

BDECAN MINISTRY TEAM MISSION STATEMENT:

The Bdecan Ministry Team, a project of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, and the Bdecan Presbyterian Church (a Dakota Presbyterian church located at Tokio, ND, on the Spirit Lake Reservation, the only Dakota Presbyterian church within the geographic bounds of Northern Plains Presbytery) is a broad-based community initiative to empower the Dakota people of the Spirit Lake Nation. We collaborate to develop projects that will aid community members with support services that help them to provide for their material and spiritual needs. The Bdecan Ministry Team works with individuals and families to develop and build on their values to improve quality of life for the Dakota people and others on the Spirit Lake Nation.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Prayers.
- Donation of Goods:
 - Gently used or new clothing. Items in most need are: jeans, t-shirts, seasonal clothing (all sizes).
 - Diapers and baby items (all sizes).
 - All types of food items.
- Volunteer individually or as a group at Bdecan Presbyterian Church.
- Hear the story of Bdecan. A presentation has been created to share with churches, as well as community groups.

For more information, contact Joe Obermeyer, Youth and Outreach Coordinator at 701-294-2283 or bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com.



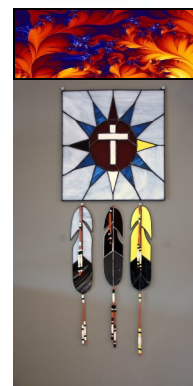
TO BECOME A PARTNER:

- Pray for us.
- Join the Bdecan Ministry Team.
- Become a financial partner by donating online at the Presbytery's website, www.northernplainspresbytery.com, or mail a check to the Presbytery office (make sure to write Bdecan on memo line).

For more information, contact Donna Preston, Bdecan Ministry Team Chair at 701-238-7414 or preston@cord.edu.



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Bdecan Ministry

*A partnership between the
Bdecan Presbyterian Church
and the
Presbytery of the Northern Plains*

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

- 1 John 3.17

"Bdecan" (pronounced Bah-DAY Chan) means "Wood Lake" in the Dakota language. Bdecan Presbyterian Church is the only Native American Presbyterian Church in the State of North Dakota and is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation. It was founded as a mission church in 1879 and formally organized in 1881 and is a member of Dakota Presbytery.



Partnership originally started in roughly 1999 between Northern Plains Presbytery, First

Presbyterian Church of Fargo, and Bdecan when Betty Litten worked to obtain funding to build the present day church building. It was built in summer of 2001 and opened in early January 2002 with dedication on April 6, 2002.

In 2010, the Northern Plains Presbytery asked individuals and congregations to follow their passion to find new ways to engage in mission. Individuals from 12 different congregations joined together to form the Bdecan Ministry Team. The ministry team's goal was to develop a relationship with church members and people on the reservation, to work with volunteer mission groups, and to meet the particular needs of the children.



The Bdecan ministry includes a full-service food pantry and clothing distribution center that is open one day per

month that services the entire reservation of approximately 6,000 people. The Northern Plains Presbytery graciously funds the food pantry on a monthly basis.

The Bdecan Ministry Team is working in partnership with Bdecan Presbyterian Church. In conversation and prayerful consideration it became clear that a full-time staff person needed to be hired. This has become a reality through partnership of congregations and individuals.



Joe Obermeyer was hired in the Spring of 2013 as the Youth and Outreach Coordinator at Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Joe states, "This position is going to be an amazing experience. I do not consider this to be a job; instead I consider this position to be a vocation. I am convinced that God has brought me into this place at this moment."

These are exciting times for the Bdecan congregation and community. Joe has started a Sunday school program for preschool and elementary students, a Wednesday evening children program, and a youth ministry program. In addition, Joe is responsible for managing the Bdecan Food Pantry, and coordinating mission teams.

BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church of Tokio, North Dakota on the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation is to grow as Christ's witness in our community and reservation worshipping God through prayer, helping each other, fellowship, and Sunday morning worship. While keeping Christ's love at our center and supporting each one's spiritual journey, we move towards eternal life as one body to fulfill God's will on earth.

(adopted by the Bdecan Session November 1, 2009)



Doing God's mission and changing the world!