



The Thingvalla Church Memorial

Message

from the President of Iceland

Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

When our friends and relatives gather at the Thingvalla Church Memorial, we, the people of Iceland, your extended national family, are with you in our thoughts and hearts.

We are deeply moved by your loyalty to the Icelandic heritage and how you honour the memory of the people who came to Dakota, settled on the land and gathered in the churches which the farmers and their families built with a great vision – their Icelandic identity being at the core of their endeavours.

The Thingvalla Church bore witness to their efforts, their faith and their love for the old country. The name symbolized the link to the nation's holiest site where the Vikings had founded their democratic commonwealth, established the parliament and decided to adopt the Christian faith.

I vividly remember my visit to the Thingvalla Church eight years ago, how I marvelled at the splendid craftsmanship, sensed the history in the air and understood profoundly its importance in the religious lives of our Icelandic relatives and friends.

Although the Atlantic Ocean lies between us, we celebrate together with you yet another chapter in the long history of the Icelandic community in North Dakota.

The Memorial is a homage to a great history and a noble people, and I salute you all for your efforts.

(undirskrift)