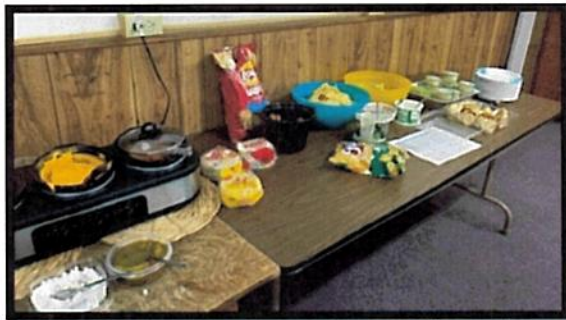






# Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon

Photos Courtesy of Glynnis Williams





## What is A Table for All?

**A Table For All** is a new initiative of the Mountain Sky Conference that celebrates our connectional ministry while supporting and building wholeness and vitality throughout rural, suburban, and urban communities.

- We seek to **create and sustain communities of faith** that embrace diversity in their midst.
- We **encourage inclusivity of all of God's children**, creating a place for everyone to know the life-giving grace of Jesus.

We aim to work together to create a place at the Table for ALL of God's children so that every child of God, young or old, will know the unconditional love of God.

We began the quiet phase of this work in February 2021, asking donors to invest in our work and building our campaign. **Because of your investments, excitement, and enthusiasm, we have raised over \$800,000 toward our \$1.2 million goal.** This was an exciting milestone for our work and allowed us to have our public launch of A Table For All at Annual Conference 2022.

This fall, we are asking congregations to partner with us to create A Table For All. We'll share more about how you can partner with us below, so keep reading!

### How does it work?

The work of A Table For All will be implemented through Jeff Rainwater and the Congregational Vitality Committee. Churches can begin applying for aid in early 2023. Work will include a 3-year program to help churches reimagine their futures and create neighbor-centered ministries. Watch for more details on when to apply!

### Who can apply?

Churches that:

- have experienced discontinuous, often traumatic loss
- show evidence of imminent need
- commit to remaining part of the Mountain Sky Conference
- are willing to engage in the process of discernment and exploration

### Why is this work important?

This work is important as we plan for our future as United Methodist congregations.

- We want ALL children of God, young and old, to know they are loved with an everlasting love that will never let them go.
- We celebrate our connectional ministry and our presence in rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- We support those congregations interested in reimagining their ministry to take them into the 21st century.
- We seek to leave a legacy of a fully inclusive conference for future generations and ensure grace-filled witnesses of God's love in all areas of our conference.

[Watch this video https://vimeo.com/731936550?fbclid=IwAR1SfTS-T5TJyFaQFj7Dv-](https://vimeo.com/731936550?fbclid=IwAR1SfTS-T5TJyFaQFj7Dv-XLHLvkqI9cUtxLNPdbO1MG6fvS_F5ZIRGoluM)

[XLHLvkqI9cUtxLNPdbO1MG6fvS\\_F5ZIRGoluM](https://www.mtnskymc.org/atable4all) for more details about why this is important for our conference.

### How can I help create A Table For All?

I'm so glad you asked! There are many ways to help create A Table For All.

- As we mentioned above, we are hosting a **conference-wide A Table For All Sunday on November 13**. We'd love for your church to host with us! We'll give you all you need to make this celebration a success.
- **Your church can host any number of events for A Table For All in your church or for your community.** These events offer us a great opportunity to share with our communities who we are and what we believe. [We've provided a whole list of event ideas to spark your creativity!](#) <https://www.mtnskymc.org/atable4all> The sky is the limit, and we can provide help and resources for your events.
- **Have larger donors or individuals who might leave a legacy gift in your congregation?** If you think they'd like to invest in A Table For All, we'd love to meet with you and them.

### Want to learn more?

[Check out our website.](#) We'll be releasing videos in the next few weeks to share why this work is crucial as we seek to share God's love with all and create a fully inclusive conference for future generations. Make sure to [follow the Mountain Sky Conference Facebook](#) page to see regular updates.



## Questions?

Enclosed in this newsletter is the FAQ sheet.

Contact Erin Althaus, Project Manager, at [ealthaus@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:ealthaus@mtnskyumc.org) to discuss fundraising ideas or questions.

Contact Jeff Rainwater, Superintendent of Congregational and Community Vitality, at [jrainwater@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:jrainwater@mtnskyumc.org) with questions about the church vitality and growth program.

