

Fall Presbytery Report
Connectional Care Pastor
October 12, 2024

If you need any support, resources, ideas as you plan for 2025 please contact me. I am available to meet with sessions, do consultations and connect you to resources and grants that might be helpful as you creatively and faithfully serve your communities. I have been working to find grants to help with church transformation and vitality.

I continue to celebrate milestones in ministry with churches, fill pulpit as needed, work on salary support packages, encourage and resource lay leaders within the Presbytery. My goal is to connect your congregation with the people, churches and resources in our denomination that will help inspire you to dare to follow the Spirit's leading in your ministry. We are in this together. You are not alone. The Presbytery is you. If you have gifts or talents you would like to connect with area churches or plans that could bless others, please share them!

Items of Note:

Board of Pensions

I attended the Board of Pensions meeting in Denver CO which explained the current benefits package for pastors and church employees. They have developed more options to choose from to try to make it easier for churches to provide some type of healthcare for pastors and employees. There are less expensive options now, it is open to more people and for those who need it there are grant supplements during the transition time into the new program to help churches to cover present costs for clergy with family.

I received further information at a week long conference in Arkansas and made connections with possible future candidates for our ministry positions. In addition, learned what other church leaders and presbyteries have been doing to be successful at reaching out in their communities and welcoming new members. I would be happy to connect with you to help answer questions or help you request grant funds to cover costs.

Grant Proposals

Exciting news for Congregations regarding grants, interest free loans and past per capita forgiveness options to be announced soon.

The Congregational and Pastoral PODs have been working feverishly to find ways to invest in our congregations and help ease some of the financial burdens that may be keeping you from focusing on your ministry and outreach programs. Some of these you are familiar with and they are listed on the website. Others are in the works. Most important is that you know help is on the way and new partnership opportunities are being made available in 2025.

Lilly Grant Application

The Jamestown Church along with members of the Presbytery, the Ann Carlson Center, Christian Athletes have put together a grant request to the Lilly Foundation. The grant seeks to help congregations become more accessible to those with different learning styles. While it focuses on youth primarily, training for teachers, preachers and worship leaders will be given to help make

worship multidimensional. The grant will also cover building updates for churches to be more welcoming to all. We hope to hear by April if we will receive it. If not, we are going to try to provide opportunities to help congregations achieve this goal anyway.

Celebrations!

So far on my travels, I have focused on the NE Corner of the Presbytery and will finish up that area in November with visits. I was able to participate in the closing service at Baker Downer. Now they have been set free to begin a new journey in partnership with First Pres. Fargo. The SW region of our Presbytery had their annual outdoor worship and picnic on the shores of the heart river. A beautiful event with a baptism and communion.

The Rest of the Time

I have spent a significant amount of time with pastors and leaders of congregations. From family crisis situations, grief, medical difficulties, being a sounding board, an encourager and praying for all of you...I have been able to connect with retired clergy, lay preachers, CLP's, pulpit supply preachers, and very active elders who do so much for their communities. *HINT: October is Pastor Appreciation Month!*

A Special thank you to our Leadership POD who is doing an incredible job helping our Presbytery to move from surviving to living and guiding us to a thriving future.

Rev. Deanna Reikow
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