



Dakota Messenger

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Dakota Does

Mark R. Weir, President



Over the past several months I have noticed something special here in our Conference. There is something extraordinary about the perspectives and attitudes I am sensing among the people with whom I interact. Upon reflection, I have come up with a term that resonates with me - "Dakota Does"!

The people of Dakota have always had a reputation for their pragmatism, resourcefulness, and dedication. They have endured difficulties, overcome obstacles, and yet have "kept on keeping on". Why? Because Dakota Does - and this has been evidenced in some unique ways.

First, consider Dakota education. Dakota Adventist Academy was the only Adventist academy to reopen last March. While this pandemic has altered many aspects of society with its restrictions and masks and many unknowns, our Academy teachers were able to hold in-person classes for the students who chose to return and attend. In addition, all of our elementary schools opened their doors last fall. There were contingency plans prepared with protocols in place. Teachers have been able to minister to all of our students face-to-face.

Second, our camp program was a tremendous success. Dakota was one of the few Adventist summer camp programs to operate last summer, and the only one in Mid-America Union. Care, caution, health, and safety were high priorities, and Dakota camps provided rewarding experiences for our youth. Dakota Does!

In January we were the only Conference in the Union able to gather all of our pastors together for a time of interaction and instruction. I found this incredibly valuable since I had just begun my new role as president. It was a tremendous benefit to hear from and interact with this fine group of people. Just a few months later, the largest gathering of Dakota men on record descended upon Medora for our Men's Retreat. Dakota Does!

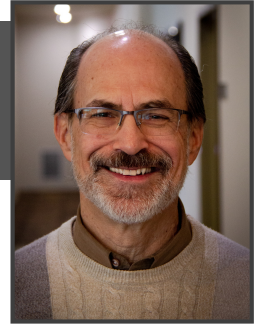
Last summer we held an abbreviated Campmeeting which was well received. I assure you that we are planning to assemble together again this June! Speakers and musicians are scheduled and excited to come and share. Departments are staffed and anticipate creating positive memories. But best of all, many people seem eager to fellowship and interact once again. Dakota Does!

What is key to all this? We Dakotans (and even though I have only been here 18 months I see myself as a part of this wonderful Conference family) are a people determined to continue moving forward regardless of obstacles or difficulties. We are a people who look beyond the current realities and hope and plan for a better tomorrow. We Dakotans are a people who find a way forward. We are a people of HOPE - thus the theme of this year's Campmeeting. HOPE. We will not be deterred.

I invite all of you to join us this June 9-12 to experience the "Dakota Does" reality firsthand! You will be thankful you did.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Seibold, VP of Finance