## Kids Hope USA Mentor Program

**Through a Kids Hope USA mentoring program, elementary students meet once a week for one hour with a mentor – a mentor who is there just for them. This one-on-one attention can make a world of difference for a student in need of the support of another caring and consistent adult in their life.**



### Developed for public schools

- Adherence to separation of church and state
- Church partners cover all program costs, requiring minimal school staff investment
- Mentors are thoroughly screened, trained and supervised by the program director



### Implemented by churches.

- Opportunity to bless the community by serving in real and tangible ways
- Mentors acknowledge they are guests of the school and commit to respect
- Building community relationships that support students to thrive

More about the program will be forthcoming. We will need people to be mentors and others to be prayer warriors for each mentor and child. We are very excited to begin this new ministry and pray for God's blessing and success.

We are drawing close to the summer sermon series of Brene' Brown's *Atlas of the Heart*. What a delight it was to have Rev. David Keiry fill in for me in August. He sends his prayers and best wishes for God direction and blessing on our church and its ministries. The first Sunday of October, Fanny Crosby will be visiting us in worship to help us prepare for telling our stories. We will be looking at *It's A Wonderful Life* and the lessons we can learn from about God's generosity. Then we will begin Advent with the worship series *Angels Among Us* with the Advent Study *Angels of Christmas*.

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be remembering 9/11 and honoring our grandparents for Grandparent's Day during our worship services. September 22<sup>nd</sup> I will be traveling to help my aunt celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Later that week, I will be in Lander, WY for Clergy Orders. Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> each church will be having an end of summer Hymn Sing. Then I will be participating in the Bishop's Spanish Immersion October 3 – 15, 2022. I would appreciate prayers for this mission endeavor. October 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be no church because there will be church at Beaver Creek for their annual celebration service and fundraiser at Beaver Creek.

November 13<sup>th</sup> we will join with other conference churches to celebrate A Table for All.



## Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to create A Table for All. We are committed to our mission of manifesting the inclusive love and acceptance of Jesus Christ, creating a table where all are welcome throughout rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout the Mountain Sky Conference.

This document has been created to answer commonly asked questions about the program, accountability, funding, and resources. If you have any other questions not addressed in this document, please contact us for additional information.

### **Who will oversee this program?**

The Congregational Vitality Committee, led by Jeff Rainwater, Superintendent of Congregational and Community Vitality, will walk through this process with the churches who are seeking support. This committee has been in existence, in different forms for the legacy conferences, for over 20 years. Currently the group of 11 nominated annually by the conference oversees conference strategy for revitalization and planting emerging faith communities, including the administration of over \$300,000 in grants each year.

### **How will you determine if a church is ready for revitalization?**

Determining if a church is ready to commit to the process of revitalization and restructuring will be done through a number of assessments including:

- Readiness 360, paid for by the conference
- Community Assessment, through Mission Insite
- Financial Capability Audit, using financial records, Mission Insite, and participants database
- Building Needs Audit for groups who retain their building
- Space Available Audit for groups who have lost access to their facility
- Interviews with Leaders, Stakeholders, and District Superintendent

### **In your assessments, what type of information will you be looking for to determine the viability of these communities?**

We will review a variety of data and information to help us determine if this congregation will be a good fit for this program. This information includes:

- Ability to adapt to new situation by a) assessing, b) considering cooperative endeavors with other churches, c) focusing on community efforts
- Willingness to receive support in form of training, coaching, and cohort support
- Understanding that financial support is a short-term endeavor (5 years)



**Aren't some of these assessments/programs already in place and utilized through the Conference?**

Yes, we currently participate in some of these programs with congregations who need revitalization or help to live into their mission. We will use programs that we have already had success with so that we ensure that we are getting the best possible analysis of each situation. Other resources are in development. There might be resources that we need to develop as we move forward and identify a particular need that is not addressed.

**Once you complete your assessments, what is the next step?**

After assessing a congregation's complete situation, together with the congregation, we will work with the congregation's leaders to create a recovery plan. This will include all recommendations of which programs will best support them in revitalization efforts.

**How long will the assessment period run before you decide if a congregation is a good fit for the program?**

We anticipate the assessment & determination phase of the recovery plan to last two to three months. Grant approval is based on church's willingness to support the recovery plan they helped create. Some emergency funds may be needed to stabilize church during assessment & recovery plan formation.

