

YOUR PARTNER IN MINISTRY

2024 Annual Report



A NOTE FROM THE

Executive Director



Since its inception in 1965, the mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation has been to support the ministries of the local churches and the Great Plains Conference through the development of gifts and stewardship of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God's work. To that end, the Foundation continues to provide education, guidance and financial support to our Nebraska churches and ministries.

In this Annual Report we are proud to highlight some of the many grants that the Foundation awarded in 2024. We want to thank the many donors who have so generously contributed to our Endowment funds and our Seminary Scholarship program. Their gifts are not only having a positive impact today, but will continue to do so for years to come.

Not only have the Foundation's services had a profound impact on

Nebraska churches and ministries through the development of Endowed funds and Investment services, we continue to welcome the opportunity to visit with individuals who wish to learn more about supporting God's work in their church and community both during and after their lifetime.

As always, we are grateful to be "your partner in ministry" as you plan for the future. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be of service to you.

Kristine Roberts
Executive Director

The best time to
plant a tree was
20 years ago.
The second best
time is now.

—Chinese Proverb



NEW START/NEW FAITH Grant Program

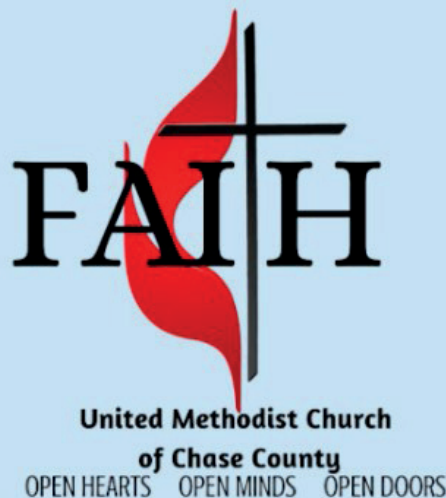
It is the mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation to be a catalyst that strengthens Nebraska ministries and churches. We support innovative ideas that meet the needs of a diverse and rapidly changing society. Part of the way in which we do this is through our New Start/New Faith community grants. In 2024, over \$45,000 was awarded in new start/new faith community grants.

2024 NEW START/NEW FAITH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Connection Point, Lincoln

Faith UMC of Chase County, Imperial

First UMC, Lexington



In January 2023, Imperial UMC disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. Those who desired to remain United Methodist began to make plans to start their own church. Five months later, **Faith UMC of Chase County** launched, and they are now approaching their second anniversary. Faith UMC of Chase County began providing church services with guest speakers and then formed a cooperative ministry with United Methodist churches in Palisade and Stratton, welcoming Pastor Jacob Keega. The New Start/New Faith grant from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation helped to cover rent and to save for a down payment on a permanent location. Now just two years later, 2025 presents exciting opportunities for Faith UMC of Chase County as they will be moving from the rented conference room in the Natural Resources District building to a dedicated church building.

Scholarship Recipients

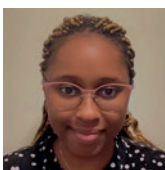
The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, through the generosity of donors, is able to provide financial support to individuals in the Great Plains Conference who are continuing their theological studies.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Nick Baker

- ▶ Myrtle E. Williams Seminary Scholarship
- ▶ UM Men's 100 Club Scholarship



Mildred Kubai

- ▶ Palmyra UMC – Mary Bachmann–Harris Scholarship



Andrew Reed

- ▶ Tither's Scholarship



Matthew Borland

- ▶ Alice Kruse Ministerial & Seminary Scholarship



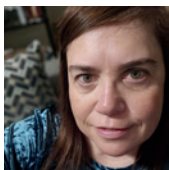
Rev. Keunsik Lee

- ▶ Cowles UMC Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ UM Men's 100 Club Scholarship



Leah Wandera

- ▶ Gifts From The Heart Church Leadership Scholarship
- ▶ Murdock Ebenezer UMC Professional Church Leader Scholarship



Joanna Gillespie

- ▶ Albert R. Murdoch Ministerial Scholarship
- ▶ Baldwin F. and Amy L. Kruse Scholarship
- ▶ Merv Schleifert UMM Scholarship
- ▶ UM Men's 100 Club Scholarship



