



Your Partner in Ministry

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Note *from the* Executive Director



Kristine Roberts

The world continues to evolve as we hone in our next steps. Since 1965, the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation has existed to support your organization's ministry and mission. We are thrilled to be your partner in ministry, to invest your church's funds, to help you plan for the next generation. So what is that next step – for you and for the Foundation?

As we transition from this generation to the next, the highlight from 2023 and into the future is creating a Legacy Society. If you have begun this process, you know that now is the time to have the discussion on the great generational Transfer of Wealth this is taking place. Some counties in Nebraska are in their peak legacy giving, while others may recognize this peak in the next decade or two. But education needs to happen now.

Nebraska City First United Methodist Church is the first United Methodist Church in the State to create its own Legacy Society, called the HOPE Society. HOPE stands for Helping Others by Planning for Eternity. Nebraska City has recognized the need to start their Endowment Fund that every church must have to almost guarantee their longevity for the future generations.

"With leadership from Kristine and the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, our church now has an organized effort through our legacy society to secure the future of our church finances. Establishing a healthy unrestricted endowment will enable our church to endure whatever financial challenges the future brings, having flexible funds

to supplement our members' tithing, and will help us focus on the mission of knowing Christ and making Christ known." Hon. David Partsch, Nebraska City UMC HOPE Society Organizer

Thank you for entrusting us with your gifts and helping us educate each person on the opportunities they have to be faithful givers. We look forward to continuing this journey with you for your children and your grandchildren and beyond.

We are pleased to be 'your partner in ministry.'

Kristine Roberts
Executive Director, NUMF



Legacy giving is a vital part of any church's future planning. I am thankful for the Foundation's help in establishing HOPE, and find that it is helping to open conversations with new people.

PASTOR MICHAEL BROWN



Nebraska City First United Methodist Church

Ministry Grants

MAKING AN IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

Our most successful grant program is the Gifts From the Heart – Ministry Grant Program. The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation has done so much to help our local churches and ministries thrive by providing funds for your ministries and being your Partner in Ministry! In 2023, we awarded over \$81,000 in ministry grants to help ministries and outreach in your church community. Investing with NUMF and donating to our Gifts From the Heart Endowment Funds help continue this good work.

BELLEVUE ALDERSGATE

Showers of Blessings

Bellevue Aldersgate's Showers of Blessings program provided 25 of the church's underserved lower income families with health care bags of supplemental toiletries and wellness items to encourage and maintain good health, hygiene, and wellness.



LINCOLN ALDERSGATE

Earth Stewardship

Lincoln Aldersgate continues to support a ministry that provides education, events, and resources centered on caring for the environment. The program helps people to act by providing an understanding of the practical, effective, and easy steps to incorporate nature where they live and work.



PAPILLION ST. PAUL

Creative Arts Academy

St. Paul UMC used their Ministry Grant to purchase 12 ukuleles, felt picks, extra strings, tuners, and a classroom storage cart to use in music classes.



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

— JEREMIAH 29:11

THE BIG GARDEN Food Security

This grant supported current programs offered at The Big Garden and helped fund the New Roots Intern Program which teaches the necessary skills for interns to teach summer classes. The Big Garden hopes to increase the number of schools and classrooms to teach more students about growing food to help fight food insecurity.



WAHOO FIRST Laundry Church

The grant funds an outreach ministry at Wahoo called "Laundry Church." This is a monthly program where volunteers provide free laundry to members of the community, and while they are at the laundromat, volunteers host an optional, simple bible study.



THE VINE Children & Student Ministries

The Vine United Methodist Church is a new church that joined Scottsbluff First, Mitchell, Morrill and Henry Lyman UMCs and sprouted on July 9, 2023 in an introductory service. The seeds for The Vine were planted more than a year ago by Rev. Craig Collins, pastor of Scottsbluff UMC, and Joseph Schumacher, pastor of the other three Scotts Bluff County churches in the Nebraska panhandle. Collins, who has been at Scottsbluff First for eight years, said the idea sprouted from the church's Staff Parish Relations Committee, which pondered the question of increased church vitality, and discussion began to form about getting an associate pastor.

"We really need to focus on children and families to grow our church," Collins said. "But that wasn't in our budget. We feel it's crucial. We have a lot of gray hairs in our pews right now," Collins said, and while The Vine does value its eldest members, "(we need to do) something to change that course." But the decision to merge the churches was not made out of necessity, he added. "We don't want to do this just for survival's sake either," Collins said. "We think it's a way to turn the tide and start the life cycle all over again and renew some energy and help fill our church."

The Vine used its grant funds to pay for curriculum for children and adult faith formation ministries and to get classrooms ready with internet capability and smart televisions.



2023 Ministry

FINANCIAL REPORT

To the Churches, Ministries, and Individuals who use the Foundation's services, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you. For those who haven't yet experienced the services we can provide for you, we would welcome the opportunity to be Your Partner in Ministry. Our contact information is on the back of this report.

TOTAL ASSETS\$56,484,924

Funds without Restrictions:	\$3,918,884
Endowment and Designated Funds:	\$11,306,398
Managed Church and Ministry Funds:	\$39,892,513
Trust and Gift Annuities:	\$188,381
Property and Equipment:	\$1,178,748

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW & EXISTING ACCOUNTS

New Accounts:	\$1,017,173
Existing Accounts:	\$1,230,644

DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions to Churches and Ministries:	\$2,948,783
Endowed Grants:	\$274,743
Scholarships:	\$55,789
Ministry Grants:	\$81,967
New Start/New Faith Grants:	\$20,000
Donor Advised Grants:	\$73,494
Mission Grants:	\$6,000
Life Income to Donors: (CGA/CRUT)	\$51,549



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Endowed Grants

\$81,967
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Scholarships

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 and related organizations and ministries accomplish your goals and your 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 life-time income for the donor and also leave a legacy.



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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.

