

NEBRASKA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION
ANITA B. CRISP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr., Clergy, Delegates, and Guests, it is a pleasure to share this report of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation with you.

This last year, the Foundation staff once again had the privilege to work along side local church pastors and members who want to develop resources that will fund new and expanded ministry; to assist members who, regardless of their age or means, have a heartfelt desire to give back to God a portion of that which He has blessed them; and to serve as stewards of the gifts entrusted to the Foundation's care.

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the Foundation staff, Jackie Urkoski, Director of Operations and Marci Logsdon, Director of Finance, for the wonderful job they do in keeping the Foundation operating smoothly.

For 2016, the total assets held by the Foundation for the support of ministry in the Conference and the Foundation grew to over \$39 million. Distributions made by the Foundation were over \$2.9 million. Those distributions included support for our churches and ministries in our Conference, grants, scholarships, donor support for our mission, life income payments to donors and operations.

I am pleased to report that the number of seminary scholarships awarded by the Foundation continues to increase in both number and amount. For the year 2016, the Foundation awarded 18 scholarships. In 2016, we had approximately \$35,000 in seminary scholarships that was distributed.

The Foundation is blessed to have some generous donors who have allowed us to provide small ministry grants on an annual basis. In 2016, we had \$60,000 available for these grants assisting 30 churches and ministries. We see a wide diversity in the applications that we receive, but each ministry is a vital part of the church family.

The Foundation's purpose is to offer you resources that strengthen the ability of United Methodists to advance Christian ministries. Whether you've deemed it time to create a permanent endowment fund, to initiate a planned gifts program, to provide gift and estate planning opportunities for your members, to explore more diverse investment options for church funds, know that it's our mission to help you however we can. It is our pledge to you, to always provide the best possible stewardship of funds you entrust to the Foundation's care.

The expertise, dedication and tenure of our staff and the insightful leadership of our Board of Directors fortify the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation. Serving you as you minister to others yields enormous benefits for us and enriches our lives as individuals. We continually strive to be aware of the needs facing those who participate in Christ's ministry and do our best to offer ways to guide, support and serve you.

Thank you!