

YOUR PARTNER
IN MINISTRY
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



1965-2025

SERVING NEBRASKA FOR 60 YEARS

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A LETTER FROM OUR

Executive Director

In 2025, the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation proudly celebrated 60 years of partnership with United Methodist churches across Nebraska. For six decades, the Foundation has partnered with donors, churches, and leaders to support ministries, nurture future pastors, and strengthen congregations and communities throughout the state.

As we look back on and celebrate the Foundation's 60 years of serving our churches and the Conference, we are so grateful for the partnerships we have forged, and for the trust you have placed in us. It is our hope that you will enjoy reading this Annual Report which highlights some of the ways the Foundation was able to make a difference in its 60th year. As we look to the next sixty years and beyond, our guiding principle remains unchanged, which is to support Nebraska United

Methodist churches and ministries through the development of gifts and the stewardship of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God's work.

Your belief in our mission, and trust you have placed in us, inspires and empowers our Board and Staff to remain dedicated to providing excellence in our services. Whether it be our investment program, gift planning and endowments, scholarships, or our many grant programs, we will always be here to help however we can.

Thank you again for inviting us into your churches and homes, and for letting us walk beside you over the past sixty years. We look forward to continuing to serve as "Your Partner in Ministry" for many years to come.

Blessings,

Marci Logsdon
Executive Director

“*The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation has been an amazing partner in ministry from the very beginning of my journey. As a non-traditional Seminary student, the Foundation was a huge source of scholarship assistance which allowed me to graduate debt-free!*

Having previously been the Pastor in Gibbon, and now in North Platte, and through our partnership with Brady UMC, grants from the Foundation have allowed each church to expand their ministry through purchases of audio/video equipment, playground equipment, and a security system.

The Foundation also manages endowments for these churches so the generosity of members can create a legacy for the next generation.

Now I have the honor of giving back as a Foundation Board Member and Board Secretary. As pastors, churches, and United Methodist members, I encourage you to reach out and see how the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation can be a partner in ministry for you too!”



Rev. Michael Evans

Pastor
North Platte UMC

1965-2025

“*Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you, 6,000 times Thank-you!*
Gothenburg First UMC is overjoyed to be the recipient of one of the
Foundation’s Dare to Dream Grants. What an honor!
But also, what a responsibility!”

Rev. Grace Gichuru
Pastor
First UMC, Gothenburg



In Celebration of 60 Years, the Foundation Awards \$60,000 through Dare to Dream Grants

To mark this milestone anniversary, the Foundation awarded “Dare to Dream” grants designed to inspire bold and creative ministry. Through this initiative, ten churches received \$6,000 grants for innovative, faith-based and community-focused outreach.

Dare to Dream Grant Recipients:

Brock UMC

*Community Food Bank
Development Initiative*

Gering First UMC

Helping Hands Ministry

Gothenburg UMC

Friendship Bingo

Humboldt UMC

Beyond Summer Lunch Club

Kearney First UMC

Faith Builders Mission Group

Omaha Clair Memorial UMC

Nourish & Thrive Ministry

Ord First UMC

Community Food Pantry

Tecumseh First UMC

Hearts in Action Ministry

The Vine UMC, Scottsbluff

Kitchen Upgrades

Tilden Faith UMC

Caring & Sharing Ministry

GERING FIRST UMC

Helping Hands Ministry

The Helping Hands Ministry brings together two vibrant and established ministries – the **Men’s Group** and the **Youth Group** – to serve church members and the wider community in practical, meaningful ways.

Through this partnership, volunteers assist with yard work and seasonal clean-up, snow removal, minor home maintenance and small household tasks.

This ministry not only meets tangible needs but also strengthens relationships across generations within the Gering church family. By uniting the experience of the Men’s Group with the energy and heart of the Youth Group, the Helping Hands ministry provides dependable service while fostering mentorship, fellowship, and shared purpose.

TECUMSEH FIRST UMC

Hearts in Action

Recognizing that meaningful outreach includes more than meeting an individual’s immediate needs, the church also plans to host several community-centered events:

Community Meal Program: Regular meals for seniors and children

Summer Community Concert: A gathering designed to bring neighbors together to enjoy music, fellowship, and a visible presence in the community

Women’s Empowerment Gathering: Encouragement, faith-centered teaching, and practical resources, space for relationship-building and mentorship, inspiration for women to grow spiritually and personally

Community Health Fair: Preventive health screenings, educational resources and wellness information, partnerships with local providers and service organizations

Together, these efforts reflect a holistic vision of ministry – addressing physical needs, strengthening relationships, promoting health and wellness, and creating welcoming spaces where all members of the community can gather, grow, and thrive.





OMAHA CLAIR MEMORIAL UMC Nourish & Thrive Ministry



This project addresses both food insecurity and preventive health needs among underserved residents in the Omaha area by taking a holistic, community-centered approach.

Recognizing that hunger and health are deeply connected, the initiative will integrate:

- Food access through consistent and reliable distribution efforts
- Nutrition education to promote informed, healthy choices
- Hands-on cooking classes that teach practical, affordable meal preparation
- Physical activity opportunities to encourage movement and wellness
- Preventive health screenings, such as blood pressure, glucose, and other basic checks

By combining these services, the project moves beyond emergency food relief to support long-term wellness and sustainability. Participants will not only receive nourishment but also gain knowledge and tools to improve their overall health.