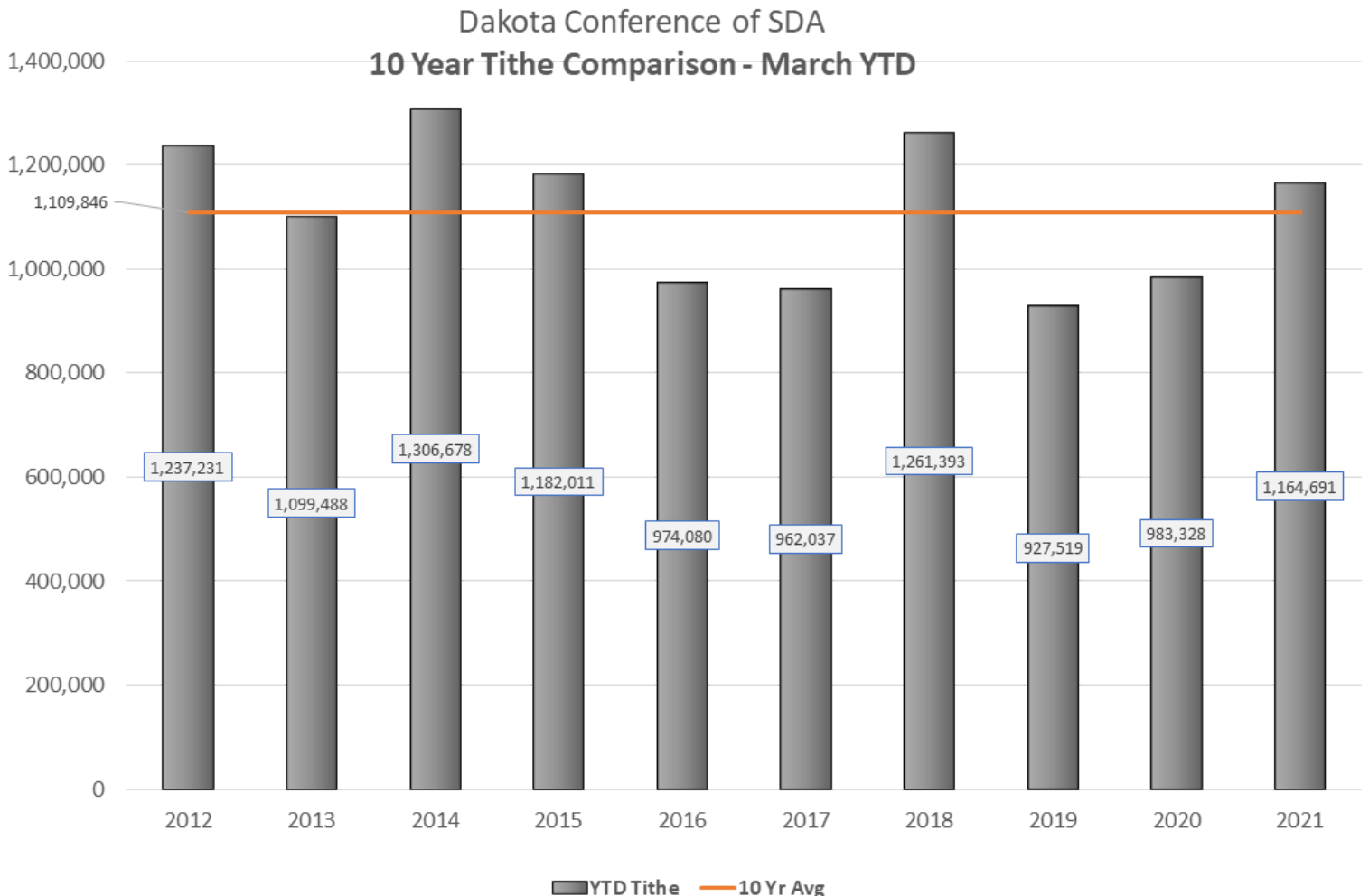
“Life isn’t about the number of ups and downs that you experience, but how you deal with them.” - Frank Sonnenberg

The last few years have certainly provided a variety of fiscal “ups and downs” for Dakota Conference. After a challenging 2019, 2020 donations ended strong with December as the best tithe month in conference history. Combined with a government payroll grant and lower expenses in payroll and medical, this allowed the conference to finish 2020 in the black for the first time in several years.

First quarter 2021 has also started strong, running above the ten-year average (see chart) as well as budgeted tithe. This was the result of both broadly increased giving as well as a few notable donations.

We appreciate those who keep Dakota Conference not only in their prayers, but in their giving plans as well. We understand the economic challenges many have endured the last couple of years, but also recognize that so many of our members - as well as out-of-conference donors - will come through for the mission as able and as divinely-inspired.

To all of you we simply say “Thank You” for your generous response.



Hats Off to All Teachers

Mark Piotrowski, VP Administration & Education Superintendent



"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." - Psalm 32:8

Teaching is a necessary and indispensable part of life. We come into this world deprived and ignorant and we must be taught throughout our life's journey. Language proficiency, motor skills, cultural norms, social customs, manners, moral values - all these and more are the product of the learning process. Several years ago, Harvard and Columbia University researchers published a study which showed the long-lasting impact a fourth-grade teacher had on students. According to the study, a good fourth-grade teacher makes students more likely to go onto college, make better decisions about their future and earn on average \$50,000 more over their lifetime (\$700,000 per class). The researchers were interested in the economic impact educators have on the lives of students. That's right: A great teacher is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to each year's students, just in the extra income they will earn. But that is looking at education through a mere secular lens. Since teaching is a key element in to our successful development and transformation, it is not surprising that the Bible has much to say about teaching.

