



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

FAITH AND GENEROSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

As I write my mind is wandering in many directions. How many more Christmas presents do I need to buy? Have Debbi and I communicated to all involved that we'll celebrate "The Snipes' Family Christmas" on December 26th at our home? I wonder if it will be cold on Christmas Day? Have I completed all the year-end reports that others are expecting from me? What will 2020 be like? And finally, what are "the good things" we have experienced at the Foundation over the past 12 months? This last question is the one I'll focus on for the purposes of this letter.

- The market improved after a less than stellar 2018 4th quarter, which translates to more monies available for ministry in 2019;
- Our Balance Sheet and Income Statement indicate one of the strongest financial positions in the history of the Foundation with total assets hovering around \$230M;
- We nurtured relationships that will enhance not only our ministries, but most importantly, make a difference in the lives of others;
- Foundation team members continued their quest for excellence through professional development and internal control processes and procedures that will better serve our clients; and
- The board of directors remained committed and engaged in an effort to provide direction and support as we **"build the Church for generations to come"**.

As we approach 2020 the Foundation staff members remain committed to doing the good work that God has laid before us so a year from now we can look back and share even more "good things" that have happened in the name of Christ. But for now...

Take a look at the things we have been doing more recently as demonstrated in this edition of Faith & Generosity. I also encourage you to visit our website and Facebook page. Our hope and prayer is that we can partner with you and together, we can bring people to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Foundation, we wish you an Advent filled with expectant hope, a Christmas filled with wonder that can only be found in the Christ Child, and an Epiphany that is filled with life-changing revelations!

Grace and Peace,

David A. Snipes

President & CEO

LOAN PROGRAM

Pineville United Methodist Church

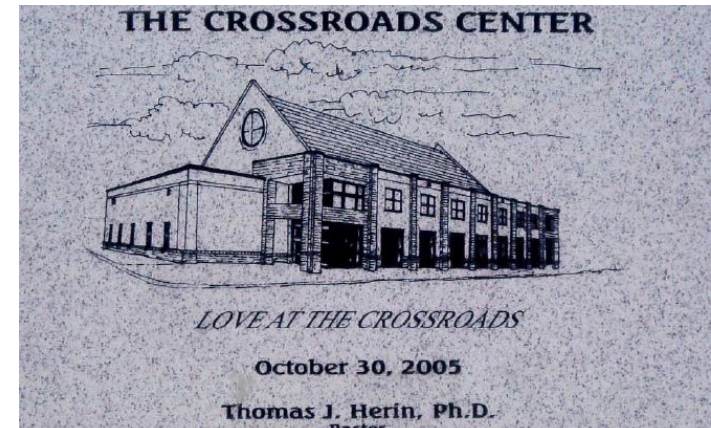
The town of Pineville is located in the southernmost part of Mecklenburg County, and in 2005 the area had begun developing commercially. Members of Pineville United Methodist Church recognized that in all of the growth, there was no longer a good community meeting area. The congregation felt that the church had a call to be a community partner.

During this same time, Pineville UMC was running out of space. The church's fellowship hall was the largest meeting area, but they were in need of classrooms and a space suitable for hosting meals. The congregation took a step of faith, and decided to build what is now known as The Crossroads Center.

They started construction with one million dollars in pledges, and a loan from a commercial bank. In the summer of 2006 Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley was appointed to Pineville UMC. Rev. Stinson-Wesley was familiar with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina from reports at Annual Conference and participating in programs sponsored by the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund. He suggested that the church see if the Foundation's Loan Program could help. Shortly after, Pineville UMC refinanced their loan with the Foundation; borrowing \$1.4 million with a 20 year term and lower interest.

As of 2019, Pineville UMC has hosted church events and houses a pre-school in The Crossroads Center. The facility has also been the home to various camps, Upward Basketball, and even serves as a community Polling Place during elections. The congregation has faithfully answered their call and continues to bless their community.

Today, the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina would like to congratulate the Pineville United Methodist Church for paying off their loan in only 13 years! We celebrate the relationships that have been made and the lives touched at The Crossroads Center, and hope to continue to be your partner in ministry as we build the Church for generations to come!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CLIENT RELATIONS

There are a lot of questions your church may have before deciding to set up a Fund Management Account with the Foundation. Below you will find some of our most frequently asked questions about getting started.

What's the smallest/largest church you'll work with?

We work with churches of all sizes, and are committed to providing excellent service to all.

What funds can we have managed?

We can manage any funds that are part of your ministry with a mid-to-long range time horizon – reserves, building, cemetery, missions, programs, endowments, etc.

I thought the Foundation only handled endowments?

Endowments are an important part of our ministry, but your funds do not have to be in an endowment for us to manage them for you.

Once we place funds at the Foundation, who owns them?

You do. We manage the funds as you direct us, but they remain under your ownership and control.

Do we have options for investment?

Yes. With a variety in our investment offerings, we are confident you will find the one that is right for your specific goals.

