

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

FAITH AND GENEROSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Foundation,

As I write this letter I have a smile on my face. For those of you that know me, hopefully this is not an unusual phenomenon, but rather the way people experience me. But today's smile is special...

I am in receipt of an email from Susan Cothern, our Director of Ministry Services, that she forwarded from one of our UMF Development Fund/ Loan Program clients who had just received notice that their loan application was approved by our Loan Team. Translation: the church's badly needed building project can move forward in hopes that transformative ministry will take place! This is the quote from the church leader who received the good news: "Yay!!!!! Hallelujah !!!! THANK GOD AND PRAISE GOD!!. I wish you could see my face right now ... I'm crying right now. I'm so happy and so thankful for you and everyone at the Foundation that has helped us along this path."

The reason this client's response is so important to me is two-fold: 1. The Foundation's mission is to build the Church for generations to come. When we are able to provide loan monies that will enable vital ministries to grow, not only are we helping the local church fulfill its mission, but also to fulfill the mission of the Foundation. 2. One thing I have consistently said to the Foundation staff over the past 18 years is that I hope every day we can look back at something that happened – an encounter with a client, a goal accomplished, and even a positive day in the financial markets – and it brought a smile to our face because it either brought joy to our lives or we made a difference in someone else's life. Today we are all smiling...

The following information contained in this quarter's *Faith & Generosity* will hopefully make you smile as well! Here you will see articles about our work at the 2019 WNC Annual Conference, how church members can be better stewards of their financial resources through the Foundation's stock liquidation ministry, and the spiritual side of our work through Reverend A.J. Thomas' stewardship message based on Luke 12:34.

Together, we can make a difference even in the midst of uncertainty. While we do so, let us have a smile on our face and, in the words noted above, sing "Yay!!!! Hallelujah!!!! Thank God and Praise God!!"

In Christ,

David A. Snipes
President & Executive Director

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



A steady flow of friends at our UMF tent



Foundation Board Members Tom Jordan & Mark Bailey

During Annual Conference the United Methodist Foundation was once again blessed by the fellowship of friends, old and new. We extend many thanks to everyone who came to our tent for meaningful conversations about exciting ministries and how the Foundation can help support our churches.

At the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation, we were pleased and honored to present Bishop Leeland with a check for \$33,000 towards the Comprehensive Plan for Inclusiveness. We also introduced Rev. A.J. Thomas as our new Director of Client Relations, highlighted the UMF Loan Program, and reported on the success of the Clergy Debt Reduction Program.



Janey Wooliver at the base of the cross at Lake Junaluska

GIFTING STOCK

THROUGH THE FOUNDATION

DONATE APPRECIATED SECURITIES

If you donate appreciated securities directly to charity, you can avoid capital gains taxes and receive a larger charitable deduction.

	SCENARIO 1 Sell appreciated stock and donate proceeds (cash) to charity	SCENARIO 2 Donate appreciated stock directly to charity
Fair market value	\$100,000	\$100,000
Capital gains tax paid	\$50,000 appreciation x 15% = \$7,500	\$0
Total donated to charity	\$100,000 - \$7,500 = \$92,500	\$100,000
Personal income tax savings	\$92,500 x 28% = \$25,900	\$100,000 x 28% = \$28,000
Net tax savings	\$25,900 - \$7,500 = \$18,400	= \$28,000

Hypothetical example is provided for illustrative purposes only. Does not take into account any state or local taxes. Certain federal income tax deductions, including the charitable contribution, are available only to taxpayers who itemize deductions. In addition, deductions for charitable contributions may be limited based on the type of property donated, the type of charity and the donor's AGI. Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research

Did you know that the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina will liquidate stocks for you with no fee? This service is offered as a courtesy to churches and congregation members in the WNC Conference.

Making a gift of stock will allow the donor to take the full market value of the gift, and incur no capital gains! (Note: the stock must have been held for at least one year to qualify.)

If you have church members who wish to donate appreciated stock, the Foundation will liquidate these gifts for you at no additional cost.

