



Ron Wright Photo

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Dakota Messenger

Kingly Power

Neil Biloff, President



During the quinquennial Dakota Conference constituency session in June, the term *Kingly Power* was used in reference to proposed changes to the Dakota Conference Constitution - changes that deleted wording handed down over the years to each local conference and union by the General Conference in what is commonly called the GC Model Constitution. The wording, in effect, limited local conference autonomy over its future. It was fascinating to hear the term *Kingly Power* used in reference to the local conference for trying to make those changes since the goal of the adjustments are meant to give more voice to members in the Dakotas.

Yes, the changes were voted overwhelmingly and are now part of the Dakota Conference Constitution, but the struggle for how to govern God’s church is not over and not new. In 1903, Ellen White was in the midst of such conflict when she wrote, “There is need of a most earnest, thorough work to be carried forward now in all our churches. We are now to understand whether all our printing plants and all our sanitariums are to be under the control of the General Conference. I answer, ‘Nay.’ It has been a necessity to organize union conferences, that the General Conference shall not exercise dictation over all the separate conferences.” The reason for Mrs. White’s comments concerned governance. Would this fledgling church, started in the 1800s, have a protestant governing mindset or would it be more papal/hierarchical with all authority resting at the top?

As we read our early church history, it becomes apparent how important different levels of the church have become for the advancement of God’s work today. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown. The world church membership has its greatest and loudest voice at the local conference level and the least at the General Conference. Peoples’ voices must be heard so local ministries have a change to succeed and meet the needs in their part of the world.

In 1903 Ellen White also stated, “There should be no Jerusalem centers...for we are just as much under the control of God in one part of His vineyard as in another.” Jesus is the head of our church. What a blessing to know that we may come to Him to lead the Dakota Conference into the future with the promise that the Holy Spirit will be poured out without measure.

Treasurer's Remarks

Mark Seibold, VP of Finance

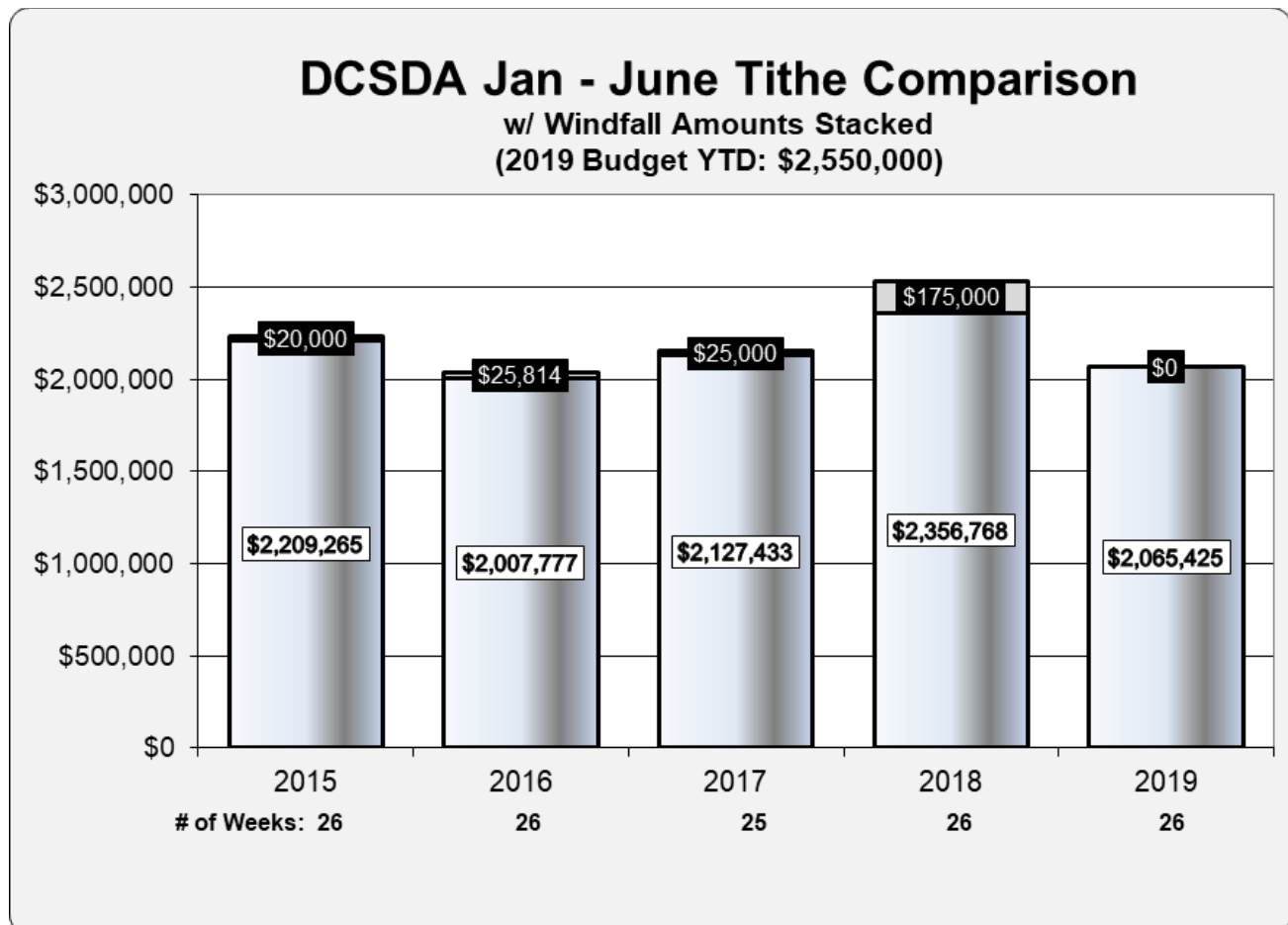
Like people, organizations go through phases in their lives. In a conference like ours, such variations are tied to several factors, including the economy, leadership changes and generational changes. As a member in the Dakota Conference for the majority of my life, I've seen the cycles just as many of you have. Most of our conference financial variations are related to the economy, though we've also seen a slow decline in support from younger generations in recent years – an unfortunate reality for most religious organizations across North America.



