

Additional Annual Conference Information

Bismarck, ND: The 26th session of the Dakotas Annual Conference was held June 6-8, 2019, at the Bismarck Event Center in Bismarck, North Dakota. More than 500 attendees, consisting of voting members and guests, considered various items of business including a resolution related to LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) persons.

Richard Wahlstrom, a member of Canyon Lake United Methodist Church in Rapid City, South Dakota, brought forth a resolution to eliminate discriminatory language, restrictions, and penalties in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons. Voting members of the 2019 Dakotas Annual Conference affirmed the resolution by a vote of 220 to 136. The resolution states:

We the members of the Dakotas Annual Conference, come together today in love with God and each other. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to embrace diversity and differences of opinion, while liberating individual members to be fully themselves before God.

With that in mind:

1. *We affirm the sacred worth of all persons, including our LGBTQ siblings, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry with them. And therefore,*
2. *We will work to eliminate all discriminatory language, restrictions, and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons.*



Evergreen has partnered with Spirit Lake Ministry (SLM) in the past. SLM is a United Methodist ministry (and new church start) whose mission statement is: *Walking together, sharing the love of Jesus Christ, united in our faith journey with the peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation.*

The Spirit Lake Ministry was established in North Central ND in 2006 and operates in partnership with the peoples of the Dakota Tribe and the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Their mission is to provide services to, and with, the Dakota peoples in mercy, justice, and ministry.

Recently, SLM co-directors Mike and Libby Flowers reached out to Evergreen seeking assistance with hiring a part time children and youth coordinator. They even have someone willing to take on this role for as little as \$20,000/year (plus housing)! They need help funding that, though: could you help out?



Pastor Jen has more information about this opportunity to give and partner with this incredible organization. Contact her — or be in touch directly with SML — for more information.

Youth Mission Trip

Brianna Davis and Rylan Harty will be joining youth from across the Dakotas as part of the Youth Mission Trip to Kansas City, MO July 8-14.

They will be part of the Urban Plunge mission and service experience in Kansas City, where they will spread the Word of God, and the love of Jesus by serving Kansas City for the first three days of the trip, July 8-10, 2019. Youth will experience new cultures, work with the homeless and those in need, discover the ability to serve others outside their comfort zone, discover God’s call for their life, and have life-changing impact within local communities. **YOUTH 2019—Love Well** is for all United Methodist Youth, grades 6-12.

YOUTH 2019 is happening the second part of the week, July 10-14 at the Kansas City Convention Center. It is THE national gathering for United Methodist Youth. YOUTH 2019 will provide youth with chances to connect with each other, denominational leaders, and connectional agencies to help them discover the wide variety of ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Use this calendar as a guide to hold our youth mission trip in continual prayer.						
7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11	7/12	7/13
<p>Travel Day! Load buses and leave for Kansas City.</p> <p>Pray for safe travels, and for growing friendships & fellowship. Thanks for William Jewell College and their hospitality.</p>	<p>Mission Day! We will be working with Urban Plunge in different groups all around KC.</p> <p>Pray for open hands and hearts as we serve God’s people. Thanks for Liberty UMC for hosting our lunch making.</p>	<p>Mission Day & Fun Outing! New opportunities for everyone in service today, & a fun evening at Worlds of Fun theme park.</p> <p>Pray that God will fill us with humility, compassion, self-emptying, respect and dignity as we serve.</p>	<p>Mission Day & the start of Youth 19!</p> <p>Pray that God will work in us as we serve others and join in worship with thousands of other United Methodist Youth.</p>	<p>Youth 19! We will spend all day in workshops, small groups, teaching times and worship.</p> <p>Pray for safety and for new and deepening faith connections.</p>	<p>Youth 19! Another full day at Youth 19 filled with learning and worship.</p> <p>Pray for: strength, patience, & continued faith growth as we listen to speakers from around the country.</p>	<p>Youth 19! Service Day! In addition to workshops & worship, we will be doing service projects at Youth 19.</p> <p>Pray for: all those who will be touched by our service and for tangible God moments.</p>
7/14		7/15			<p>The Group from Wahpeton Evergreen:</p> <p>Brianna Davis Rylan Harty</p>	
<p>Travel Day! Pray for safe travels as we head home and arrive back in Fargo late tonight.</p> <p>Pray for: All adults and youth as we travel back...it’s a long ride in a</p>		<p>Pray for new beginnings and new relationships as we go on with our daily lives, but as changed people. May we feel connected to God and each other in a deeper way.</p>				