TEACHERS ARE SOME OF THE MOST
selfless, giving, caring individuals
IN OUR WORLD.

Teaching is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift...is teaching, then teach" (Romans 12:6-7). Teaching is a requirement for pastors: "Now the overseer is to be...able to teach" (1 Timothy 3:2; cf. 2 Timothy 2:24). Teaching was also an integral part of the work of an apostle

(Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:1). Jesus, of course, is the greatest teacher, and He was often referred to as "Rabbi" or "Teacher" during His earthly ministry (e.g., Luke 13:10; John 1:38; 3:2).

What is the value of a Christian teacher who exemplifies the virtues of faith and Christ's character in the classroom? Only in eternity will the results be fully evident. We read from the inspired pen: "Only by such communion - the communion of mind with mind and heart with heart, of the human with the divine - can be communicated that vitalizing energy which it is the work of true education to impart," *Education*, p. 84. Day after day our educators pour themselves sacrificially into the lives of their students. They are making an impact in Christian and public schools as well as in the lives of homeschoolers.

Teachers are some of the most selfless, giving, caring individuals in our world. Their highest goals and ambitions are in seeing their students succeed in life and many of us have our teachers to thank for where we are. Yet, teachers often face discouragement and feelings of defeat.

This year we would like to express a special thanks to educators. These heroes have worked under the most unusual of circumstances as our world was plunged into a global crisis. More than this event, they have had to continue with their professional development, become proficient with online teaching technology, manage family crises within the school while taking care of their own family needs, promote their schools, be involved in their churches, and stay up late into the night with grading and preparation of lessons. The list goes on and on. So as we will be soon closing the school year off with graduations and promotions to the next grade level, we take this time to acknowledge and honor all teachers in our ranks. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for the unique role they play in our communities.



Dakota Summer Camps

Ricky & Brooke Melendez, Youth and Young Adult Directors



Hello Dakota Family!

Camp is right around the corner and we can't wait to see all of your kiddos present and accounted for! Summer camp is one of, if not, the best ministry our denomination has for youth. We want every child in the Dakota Conference to have the opportunity to attend such a life-changing event. Please let us know if you need help registering or help to afford camp by emailing us at:

dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com .

Here are some important dates and nuggets of information you need to know as the summer draws near:

- 1.Registration is still open! Please continue to register your children for camp!
- 2.Registration deadline is June 9, 2021, at 11:59 pm for ALL camps. Please make sure your campers are registered by then!
- 3.We are expecting to have a waitlist for camp this year. The sooner you register, the better the odds your child will attend camp this year.
- 4.Flag Mountain Camp and Northern Lights Camp dates and prices are posted on the graphic below.



W O N D E R 2 0 2 1

FLAG MOUNTAIN

cub camp, ages 8-10 | June 16-20 | \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 | June 20-27 | \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 | June 27-July 4 | \$275

NORTHERN LIGHTS

cub camp, ages 8-10 | July 14-18 | \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 | July 18-25 | \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 | July 25-Aug 1 | \$275
family camp | Aug 5-8 | price varies per family



20
21

DIRT KICKER CHARITY RUN

RUN
EVENT

ENTRANCE FEE \$40
UNDER 18 \$20

JUNE 13, 2021
8 AM

REGISTER AT WWW.DIRTKICKERRUN.COM

VISIT WWW.DIRTKICKERRUN.COM FOR MORE INFO



2021 Dakota Campmeeting Reservation

June 9-12, 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Names of people sharing your room: _____

Total number of mattresses needed: _____

**Make checks payable to "Dakota Conference".
Send full payment with reservation to Dakota Conference.
Full time reservations take precedence over daily stays.
Reservations may be made online: www.dakotaadventist.org**