Our tithe budgets are based on historical giving, but with allowances made for known or reasonably expected changes, such as past “windfall” gifts (larger donations designated as tithe). The final budget is around 95% of the previous year. As seen in the graph, Dakota Conference is currently running below income budget, as well as behind three of the past four years through June 2019.

As stewardship is an important value in church operation, we have made expenditure adjustments where possible to help offset the deficit, but rising costs limit our ability to totally erase this kind of shortfall. Your treasury office continues to seek savings where we can while still maintaining our mission – all part of the “ebb and flow” of a conference.

Please keep Dakota Conference in your prayers as well as in your tithing and donation planning.



Let the Son Shine In

Excitement is in the air as staff and students prepare for the reopening of an elementary school in Minot with the first day of classes August 23, 2019. The Ella Seifert Elementary School closed in 1986 amid a decline in registration. It is set to reopen amid humble beginnings with four registered students and one teacher in a multi-grade classroom.

Improvements include updating the Internet capacity of the church building where SonShine Elementary shares the dual-purpose classroom with the youth Bible study class and the Minot Adventurer Club. The benefit is pedestrian traffic across the campus seven days a week, instead of just two.

Ella Seifert Elementary School served Minot for many years before closing in the mid-eighties during one of the most challenging times for agriculture since the depression era. The school has blown off the dust, and ordered next generation textbooks and is set to reopen as SonShine Elementary ~ *Let the Son shine in!*

This slogan is what has motivated us to plan for opening an elementary school among the sixth largest population center of North and South Dakota.

"This is our evangelism plan," explains Barry St. Clair, pastor of the Minot and Bottineau Seventh-day Adventist Churches. "We want to reach young people for eternity while they are most reachable."

SonShine Elementary is honored to join the sisterhood of schools in Dakota Conference, including seven other elementary schools, and Dakota Adventist Academy, a secondary boarding school located outside of Bismarck, North Dakota.

The head teacher, Tami Todd, comes to us with years of teaching experience. Her specialty is multi-grade, one teacher classrooms. The benefit of small class sizes and multi-grade levels is well documented.

Pastor Barry St. Clair, Minot/Bottineau

"I am excited to be at the start of a school," says Todd.

Todd's interests include her pets: a horse, a golden retriever and two house cats.

SonShine Elementary has conducted a couple of fundraisers including a plant sale this spring, and selling Foxy's Super Sweet Corn. Foxy and his family operate a farm in North Dakota near Mohall and have been growing sweet corn for several years. They have grown the corn, and now the school has the opportunity to sell it to support the scholarship program for families who desire an Adventist® Education - pursuing *A Journey to Excellence*. You can follow Foxy on Facebook. Foxy looks forward to entering first grade at SonShine Elementary next fall.



Academy Happenings

Tracy Peterson, DAA Recruiter

Summer is a busy time in everyone's life. There are family vacations, Vacation Bible Schools, summer camps, swimming lessons...the list goes on! But that busyness adds opportunities to share and emphasize God's love to our youth.

It is possible that you have heard this before, but like a good motivational quote, it needs to be put up again. **Our youth are our future so we need to continually connect them to God.** As Christians we have this honor to open minds to God and share with every young person we contact.



