

38TH ANNUAL
DAKOTA CONFERENCE
WOMEN'S RETREAT



Transformation:

His Glory Reflected

*"The Lord is transforming
us into His image with
ever-increasing glory."*

2 Corinthians 3:18

September 18-20, 2026



DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Welcome

to the 38th Annual Women's Retreat!

We have been praying for you while planning for this weekend. It is our hope that you will be blessed by the time you spend here!

Elder Donna Brown serves as the director of women's ministries for the Mid-America Union Conference. Born and raised in Kansas, she graduated from Oakwood University with majors in mathematics and commercial arts.

Elder Brown worked for the Department of Defense for 36 years as a budget analyst and also worked as a magazine designer for an ad agency. She and her husband have been married for 38 years and are blessed with two married sons and four grandchildren.

Throughout the years, Elder Brown has served in church roles including head elder, choir director, women's ministries leader, family life ministries coordinator, and Central AY Federation president. She serves with the Clergy of the County and the Ministerial Alliance and has served on the Leavenworth, Kansas, Board of Education.

Elder Brown is part of Sisters Encouraging Sisters, a ministry supporting military women and spouses through scholarships, senior assistance, and other outreach efforts. She has been involved with the Gospel Women's Prayer Group for more than 28 years.

In addition to ministry, Elder Brown owns a catering business, a cleaning business, and a bookstore. She enjoys singing, sharing the gospel, listening to music, cooking and feeding people, serving the community, teaching financial responsibility, and whatever God asks her to do.



Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 2:00p Registration Begins
- 3:00-5:30 Early Bird Sessions
- 6:00 Supper
- 7:00 General Session | Elder Donna Brown

SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 19

- 7:00a Morning Walk | Christina Masich - Meet in Circle
- 8:15 Devotionals - Dorm Chapels & Upper Chapel
- 9:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 General Session | Elder Donna Brown
- 11:45 Group Photo in Circle
- 12:00p Sabbath Lunch
- 1:00 Breakout | Anita Kopplin - *Becoming Ellen*
- 2:00 Free Time | Enjoy God's Creation & Each Other
- 4:00 Breakout | Christina Masich - *Nourished*
- 5:00 Supper
- 6:45 General Session | Elder Donna Brown
- 8:00 Saturday Night Activities

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 7:00a *Intro to Strength Training* | Christina Masich - Gym
- 8:15 Devotionals - Dorm Chapels & Upper Chapel
- 9:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 General Session | Elder Donna Brown
- 11:30 Wrap-up & Farewell

An offering
will be
taken at
General
Session on
Sabbath
morning.
Funds will
go to the
Dakota
Conference
Women's
Ministries
Department



Women's Ministries Website



FRIDAY SUPPER

Tomato Soup | Bread | Crackers
Assorted Toppings | Salad Bar
Fruit | Scotcheroos

SABBATH BREAKFAST

Scones | Hashbrowns | Eggs
Fruit | Yogurt | Cold Cereal
Milk | Hot Drinks

SABBATH LUNCH

Haystacks | Assorted Toppings
Beans | Rice | Fruit
Dessert | Lemonade

SABBATH SUPPER

Baked Potatoes | Assorted Toppings
Chili | Steamed Broccoli | Salad Bar
Charcuterie Board | Fruit | S'mores Dessert

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast Burritos | Potatoes | Eggs
Assorted Toppings | Fruit | Yogurt
Cereal | Coffee Cake | Milk | Hot Drinks

Breakout Sessions

Becoming Ellen

WITH ANITA KOPPLIN

Get to know Ellen G. White beyond her role as a prophet, writer, and church pioneer. Anita Kopplin will explore the very human struggles that shaped Ellen's early life and how she learned to depend on God through weakness, disappointment, responsibility, and change. Her story reminds us that God often works through women who feel limited, tired, uncertain, or overlooked, but are willing to trust Him one step at a time. A wife, mom, grandma, and great-grandma with a lifelong love for Jesus, Anita has found encouragement in Ellen White's writings and looks forward to sharing that encouragement with others.

