st Premier - Main	111,848.33	152,411.19	-40,562.86
1st Premier - Memorials	16,248.55	10,308.27	5,940.28
1st Premier - FIA	1,251.71	1,701.71	-450.00
1st Premier - Hyvee	<u>5,697.02</u>	<u>4,682.02</u>	<u>1,015.00</u>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<u>135,045.61</u>	<u>169,103.19</u>	<u>-34,057.58</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>135,045.61</u>	<u>169,103.19</u>	<u>-34,057.58</u>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>135,045.61</u>	<u>169,103.19</u>	<u>-34,057.58</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>2,312,045.70</u>	<u>2,312,045.70</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>2,447,091.31</u></b>	<b><u>2,481,148.89</u></b>	<b><u>-34,057.58</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	1,256.52	1,086.32	170.20
<b>Direct Deposit Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Accrued Interest</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>First Premier LOC</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	1,256.52	1,086.32	170.20
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,256.52	1,086.32	170.20
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>2,445,834.79</u>	<u>2,480,062.57</u>	<u>-34,227.78</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>2,447,091.31</u></b>	<b><u>2,481,148.89</u></b>	<b><u>-34,057.58</u></b>



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHARGE CONFERENCE

ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

**Asbury United Methodist Church**

**2024 Budget**

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>YTD 10/31 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
Administration	10,972.00	11,096.19	11,595.00
Communications	3,755.00	1,890.00	3,837.00
Conference	132,651.00	102,264.50	132,500.00
Education	5,800.00	3,877.76	5,750.00
Youth Ministry	5,000.00	1,876.25	10,000.00
Finance	3,500.00	4,082.87	4,500.00
Membership Care/Church Growth	4,925.00	4,325.72	5,300.00
Missions	8,500.00	8,166.60	8,500.00
Staff/Parish Relations	282,855.98	220,027.72	333,383.00
Technology	3,800.00	1,811.01	3,000.00
Trustees	85,713.00	95,837.53	86,705.00
Worship	7,200.00	3,805.91	7,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>554,671.98</b>	<b>459,062.06</b>	<b>612,570.00</b>

**Projected Income for 2024**

PLEDGED (Anticipated)	449,072.80	357,091.17	429,583.60
ESTIMATED			
Unpledged Offerings	45,375.00	45,375.00	65,420.00
Loose Offerings	3,000.00	1,842.86	3,000.00
Program Ministry Gifts - Missions	5,000.00	6,919.17	5,000.00
Hall Use	-	2,331.31	-
Unfunded Faith Income	52,224.18	29,136.50	109,566.40
Conference Rebate	-	-	-
TOTAL ESTIMATED	105,599.18	85,604.84	182,986.40
<b>BUDGET INCOME TOAL</b>	<b>554,671.98</b>	<b>442,696.01</b>	<b>612,570.00</b>