**What are the details of the recovery plans you plan to create with the congregations?**

Plans for recovery support, to a degree, will be individually crafted for each situation based on the potential of the community of faith determined by the settings. On this list we have included all our potential programs, including those not yet fully developed. Some of the offerings might include:

- Lay Planter Training
- Ministry Incubators – A program with coaching and cohort support for new ministry endeavors. Currently, Ministry Incubators is our support for emerging faith communities, and they provide a launching/visioning event (the Hatchathon), monthly coaching of the planting team, quarterly cohort support of best practices, and a pivot retreat six months after the Hatchathon for refining or adapting the ministry plan.
  - Intent now is for us to roll these projects into our current contract.
- Cooperative Ministry Cohort - For churches that may have the potential of working with other churches nearby, we will encourage participation in a cooperative ministry cohort. We are launching a prototype of this, led by Paul Nixon, this summer for some churches in our area. Cooperative ministry and creative groupings of churches for ministry will be a key to sustainability for these and other congregations moving forward.
- Right-Sizing Workshop – Looking at church budgets, staff, buildings, volunteer and discipling systems. This is a workshop I created for any church, but I think it will be helpful with these congregations. This helps a congregation walk through their numbers and their building to see what is possible, then adjust.
- Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors Training
- Grief Support for Congregations
- Check-ins and Partnership with Congregational Vitality Committee - Right now, every grant recipient is assigned a partner from the committee. This would continue for these projects. This person checks in, listens, and encourages the congregational leaders several times a year.

- Meeting with Jeff – Meeting with lay leaders once a quarter with availability to help with trouble-shooting and additional support.

**What is your budgeted amount per congregation? What does that include?**

Congregational grants will vary based on need, but the committee has budgeted \$5000/year for five years for lay-led congregations. Grants for clergy-led congregations could be up to \$50,000/year initially with a gradual ramp-down over 5 years. Some of the raised funds will go to supporting assessment, including Readiness 360 contract.

**What is your timeline for this project?**

This is the tricky part, as this is not a one-size-fits-all project. Our assessments are showing that churches will more than likely leave piecemeal. Each congregation will have different needs and be at different levels. This is why we value an individual protocol for assessment and recovery plans and are not basing our efforts on an event or program. In addition, we will need to factor in losses from Covid.

**Where will the money for this fund be kept and who will oversee it?**

The fund will be kept at the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation (formerly the Mountain Sky Methodist Foundation). This Foundation was created in 1987 to support the United Methodist churches and agencies in Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and one county in Idaho.

The money is ultimately owned and controlled by the Annual Conference whose bylaws are established as per the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. The Articles of Incorporation are on file with the Colorado Secretary of State.

The charter document for the Endowment was approved at Annual Conference 2021 and can be found [here](#).

The Foundation has a custodial role with the funds on deposit and provides oversight if any withdrawals are inappropriate and do not comply with the charter document. There are provisions in the charter document for exceptional withdrawals, which the Foundation will ensure are followed.

The charter document is a promise to the donors, and any violation would be subject to legal action by the donors or their heirs.



# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Beaver Creek Celebration Sunday, October 16th</b> </div>					Center Yoga 9:30a (IP)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>AA Saturdays 10a</b> </div>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CUMC Service** 9a (IP & O) SUMC Service** 11a (IP)	Labor Day  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Office Closed</b> </div>	Methodism 101 6:30pm (IP & O)	Saguache Yoga 10:30a (IP)	Dinner With Your Neighbor (IP) 5:30p	Center Yoga 9:30a (IP)	50+ (IP) 12p
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CUMC Service** 9a (IP & O) SUMC Service** 11a (IP)  Remembrance of 9/11 and Grandparent's Day		Methodism 101 6:30pm (IP & O)	Saguache Yoga 10:30a (IP)		Center Yoga 9:30a (IP)	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CUMC Service** 9a (IP & O) SUMC Service** 11a (IP)		Methodism 101 6:30pm (IP & O)	Saguache Yoga 10:30a (IP)		Center Yoga 9:30a (IP)	
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Pastor Debbie Gone</b> </div>		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
CUMC Service** 9a (IP & O) SUMC Service**		Methodism 101 6:30pm (IP & O)	Saguache Yoga 10:30a (IP)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> (O) = Facebook Live/Zoom (IP) = In Person </div>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>Pastor Debbie Gone</b> </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Clergy Orders—Lander, WY</b> </div>		