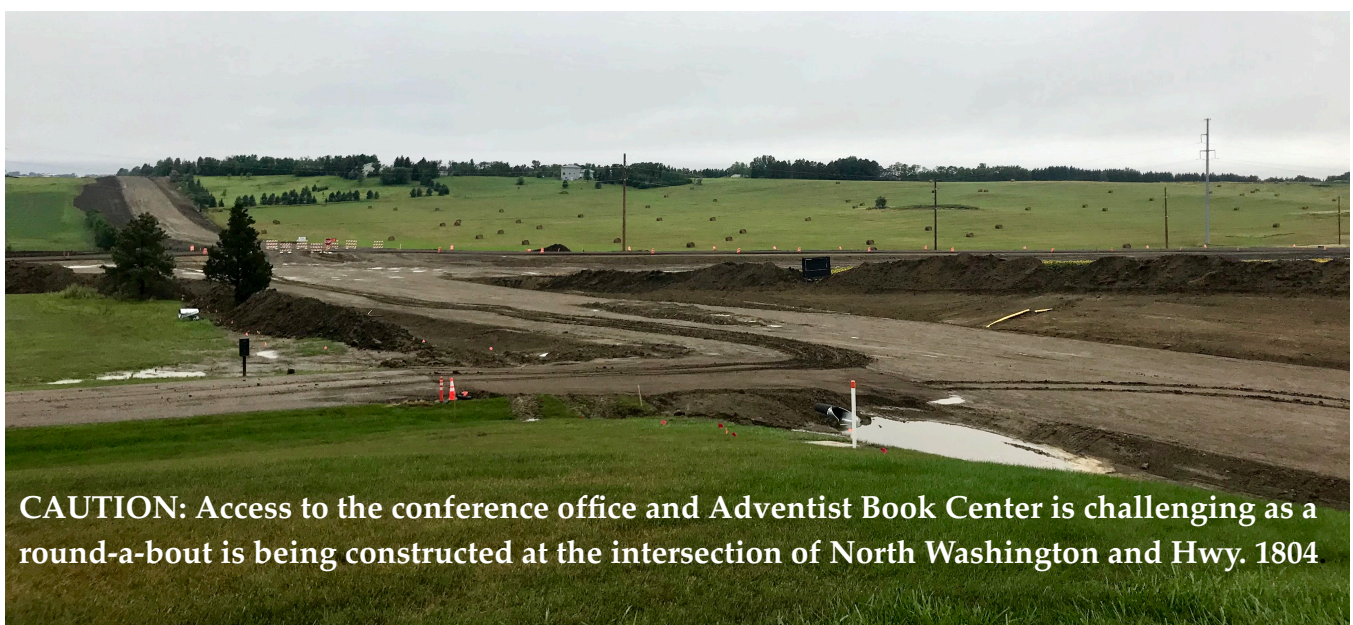
This year at least 100 young people attended camps at Flag Mountain and Northern Lights. That is 100+ youth God placed in someone's path with whom to share His love. The Camp Staff take that privilege seriously and share their walk with God with these young campers.

The Dakota Conference has eight elementary schools. Every day when those children come to school they hear that God loves them. They have teachers who pray for them and show a loving, accepting Christ-like spirit.

Dakota Adventist Academy has as a tag line, *Building Friendships for Eternity*. The staff and teachers are ambassadors for Christ. Where else will you find a discussion of God's love in the middle of Auto Class? It is not just at worship where God is uplifted; He is discussed whenever and wherever the need arises.

Oshkosh Camporee is happening as of this writing. Pathfinders from around the world are gathering to meet others who share their beliefs. Youth and adults alike will enjoy fellowship and fun. *Chosen* is the theme; God chooses all of us because we are special to him.

Take a moment to help a young person build a connection with God. Expect pastors, teachers and friends to share positive experiences, which molded them into the people they have become. Above all, PRAY for our young people!



CAUTION: Access to the conference office and Adventist Book Center is challenging as a round-a-bout is being constructed at the intersection of North Washington and Hwy. 1804.

Pastors/Teachers/CO Staff on the Move



Elder Peter & Ella Simpson have moved from Williston/Watford City to the Jamestown/New Home/Cleveland District.

Pastor Jason Woll will be joining Elder Harold Chin in the Mandan District.



Elder Sarel & Ronica Smit will add Bowdon Country to their current Manfred/Harvey District.

Justin Walker, a current student at the seminary at Andrews University, has been hired and will graduate in one year.

