

Report of Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery

The Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery received an invitation to attend the Dakota Presbytery meeting at Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota on October 8. Fourteen women from Northern Plains Presbytery attended. Several of whom currently serve on the Bdecan Ministry Team of the Northern Plains Presbytery including its co-chair Donna Preston. This “gathering” was spent with Presbyterian Women from Presbyteries in Milwaukee, Des Moines, Twin Cities, Dakota and Northern Plains with relationships enriched.

After lunch, we were part of the PW Dakota Presbytery business and planning meeting. Sharon Falck, Des Moines Presbytery, attended. She reported that she found a long arm for quilting and, between the two Presbyteries, the long arm will be purchased, training will be given and the Dakota Presbytery PW will have access to a long awaited, long arm quilting machine.

CRE Fern Cloud reported that the Dakota Presbytery had received, awhile back, a \$30,000 grant for training CREs. With this grant, Fern Cloud became a CRE trainer and has trained several PW members as CREs, most recently Ernestine Ireland and Emma Grey Bull who spoke about what this training has meant to them. CRE leadership will fill a need in many Dakota Presbytery churches. Bdecan will have a change in its leadership too. Our prayers for Outreach and Youth Coordinator, Rosie Helland, who due to health concerns, finds it necessary to move out of the Bdecan manse and back to Devils Lake.

Plans for our spring gathering have begun. One of our PW members has become a certified “Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador” (blessedtomorrow.org). She will speak about the impacts of climate change on creation, our community and our existing ministry or service, the spectrum of climate solutions including at the congregational level, and opportunities to act and advocate. Our mission focus for next year will be supporting our youth as they travel to Chogoria, Kenya on a mission trip next summer. Both are wonderful learning opportunities before us.

Lana Schultz, PWP Moderator, Northern Plains Presbytery