Monica Magoola

- ▶ Charles & Marilyn Humphrey Seminary Scholarship
- ▶ UM Men's 100 Club Scholarship
- ▶ Scahill Family Scholarship
- ▶ Women in Ministry Scholarship

2024 Scholarship Distributions: over \$40,000



Javier Aguila

- ▶ Ben and Martha Simmons Scholarship
- ▶ UM Men's 100 Club Scholarship

Javier Aguila, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Lexington, received a seminary scholarship from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation in 2024. Javier was born in Havana, Cuba and currently resides in Lexington, NE. He is married with two children. In addition to serving as an associate pastor, he enjoys spending time with his family, reading, and riding his bike. "For a church to be healthy, it is important that its pastors and leaders continue theological and ministerial preparation," he says.

“

This requires financial resources that we can't always access. This help from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation means a lot to me. Thank you!

MINISTRY GRANTS

Making An Impact In Nebraska

FIRST CHURCH OF NORTH PLATTE Brady UMC

During the spring of 2023, Pastor Mike Evans of First United Methodist Church of North Platte approached the district superintendent to see if there was a church that they could help. At that time, Brady UMC was in need of a pastor, but unable to financially support one.

So, Brady UMC and First United Methodist Church of North Platte came up with a creative arrangement: Using ministry grant funds from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, Brady UMC upgraded their sound system so they could begin live-streaming Pastor Mike's sermons for their congregation.

What began as a smart business decision quickly developed into a friendship. "Brady UMC has grown in this agreement," said Julie Hoagland. "The laity have been forced to step up and get out of our comfort zone. We are volunteer-led. We have people that take care of the technology each week, facilitate the service, take communion to those not in attendance, take care of the building and grounds, fill out the paperwork, and many other things. Our congregation has taken ownership of our church. Many ask why this arrangement works. It works because we want it to work. Both parties want it to work."

GIBBON FAITH UMC Gibbon Free Pantry

Faith United Methodist Church began operating the Gibbon Free Pantry in 2018 as a service to their community. It's run exclusively by volunteers who've created a welcoming space for patrons. As a free-choice pantry, it's set up much like a grocery store, allowing each person to move through the space selecting items that work best for them and their families.

The pantry receives food donations from local and regional outlets as well as community food drives. Grant funds from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation supplement current donations to ensure that each family has access to milk and eggs.

"We have several families with multiple generations under one roof. With 11 people in the home, a gallon of milk does not go very far. We make exceptions for the larger families so there is milk for the children. We hear from seniors that with living on a fixed income and the prices of everything on the rise, that the pantry is making a difference for them if they can eat or skip meals," said Kathy Pierce, Gibbon Free Pantry Co-Director.



2024 MINISTRY

Financial Report

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. Our contact information is on the back of this report.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW & EXISTING ACCOUNTS

New Accounts:	\$946,127
Existing Accounts:	\$2,266,061

DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions to Churches and Ministries:	\$3,187,735
Endowed Grants:	\$441,550
Endowed Scholarships:	\$29,265
Ministry Grants:	\$105,710
New Start/New Faith Grants:	\$46,000
Donor Advised Grants:	\$129,333
Mission Grants:	\$4,071
Life Income to Donors: (CGA/CRUT)	\$49,482

TOTAL ASSETS \$60,805,791

Funds without Restrictions:	\$4,154,183
Endowment and Designated Funds:	\$12,526,586
Managed Church and Ministry Funds:	\$42,743,944
Trust and Gift Annuities:	\$167,852
Property and Equipment:	\$1,213,226

\$3,187,735

Distributions to
Churches and Ministries

\$441,550

Endowed Grants

\$105,710

Ministry Grants

\$129,333

Donor Advised Grants

\$46,000

New Start/New Faith Grants

The Foundation provides **Investment Services** to help churches save and grow funds for ministry, capital needs, emergencies, and mission opportunities in the community and beyond. Our focus is to help Nebraska United Methodist churches, related organizations and ministries accomplish their goals and mission.

Individuals can create **Endowment Funds and Donor Advised Funds** that would help their local churches or ministries accomplish their goals and support their work for years to come.

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts and **Charitable Gift Annuities** are ways to provide lifetime income for the donor and also leave a legacy.





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Our Mission Statement

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

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Foundation Staff



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Executive Director



Marci Logsdon
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Sharon Schmidt
Director of Stewardship



Christy Bousquet
Administrative Assistant