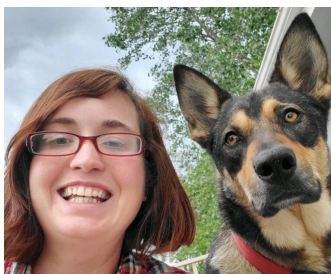


David Ballesteros is DAA's new music teacher transferring from Great Lakes Academy in Michigan. He is originally from Colombia, South America and has also taught at Maplewood Adventist Academy

in Hutchinson, MN.



Greg Ratter is a student teacher from Union College. He graduated from Maplewood Academy and is from Minnesota. He will also be helping in the boys' dorm and assisting current teachers Shannon Brown and Jared Gibson with history and Bible.



Lana Miller is the new assistant girls' dean and assistant cook. She comes from DayStar Adventist Academy in Castle Valley, UT.

Tami Todd is the teacher for the recently reopened Minot SonShine Adventist Elementary formerly known as the Ella Seifert Adventist Elementary School in Minot, ND. Todd's specialty is multi-grade, one teacher classrooms.



Loren and Sue Nelson have accepted positions in the Wisconsin Conference. Loren will be pastoring the Madison East church and Sue will be the education superintendent.

Alumni Weekend

October 4 - 5, 2019

**Dakota Adventist
Academy**

PVA



**1902 - 1965
Plainview Adventist
Academy**

SRA



**1903 - 1977
Sheyenne River
Adventist Academy**

DAA



**1977 - Current
Dakota Adventist
Academy**

Creation Health Highlighted

Lynell LaMountain, director of Health Ministries for the Southern Union Conference, presented an introduction to and foundation for presenting Creation Health as respectful strategy for community fellowship. These meetings were held July 29 – 31, 2019 at the annual Pastors’ Retreat held at Northern Lights Camp bordering Lake Metigoshe along the Canadian border.

Creation culture used as a basis for re-creation health has provided stimulating conversation and consideration among Dakota Conference pastors. The scientific research, which supports the Creation Health program, provides surprising, even shocking, statistics for sharing:

- Loneliness increases premature death by 500%;
- Nutrition constitutes 80% of a person’s health;
- Brain activity decreases 1% per year after age 65 if a person is inactive;
- Fewer than 6 hours of sleep per night, or more than 9, decreases life expectancy by 9 years;
- Losing 2 hours of sleep from 10 pm to 3 am reduces immunity by 50%;
- Losing 2 hours of sleep from 3 am to 7 am reduces immunity by 30%;
- Drinking sufficient water reduces the risk of 3 of 4 cancers;
- A positive outlook decreases risk of early death by 50%;
- Children laugh 400 times / day; adults laugh 15 times / day.



Attendees from the conference have said:

- I like how down-to-earth the presentations are, how candid Lynell is, speaking on the different topics. I’m looking forward to the conclusion as he discusses the Outlook.
- It is a good, well-balanced plan. I think it is an easy bridge between the church and the community. He has supplied a lot of information to teach that method.
- I thought it was really refreshing.
- It’s a good program. The thing is, it is cost effective.
- I have really enjoyed Creation Health. I think it has all the components we need to give attention to in our own lives.

31st Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat



October 25 - 27, 2019

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan, ND

Register online at dakotaadventist.org or mail to:

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street

Bismarck, ND 58503

Featured Speaker: Linda Shelton

Early Bird Session at 3 pm: Painting with Kathy - \$20

Registration at 4 pm

Sabbath Devotional at 9 am

Sunday Devotional at 9 am

Sunday Close at 11:30 am

ACS Federation Meetings

September 15	Southeast ACS Federation Meeting	Mitchell, SD	10 am
September 16	Northeast ACS Federation Meeting	Lehr, ND	10 am
September 17	Southwest ACS Federation Meeting	Rapid City, SD	10 am
September 18	Northwest ACS Federation Meeting	Williston, ND	10 am

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.dakotaadventist.org



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<p>Aug</p> <p>12 - 18 Pathfinder Camporee - WI</p> <p>18 DAA Registration</p> <p>20 First Day Elementary School</p> <p>21 - 25 DAA Camp Week</p> <p>24 Spiritual Feast Weekend - FMC</p> <p>25 K-12 Meeting - CO 10 am</p> <p>Sep</p> <p>02 Labor Day/Office Closed</p> <p>05 - 08 MAUC Academy Leadership Conf - FMC</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p>08 Executive Committee - CO 10 am</p> <p>15 - 18 ACS Federation Meetings</p> <p>17 Outdoor School - FMC</p> <p>28 Endowment Sabbath</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>04 - 05 DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend - DAA</p> <p>06 K-12 Meeting - CO 10 am</p> <p>06 - 08 New in Ministry Training - DAA</p> <p>10 - 16 GC Fall Council - MD</p> <p>19 SC Regional - Aberdeen, SD</p> <p>25 - 27 Women's Retreat - Mandan, ND</p>
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