**Dorm Room - standard room, includes beds/mattresses only.
Linens, towels, and personal toiletries are NOT provided.**

Dorm Room - Full Time: \$100/week

Dorm Room - Daily: \$35/day

Refrigerator - \$25 (upon availability)

Campground with hook-up - RV/Campers/Tents

Campground - Full Time: \$50/week

Campground - Daily: \$18/day

Campground without hook-up - Tents/Self-Contained RVs

Campground - \$10/week

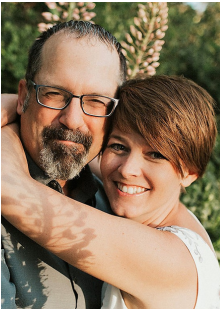
Dakota Campmeeting 2021

Day / Time	Wednesday - 9th	Thursday - 10th	Friday - 11th	Sabbath - 12th
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast Served in Cafeteria			
8:30 - 9:45		Ed Dickerson	Elder Ron Carlson	9:15 - 10:45 Sabbath School 10:50 - 12:20 Church Service Dr. Chris Holland
9:45 - 10:00	15-Minute Break			
10:00 - 11:15		Pr. Richie & Timi Brower	Ed Dickerson	
11:15 - 11:30	15-Minute Break			
11:30 - 12:40		Elder Ron Carlson	Pr. Richie & Timi Brower	
12:30 - 1:30	Check-in Begins	Lunch Served in Cafeteria		
2:00 - 3:15		Ed Dickerson	Elder Ron Carlson	3:00 - 5:00 Round Table Richie Brower, Timi Brower, Ron Carlson, Ed Dickerson, Chris Holland, Mark Piotrowski, Facilitator, Mark Weir
3:15 - 3:30	15-Minute Break			
3:30 - 4:15		Pr. Richie & Timi Brower	Dr. Mark Piotrowski	
4:15 - 5:30	Free Time			
5:30 - 6:15	Supper Served in Cafeteria			
7:00 - 8:30	Dr. Chris Holland	Dr. Chris Holland	Dr. Chris Holland	7:00 - 9:30 Hall of Remembrance Music Concert: The Emmanuel Quartet Closing Remarks
8:30 - 9:30	Fellowship			
Sabbath Schedule Differs; Sundown is 9:37; ABC opens 9:45				
Kindergarten, 0-5 years Primary, 6-9 years Juniors, 10-12 years Youth, 13-17 years Young Adults, 18-30 years* (*runs Fri evening - Sabbath)		Brienne Engelhart Roy Morris Darrel Lindensmith David Werner Brooke & Ricky Melendez		

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING IF STAYING IN THE DORM:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bedding for twin bed(s) • mattress pad • pillows • bath / hand towels • washcloths • shower caddy / mat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air freshener • hand soap • garbage bin / bags • fan(s) • toiletries • ear plugs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clothes hangers • night light • tissues (toilet paper provided) • iron • disinfectant wipes • drinking water / cup |
|--|---|---|

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



PR. RICHIE & TIMI BROWER

With pastoral and counseling backgrounds, Richie and Timi's credentials come as much from their stories as their schooling - their marriage started coming apart on their honeymoon. Heartache has made them passionate about restoration through connection. Having walked the path of healing for many years now, they also know what it is to live with daily connection that creates stability and joy. The Browsers believe that God's plan for every person in marriage is noble, nurturing, safe, and healing. The couple travel nationally and share their Marriage Conversion Seminar.



ELDER RON CARLSON

Born in Minnesota, Ron Carlson is president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, serving in this capacity since 2006. He and his wife, Sue, are both graduates of Union College and have served in pastoral ministry in the conferences of Dakota, Iowa-Missouri, and Northern California. The couple have four married children and seven grandchildren. Ron loves to share Jesus through preaching. He also enjoys biking, doing home projects, and canoeing in the wilderness regions of northern Minnesota.