How do we create an investment account at the Foundation?

After you provide us with specific information, we set up a simple document, called an Investment Management Agreement, which outlines our commitment to manage your funds as you direct us. We create your account once we that document is signed and your funds are received.

How easy is it for us to change, add to, or withdraw from our investment?

It's as easy as picking up the phone, sending us an email, or dropping a letter in the mail. At your direction, the investment strategy can be changed.

Can we use our account like a checking account?

Because of the longer-range nature of investing, you'll be best served by keeping funds that you need highly-liquid (i.e.: your operations budget) in a checking account at a commercial bank.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

After setting up an account, you or a church committee may have questions for Financial Services. Some of the most frequently asked questions are below.

How do I request money from my account?

Send a letter on church letterhead (if applicable) that includes the account number and amount requested and has been signed by a church representative by:

Email: slucas@umfwnc.org and djohnson@umfwnc.org

Fax: (980) 422-0390

Mail: United Methodist Foundation of Western NC, Inc.

13816 Professional Center Drive

Suite 100

Huntersville, NC 28078

When is the money available?

Checks are processed every Wednesday and a check will be mailed to the address on record. We also send funds via ACH on the 15th and last day of the month. Please contact us if interested in ACH transfers.

Who is authorized to request money from my account?

We realize that church staff and laypersons change, so we will accept a distribution request signed by any current authorized staff member or appropriate layperson such as the treasurer or finance team chair.

How do I receive statements for my account?

The easiest way to receive statements is to access them online. We will set up a user ID and password so that you can go online and access statements at your convenience. Please email Donna Johnson at djohnson@umfwnc.org if you would like to set up online account access. You will be given a user ID and password, along with instructions on how to access your account.

How do I deposit funds to my account?

Mail a check made payable to:

United Methodist Foundation of Western NC, Inc.

13816 Professional Center Drive

Suite 100

Huntersville, NC 28078

Be sure to include your account number on the memo line of the check. Please contact Donna Johnson at djohnson@umfwnc.org or Scott Lucas at slucas@umfwnc.org if you would like to send funds electronically.

How often is my account value updated?

Account transactions are updated every 1-2 business days and fund prices are usually updated by Tuesday of each week (except for holidays and month end).

How much can we spend from the account this year?

For endowment accounts the Foundation has a recommended spending policy of 4% of the average previous three years' December 31st fair market value. Please feel free to reach out to Donna Johnson at djohnson@umfwnc.org or Scott Lucas at slucas@umfwnc.org for assistance.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:1,14)

Finding the Perfect Gift

The tradition of giving at Christmas is rooted in the reality that God gives at Christmas. God doesn’t give stuff. God gives more – God gives himself.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1,14)

When I think back to the best gifts I’ve received, all of them have some significant personal connection with the giver. When Ashley and I got married, one of our favorite gifts was from friends of ours who are a retired clergy couple. They gifted us with several sets of matching crosses and liturgical

accessories they had worn during their ministry together, in the hopes that we would be able to wear them when leading worship together. They represent a connection across generations that help to draw our memories back to them while we draw close to God and one another.

Good gifts are those in which the giver is present with us in the gift. God gave himself to the world. God gave his very presence in Jesus Christ – as people of faith, what if we gave the same way this Christmas? In your gift-giving this year, how can you give more than stuff to the people and ministries you care about? How can you give a bit of yourself?

Offer a gift of your time, your attention, your experience, or your skill. Offer a gift that’s a perpetual investment in the future of the people and ministries most important to you.

This may be the year for you to make that monumental gift to your church, the one you’ve thought about a thousand times but haven’t actually set the plan in motion yet. The Foundation is here to partner with you in making that gift a reality, so just give us a call.

At Christmas, God gave the best God had to give: God’s very self in the person of Jesus. May your holiday season be blessed as you offer a gift of yourself this year.

- Rev. A.J. Thomas
Director of Client Relations

2020 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Now Accepting Applications for 2020 Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund Grants!

Applications for grants from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund should be for ministries fulfilling the stated purposes of the Fund:

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world. Jesus’s words in Matthew 28:19-20 provide the Church with our mission, ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.’ As United Methodists, our stated mission, as outlined in The Book of Discipline, is to follow this great commission ‘. . . to make disciples of Jesus Christ.’”

How to Apply:

1. Apply by Noon (EST) on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 at <http://bit.ly/2MkCzQ0>
2. You must clearly articulate how your program/initiative aims to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. You must submit a budget proposal indicating how all monies awarded will be used (monies must be used during calendar year 2020).

For more information, contact Caroline Cox, Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs



Royce & Jane Reynolds



MERRY CHRISTMAS

United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina

Our warmest thoughts and best wishes
for a wonderful Christmas season and a
very happy New Year.

We are blessed to be in ministry with
you!

Your United Methodist Foundation,

*David, Susan, Brad, Caroline, A.J., Donna,
Scott, Janey, and Suzanne*