



The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

# *Mission and Vision*

**Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Vision:** For every congregation to become a vital expression of the scriptural imperatives to:

## *Grow in love of God and neighbor*

### **The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:37-40**

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

## *Reach new people*

### **The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

## *Heal a broken world*

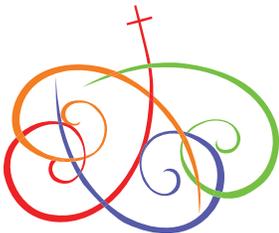
### **The Great Proclamation: Luke 4:16-21**

“Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it.”

**Adaptive Challenge:** To passionately and respectfully offer Christ in a Wesleyan way that speaks to our diverse cultural context.



**Lived Out Values:** We are committed to being a church that is

- Rooted in Jesus
- Grounded in Wesleyan Theology
- Inclusive of all Persons
- Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation



# Ministry in the Minnesota Annual Conference

## Our Missional Direction

To fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by increasing the number of congregations and ministries that are vital expressions of the scriptural imperatives to grow in their love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

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## Our Missional Accountability

As leaders, we commit our best to be faithful and fruitful in our work and witness. Three questions will be the guide to evaluate our ministry:

### *Fruits*

Are people being mobilized toward the mission of Christ by this clergy person? Specifically, is the clergy person committed to and has he or she demonstrated fruits in gathering and leading people to be a bold, Spirit-led, distinctively United Methodist congregation and ministry setting that is reaching new people, growing in love of God and neighbor, and healing a broken world?

### *Fire*

Is the clergy person continuing to embrace, embody and grow in the nine characteristics of effective clergy?

### *Faith*

Is the clergy person serving with faith, keeping covenant with their clergy colleagues, and responding to the requirements for continued credentialing and appointment?

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## Our Missional Values

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**Clergy are appointed to a community first.** They are not appointed to a church and/or ministry setting but to serve God by calling, equipping, and leading God's people into the mission field to partner with God in God's redemptive mission: to offer Christ in all ways, making disciples of Jesus Christ who are transforming the world.
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**Healthy ministries grow.** They grow in number. They grow in Spirit. They grow in their impact on the community. They grow in their health and vitality as demonstrated in their love of God and neighbor. They have a growth mindset. They continually ask: Where do we grow from here?
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**Leadership is everything.** We are committed to excellence instead of good enough, effectiveness instead of entitlement, and outcomes instead of activities, and resources will be directed toward those who are ready, willing, and able to embody these commitments.
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**There is no quick fix.** The church and culture are in times of great transition and transformation, and this requires constant reinvention, experimentation, and adaptation. We pray daily for the unleashing of bold, Spirit-led leaders and fearless, Spirit-led churches and ministry settings for such a time as this.
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**We root all that we do in our Wesleyan understanding of grace** (prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying), and as a connectional church, we work collaboratively with one another. We are the body of Christ, and how we live together matters as much as what we do together.