ED DICKERSON

Ed has published three books, scores of articles, was singled out for recognition by the Governor of his state, and taught at every level from grade school to grad school. Audiences on three continents have found he speaks with wit, warmth, and wisdom. He holds a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Andrews University. He conducts Bible studies in person and over the internet, and makes a wealth of material available on YouTube and at www.Patreon.com/BibleJourneys. He and wife, Mavis, have three grown children and eight grandchildren.



DR. CHRIS HOLLAND

Pastor Chris Holland is senior evangelist for Hope Channel International and President-elect of the Living Hope School of Evangelism. He previously served as Speaker/Director for It Is Written Canada. In 20 years of ministry he has additionally served as a local pastor, local conference departmental director and for the North American Division. Chris has been involved in media ministry since his early undergraduate years in college where he was involved with both television and radio programs. It is his sincere desire to know Jesus more and to utilize the many media outlets to preach God's word with power. Since their marriage in 1996, Chris and his wife Debbie have served the Lord together and strive to do all that they can to fulfill His commission to take the Gospel to the "ends of the earth".



DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI

Dr. Mark Piotrowski is vice president of administration, human resources director, and education superintendent for the Dakota Conference. He has served as an army chaplain, church pastor, and conference prayer ministries coordinator. Mark and his wife Elbie have two daughters, Cherise and Adeline.



THE EMMANUEL QUARTET

The Emmanuel Quartet is an a cappella gospel quartet from Collegedale, Tennessee. They began in 1989 as Highland Academy Men's Quartet and have toured the United States and internationally. Members include Will Labrenz, Tim Reutebuch, Gary Sewell, and Phillip White.

Dakota Conference

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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



DAKOTA MESSENGER
NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #38
BISMARCK, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

May

- 1 Prayer Conference - DAA
- 6 Dakotans Pray - Zoom (7pm)
- 2-4 New in Ministry for Pastors - Conference Office
- 3-7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 20 Brentwood 8th Grade Graduation (6:30pm)
- 21-22 DAA Graduation Weekend
- 22 Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Graduation (11am)
- 26 Invitation Hill 8th Grade Graduation (6:30pm)
- 26 Hillcrest 8th Grade Graduation (7pm)
- 27 Rapid City 8th Grade Graduation (6pm)
- 29 Sioux Falls 8th Grade Graduation (11am)
- 31 Conference Office Closed - Memorial Day

June

- 3 Dakotans Pray - Zoom (7pm)
- 9-12 Dakota Campmeeting - DAA
- 13 Dirt Kicker Charity Run - DAA
- 14 Conference Office Closed - Recovery Day
- 16-20 Cup Camp (ages 8-10) - Flag Mountain
- 20-27 Junior Camp (ages 11-13) - Flag Mountain
- 27 Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 27-4 Teen Retreat (ages 14-17) - Flag Mountain

July

- 1 Dakotans Pray - Zoom (7pm)
- 5 Conference Office Closed - Independence Day
- 14-18 Cup Camp (ages 8-10) - Northern Lights
- 18-25 Junior Camp (ages 11-13) - Northern Lights
- 25-31 Teen Retreat (ages 14-17) - Northern Lights

President, Evangelism, ASI

Mark Weir

VP of Admin, HR, Education Supt

Mark Piotrowski

Admin Assistant, Receptionist

Rob Carlson

Communication, Education Assistant

Jodi Dossenko

Development, ABC Manager

Lynette Miller

Youth Dir, Camps, Pathfinders, SS

Brooke & Ricky Melendez

VP of Finance

Mark Seibold

Associate Treasurer, Trust Director

Cindy Miller

Treasury Clerk

Judy Weir

Associate Trust Services Director

Charles O'Hare

Trust Services Admin Assist, Conf Clerk

Julie Brude

Maintenance Services

Marlin Miller

Field Officers

Adventist Community Services

Bob Forbes II

Disaster Relief Director

Phyllis Alexander

Men's Ministries Director

Randy Rubbert

Ministerial Director

Merlin Knowles

Prayer Ministries Director

Barry St. Clair

Women's Ministries Director

Paulette Bullinger