For more information or assistance with a stock transfer, contact Suzanne Matthews at 704.817.3990 or email smatthews@umfwnc.org.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRA)

Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – How to Make the Most of It

Per the IRS, people 70½ and older are required to take a minimum distribution from their IRA or be faced with a hefty tax penalty. If you must take a required minimum distribution, but don't need the funds and don't want to pay income taxes on it, please consider gifting it to the Church as part of your annual support. If you gift it directly to the church, you will not pay income taxes on it, and your overall taxable income for the year will be reduced by that amount.

To qualify for the tax credit, you must have your retirement plan administrator direct the distribution DIRECTLY to your church; it cannot pass through your hands or it will trigger an income taxable event for you.

The donation of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution can provide a benefit in two ways:

- 1. If you make the donation of your RMD directly to your church you will not pay income taxes on the distribution
- 2. By not taking your distribution, your overall taxable income is reduced.

If you have questions about how to execute this gift transaction, please contact Susan Cothern at the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina at (888) 450-1956 ext. 1507 or email her at scothern@ umfwnc.org and she will be happy to help you through the process.

FOUNDATION MINISTRIES

"Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no their comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". (Luke 12:33-34)

Treasures of the Heart

Whoever or whatever we love – that's where the money goes.

Ashley and I had been together for about three years. We were out one evening and had to stop by the drive-up ATM. I'm leaning out the window and punching in numbers, and the machine is spitting out receipts and cash, and I'm handing the cash, the receipts, my wallet, my ATM card – all of it – across the car to Ashley. As she was arranging things back in my wallet, she looked up brightly and said, "I've never had your wallet before!" I said, "Sweetie, you've had my wallet for three years, now!" Where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also.

Whoever or whatever we love, that's where the money goes. Those of you who have kids, that's where the money goes. Those of you who have grandkids, you know the money REALLY flies out to them.

The old adage in fundraising is "Money follows mission." This conventional wisdom is true, but Jesus goes beyond conventional wisdom, and he suggests that money might just as well shape the condition of one's heart rather than simply reflect it. After all, he doesn't say, "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be, also." He says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also." Sometimes we put our money where our mouth is, and other times we put our money where we want our mouth, and our heart, to be.

Jesus knew that what we do with our money – how we spend it, save it, invest it, give it – both reveals and directs what is in our hearts. He knew that our financial decisions get to the heart of things, and so all things financial, insofar as they uncover and guide our commitments, are deeply-spiritual issues.

It is often the case that our treasure follows our heart. With Jesus, however, we are invited to imagine a world in which our treasure shapes our heart. May we be intentional and faithful about where our treasure lies.

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

GRANT WRITING WEBINAR



BEGINNING GRANT WRITING for FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WEBINAR

Featuring Kelly Lee of the North Carolina Community Foundation Thursday, October 24 Noon-1:00~pm

Free - Zoom link to webinar will be emailed to registrants.

Deadline to register October 17. Register at tinyurl.com/FAITHGRANT







The United Methodist Foundation is happy to partner with the North Carolina Community Foundation and the NC Rural Center to provide a Grant Writing Webinar for Faith-Based Organizations.

If your church or religous group has been considering applying for a grant for your growing ministry we encourage you to join! There is no registration fee, but be sure to sign up before October 17th. On Thursday, October 21st, you will recieve an email with a Zoom link giving you access to the webinar.

For more information contact Caroline Cox, Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs by calling 704-817-3990 or by email ccox@umfwnc.org

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Christ UMC (Drexel) Endowment Creation



The Foundation is asked, "Which churches should have an endowment?"

Our answer: "Any church that plans to be here in the future!"

We applaud Christ UMC in Drexel for being proactive in the creation of their endowment, and making plans for Christ UMC's financial ministry long into the future!

Wesley Memorial UMC Managed Funds Client



"Switching from an impersonal, commercial financial institution to the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina was prudent and transformative for our ministry. With more flexibility and individualized service, we are investing our resources more effectively. Knowing that our investments are supporting the work of the wider Church allows our congregation's generosity to transform lives at Wesley Memorial, in High Point and beyond. The staff is exceedingly generous with their guidance, access, and support – true partners in ministry"

- Scott Howell