



Deborah Lieder Kiesey was elected bishop of the United Methodist Church (UMC) in 2004 and has served the UMC Dakotas Conference ever since. The first female bishop for the Dakotas Conference, she holds jurisdiction over 43,684 United Methodists belonging to more than 300 congregations in North Dakota and South Dakota. In 2008, Bishop Kiesey was elected President of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), one of the four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church. The GBCS' Economic and Environmental Justice Program calls church and society into a greater faithfulness to the biblical vision of wholeness and justice for all of God's creation with a focus on global warming and energy. The GBCS advocates for the United States to adopt binding global warming emissions reduction commitments and to re-engage in the global dialogue and international framework for combating this clear and present danger. In collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith allies, GBCS supports both state and federal action. In addition, GBCS provides educational and worship resources to bring this issue into the life of the church. Bishop Kiesey received her BA, with a double major in Religion and Piano, from Morningside College, IA, and a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology, MA.