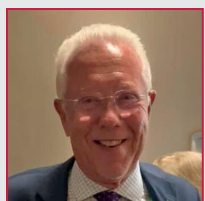
KEARNEY FIRST UMC Faith Builders Mission Group

Many individuals in the Kearney community struggle to remain safely in their own homes after experiencing a fall or a decline in mobility. Limited accessibility often forces difficult decisions about long-term care or relocation – decisions that can be delayed or even prevented with simple, practical modifications.

The mission group seeks to address this need directly by building wheelchair ramps, installing grab bars in bathrooms and entryways, and making home adaptations to improve accessibility and safety.

This ministry is rooted in compassion and practical service. By improving home safety, the risk of further injury is reduced and independence, stability, and peace of mind for individuals and their families is preserved.

Beyond meeting a physical need, the hope is that this initiative will serve as a magnet for new members – especially those who desire to live out their faith through tangible acts of service.



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUR Past Executive Director

“Congratulations to the Foundation staff and Board

as you celebrate the Foundation’s 60th Anniversary. Amidst all you do to help guide and strengthen Nebraska churches in their financial journey, one need look no further than to see that in its 30th year the Foundation distributed \$50,000 in ministry support to churches and the Conference. Fast forwarding to

its 60th year you distributed \$4.1 million for an array of purposes in the form of investment earnings, endowment fund distributions, grant programs, seminary scholarships, donor-advised funds, and such. What you’ve accomplished in the past three decades wasn’t just a dream...it was the Foundation’s vision and a large part of its strategic plan as the 21st century approached.

In addition to the sound financial services you provide, the diligence and dedication with which your staff assists churches in accomplishing their ministry goals and helping church members accomplish what’s in their hearts as relates to creating estate gifts, endowments, and more, your commitment to those you serve is truly a blessing. As such, THANK YOU for all you do...and for doing it so well.”

Jim Heller
Executive Director (1997-2010)
Donor Relations (2011-2014)
Nebraska United Methodist Foundation

2025 MINISTRY
Financial Report

“ We appreciate our Donor Advised Fund at the Foundation for several reasons. We have always contributed to many different non-profit organizations, and the DAF allows us to continue that practice by respecting our wishes. With a comfortable retirement, I have begun the practice of asking all honorarium checks (for guest preaching, funerals, etc.) to be made payable to the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation and added to our Donor Advised Fund account. This removes such gifts from “taxable income” and allows us to “pay it forward.” Thank you, Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, for helping us help others!”



Rev. Lyle & Susan Schoen
 Christ UMC, Lincoln

1965-2025

To the churches, ministries, and individuals who use the Foundation’s services, we would like to thank you for allowing us to serve you. For those who haven’t yet experienced everything we can provide, we would welcome the opportunity to be your partner in ministry.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW & EXISTING ACCOUNTS

New Accounts	\$777,183
Existing Accounts	\$790,951
Total	\$1,568,134

DISTRIBUTIONS



Distributions to Churches and Ministries	\$ 3,256,259
Endowed Grants	\$426,895
Endowed Scholarships	\$43,093
Ministry Grants	\$78,350
60th Anniversary - Dare to Dream Grants	\$60,000
New Start/New Faith Grants	\$112,000
Facilities Upgrade Grants	\$30,836
Donor Advised Grants	\$40,500
Mission Grants	\$4,000
Life Income to Donors (CGA/CRUT)	\$49,269
Total	\$ 4,101,202

TOTAL ASSETS \$66,400,118

Funds without Restrictions	\$4,659,536
Endowment and Designated Funds	\$ 14,050,100
Managed Church and Ministry Funds	\$ 46,336,937
Trust and Gift Annuities	\$171,523
Property and Equipment	\$1,182,022

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation serves Nebraska United Methodist churches, ministries, and individuals through the prudent and successful management of financial gifts. Our goal is to help extend the connection between faith and finances beyond our lifetime.



Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
 100 W Fletcher Ave, Suite 100
 Lincoln, NE 68521-3848
 info@numf.org | www.numf.org |  

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The Mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is to support the ministries of the local church and the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church through the development of gifts and the stewardship of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God’s work.

“After selling several excess lots over a decade ago, Lincoln Aldersgate worked with the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation to invest the proceeds. The earnings from this fund have supported our ongoing building and grounds needs, while a separate long-term investment account with the Foundation continues to strengthen the church’s financial foundation for the future. The Foundation remains a trusted partner in this work, and we are grateful for their ongoing guidance and support.”



Kari Beckenhauer
 Chair, Lasting Legacy Team
 Aldersgate UMC, Lincoln

Foundation Staff

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is honored to serve as a trusted partner to the United Methodist churches, ministries, and individuals of Nebraska. We value the long-standing relationships we have built and the opportunity to walk alongside you in supporting your ministries for generations to come. Through thoughtful investment management and attentive service, we are committed to helping you achieve both your financial and ministry goals.



Marci Logsdon
 Executive Director
 March 2015 - Present
 11 years of service



Sharon Schmidt
 Director of Stewardship
 June 2024 - Present
 2 years of service



Christy Bousquet
 Administrative Assistant
 March 2019 - Present
 7 years of service