Nourished

WITH CHRISTINA MASICH

Christina brings 17 years of experience with North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension, where she currently coordinates the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. With degrees in psychology and human development and a graduate certificate in counseling, she will share how simple, everyday choices in nutrition and movement can nourish both body and mind and support overall well-being.

Introduction to Strength Training

Interested in getting stronger but not sure where to start? This class will introduce the basics of strength training, with simple, practical movements you can use to build strength, improve mobility, and feel more confident getting started.

General Sessions



ELDER DONNA BROWN | MID-AMERICA UNION

His Glory Reflected is a transformational journey that invites women to experience God's love, grace, restoration, and purpose. Through four inspiring sessions, participants will learn to reflect Christ in everyday life, become firmly rooted in His love and grace, embrace renewed focus and freedom, and lead with a restored sense of purpose. "And we all...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV).

Living Out Love & Grace in Everyday Life FRIDAY NIGHT

Discover practical ways to reflect Christ through compassion, forgiveness, patience, and kindness. This session encourages participants to make love and grace visible in ordinary moments, conversations, and relationships. *John 13:34–35; Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:12–14*

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace SABBATH MORNING

Explore the security and strength that come from knowing we are deeply loved by God and sustained by His grace. Participants will be encouraged to build their identity and spiritual growth on this firm foundation. *Ephesians 3:17–19; Colossians 2:6–7; 2 Corinthians 12:9*

Restored, Refocused, Released SABBATH EVENING

Experience God's restoring work, renew your focus on what matters most, and release the burdens that hinder growth. This session invites participants to embrace freedom, clarity, and readiness for the next step in their journey. *Psalms 51:10–12; Isaiah 43:18–19; Hebrews 12:1–2*

Restored & Leading with Purpose SUNDAY MORNING

Move from personal restoration into purposeful influence. Participants will consider how their gifts, experiences, and renewed faith can help them lead with humility, courage, and Christ-centered purpose where God has placed them. *Ephesians 2:10; Esther 4:14; 1 Peter 4:10–11*



laundrylove.org

Woman to Woman Project

Laundry Love is a neighboring movement that partners with groups, schools, and local laundromats to help wash the clothes and bedding of low-income and no-income individuals and families. More than simply providing clean laundry, the ministry seeks to care for neighbors with dignity, build relationships, and offer practical help to those facing financial hardship.

Money collected at this event will be distributed among three *Laundry Love* groups directed by Dakota Conference members in Bismarck, Jamestown, and Rapid City.

Saturday Evening Activities

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Join the White Elephant Gift Exchange in the Upper Chapel, led by Char Timothy. If you brought a wrapped gift, bring it along and see what you go home with. Didn't bring a gift? Come anyway—you are welcome to sit back and enjoy the exchange.

FIREPIT SING-ALONG

Gather around the fire pit near the campgrounds for an evening sing-along. Bring your voice, grab a seat by the fire, and enjoy singing together under the Dakota sky.

The Transformed Team

Ministry Team

Jen Erickson, Tami Flemmer,
Marla Hawronsky, Belinda Hofer, & Char Timothy

Registrars

Janice Dickhaut, Belinda Hofer & Cindy Miller

Décor

The Transformed Team with special thanks to
Amanda Garrett & Jen Erickson

Meal Plan

Marsha Buchwitz & Alyse Roe

Meal Prayer Leader

Chelsea Christensen

Audio Visual

Pastor David Fitzcharles
with special thanks to Pastor Harold Chin

Early Bird Sessions

Paulette Bullinger & Chip Liebel

Music Team

Jodi Dossenko & Joann O'Hare

Morning Devotionals

Sarah Christenson, Erin Cummings,
Linda Edwards, Marilyn Heilman,
Reese Saxon, & Seyward Rittberger

Photography

Paulette Bullinger & Jodi Dossenko

Conference Team

Jodi Dossenko & Betsy Ray

Transformed Planners

Paulette Bullinger & Jodi Dossenko

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connected!

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Save the Date

September 24-26, 2027

39th Annual Dakota Conference
Women's Retreat

with speaker Dr. Yami Bazan

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY