

FAITHFULLY FORWARD

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. is a ministry of the Church and for the Church whose mission is to build the Church for generations to come. We fulfill this mission by investing in people, churches and related institutions, and innovation. We envision a Church where people live out their discipleship through the faithful stewardship of their God-given resources.

MUSTARD SEED FAITH

“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible.” Matthew 17:20 has formed my life since childhood. David Tutterow, a faithful Sunday school teacher at Cooleemee United Methodist Church, gave me a bookmark with these words written in embossed gold lettering and a bright red tassel. I used it for years until that time came in my first appointment for me to pass it along to a youth member who was struggling with his faith. In fifth grade I had no idea how these words would influence my life moving forward. Now, I can't imagine my faith journey without them and wonder how they have affected others' lives as well.



Wild mustard blooming in Israel.
Photo credit: Marjorie Setzer, Shiloh UMC, Claremont

A little over half a century ago, visionary leaders from our conference created what is now known as the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. They stepped out in faith, believing God was calling them to something greater; something that had never been done in our conference. They believed that through the ministries of the Foundation, God's work could be glorified by encouraging faithful stewardship of God-given resources. Their faith, and ultimate call to action, has become a vital ministry within our conference and beyond. I often wonder if they ever envisioned that their faithfulness would result in one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the United Methodist connection.

Fortunately, their faith journey that started so many years ago has not ended.

Faithful conference leaders – laity and clergy alike – turn to us for leadership development, all in hopes of maximizing their God-given gifts and graces for ministry. Churches and institutions have faith in our ability to manage their financial resources so that their ministries can be funded in an effort to bring people to Christ. Finally, our staff has faith that God has placed them here, at this time in history, to assist in this life-transforming work.

Paul Tillich, a Christian philosopher and theologian, in his book, *The Dynamics of Faith*, says faith is “the state of being ultimately concerned.” A more practical definition of faith as we know it in the Church is believing in something yet unknown; a kind of trust that causes us to put forth our full being.

The following pages share the story of how individuals, churches, institutions and other ministries have stepped out in faith with their full being and financial resources, not sure what the outcome might be, yet fully immersing themselves to God's call. Fortunately for us, the faith journeys of these ministries intersected with ours, enabling God's work to be done. It is the hope and prayer of the

Foundation's board and staff that you will find these stories uplifting, encouraging and filled with promise of transformed lives. As always, we consider it an honor and privilege to partner in ministry with you. If there is a time when you think it might be helpful for our faith journeys to intersect, we look forward to hearing from you.



Rev. David A. Snipes,
President & Executive Director

WITH PRIDE & GRATITUDE

A message from Bishop Paul L. Leeland

While “Building the Church for Generations to Come” is the mission and vision of our United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, “Faithfully Forward” best reflects the ministry of this past year. Our Foundation finished 2019 with \$238 MM in total assets, a record high built on prudent management and investment performance, making UMFWNC the 4th largest Foundation in the United Methodist Church. Recognizing that to whom much is given, much is required, the Foundation has increased its strategic investment in the people and ministries of the Conference and its churches by committing resources to the long-term development of strong healthy leaders, and vibrant ministries serving the needs of our local communities. Some of our faithful steps this year included:

- ▶ Expansion of our Clergy Debt Reduction Ministry, reducing the financial strain on clergy of the theological education they pursued in preparation to serve the Church. First established with a grant from the WNCC Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits of \$2.5MM, and another \$500,000 from the Duke Endowment in 2018, we have now helped 87 clergy families focus on their calling and ministry without being distracted by overwhelming debt, saving each an average of \$350 per month.
- ▶ Increased leadership presence in the lives of our districts and churches through 147 on-site worship services, workshops, presentations, leadership meetings, and conversations with individual donors investing in the future of ministry.
- ▶ Acknowledging the fractures within our United Methodist family and committed to building the Church – in its many expressions – for generations to come, the Foundation’s Board of Directors updated the bylaws of the Foundation in 2019 to serve “all ministries of Wesleyan heritage” within Western North Carolina.
- ▶ Relationships were created and nurtured with churches across the full theological spectrum within our Conference, demonstrating the Foundation’s commitment to be in ministry with the entirety of the Methodist-Wesleyan family.



Our Foundation continues to offer an ever-increasing contribution to the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. On a personal note, I am inspired by and indebted to the Foundation’s leadership for the faithful continuation of our mission. The staff and board continually demonstrate that faith has always been at the center of the Foundation’s ministry. While the context, challenge, and opportunity of the time may change, the Foundation remains resolutely focused on its mission – to build the Church for generations to come. The Foundation continues to believe this mission is God-given and God-honoring, and remains committed to faithfully stewarding both the vision that guides ministry, and the resources entrusted to its care. We are truly “Building the Church for Generations to Come.”

With pride and gratitude,
Paul L. Leeland, Ed.D. | Resident Bishop | Western North Carolina Conference

WELCOME NEW PARTNERS!

We celebrate new relationships and the privilege to move forward with those who joined the Foundation family in 2019:

- Antioch UMC**
Rural Hall
- Christ UMC**
Charlotte
- Christ UMC**
Drexel
- Christ UMC**
High Point
- First Hmong UMC**
Charlotte
- First UMC**
High Point
- First UMC**
Newton
- Good Shepherd Church**
Charlotte
- Maylo UMC**
Gastonia
- Mineral Springs UMC**
Mineral Springs
- Monticello UMC**
Statesville
- Mount Zion UMC**
Cornelius
- Pine Grove UMC**
Kernersville
- Shady Grove UMC**
Winston-Salem
- Stokesdale UMC**
Stokesdale
- Unity UMC**
Thomasville
- Williamson’s Chapel UMC**
Mooreville

New Endowments

- ▶ The David Johnston Endowment benefits Methodist churches in Bulgaria and Eastern Europe, theological education in the Central Conferences, and West Market Street United Methodist Church, Greensboro.
- ▶ The Love Through Justice Endowed Scholarship benefits Harrison United Methodist Church, Pineville.
- ▶ The Grose Endowed Scholarship benefits students from Spindale United Methodist Church, Spindale.
- ▶ The Theron & Creola Starnes Memorial Endowment benefits Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Waxhaw.
- ▶ The Gilmer & Nita Wagoner Scholarship Endowment benefits students from First United Methodist Church, Taylorsville.



Good Shepherd Church



Mineral Springs UMC



Monticello UMC

Methodists Helping Methodists in the

UMF DEVELOPMENT FUND

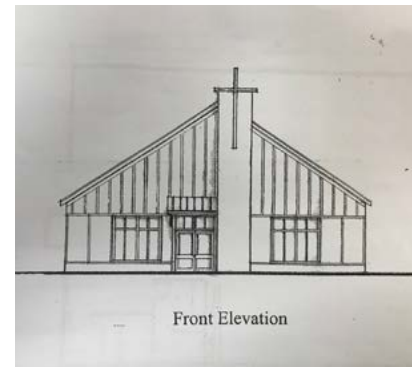
A New Home for First Hmong UMC

Dorothy was right; there really is no place like home. Just ask the members of First Hmong UMC in Charlotte.

From the beginning of this congregation's life, they always made do in the spaces of other churches. Moving to their own facility is a long-held dream of this mission congregation. While they expressed tremendous appreciation to the host congregations who provided space for them to meet, First Hmong UMC members lamented not being able to enjoy the casual fellowship and community meals that are central to their culture. Instead, they would pack up their belongings and leave in time for the host congregation's members to gather. When their children made crafts and were excited to display them, they had to explain that the space was not theirs to decorate.

First Hmong UMC was able to secure property on Rocky River Road. However, not having the cash to complete their church building, their dreams appeared to remain beyond reach. Fortunately, they learned of the UMF Development Fund loan program and applied. The UMF Development and Loan team approved the loan application, and the Foundation is excited to help make their own church home a reality!

When we reached out to May Vang to let them know of their approval, she responded, "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." **When a church or individual creates an account in the UMF Development Fund, they're doing more than receiving interest for their savings.**



They're investing in the future of congregations like First Hmong UMC, and the 40 other loans the Foundation serviced for land acquisition, new construction, renovation, and refinancing commercial debt during 2019.



Congratulations to the churches that paid off their UMF Development Fund loans in 2019:

BETHEL UMC
Franklin

MT. CARMEL UMC
Winston-Salem

PINEVILLE UMC
Pineville

Rising from the Ashes at Smith Grove UMC

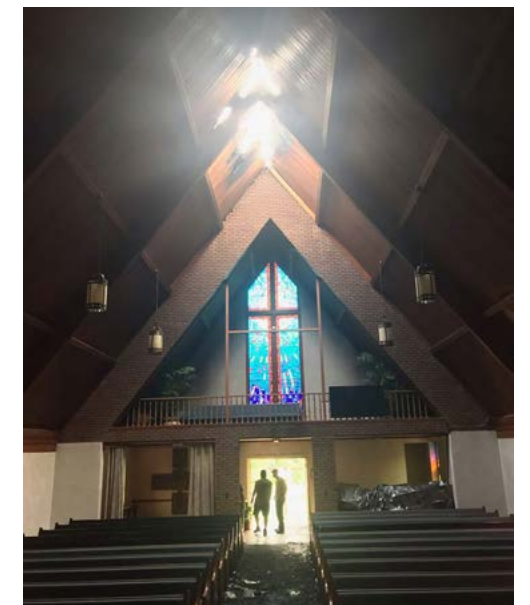
In 2018, Smith Grove UMC in Mocksville received a loan through the UMF Development Fund for a new roof and improved insulation over their sanctuary. A loan represents more than a financial transaction to us; it represents a partnership and a ministry investment.

At Smith Grove, the feeling is mutual. "For us, it was important to partner with an organization that embodies the mission and vision of our church," shared Rev. Darren Crotts. "Our team considered many alternatives, and the Foundation's commitment to being a ministry partner and not just a lender has enabled us to continue to move forward to reach our community in creative ways."

The church's steeple was struck by lightning in June, 2019, catching the roof and sanctuary interior on fire. As firefighters extinguished the blaze before dawn, church members arrived and opened up the Fellowship Hall across the parking lot to prepare breakfast for the firefighters.

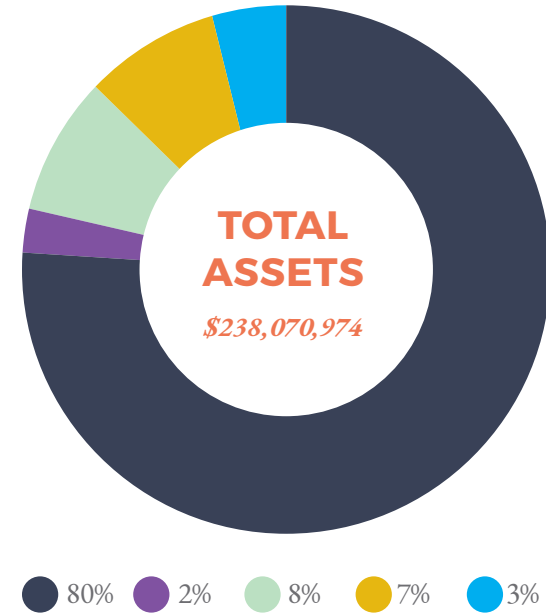
Investigators later determined that the fire could have been worse, but the improved insulation and roof materials kept the fire from spreading rapidly, and likely kept the building from being a total loss.

We have been inspired by joining the congregation for worship and fellowship since the fire. Smith Grove UMC is emerging from the fire stronger and more committed to its mission. They have even kept their sense of humor, as evidenced by their sign just weeks after the blaze. We are humbled to play a role in enabling them to continue moving forward in faith.



2019 TOTAL ASSETS

Assets Managed for Others (Local Church, WNC Conference, and Related Institutions)	\$188,438,967
Planned Gift Assets from Individuals (Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Donor Advised Funds)	\$4,864,405
Managed Endowments	\$19,171,761
UMF Development Fund	\$18,456,769
Other Foundation Assets	\$7,139,072



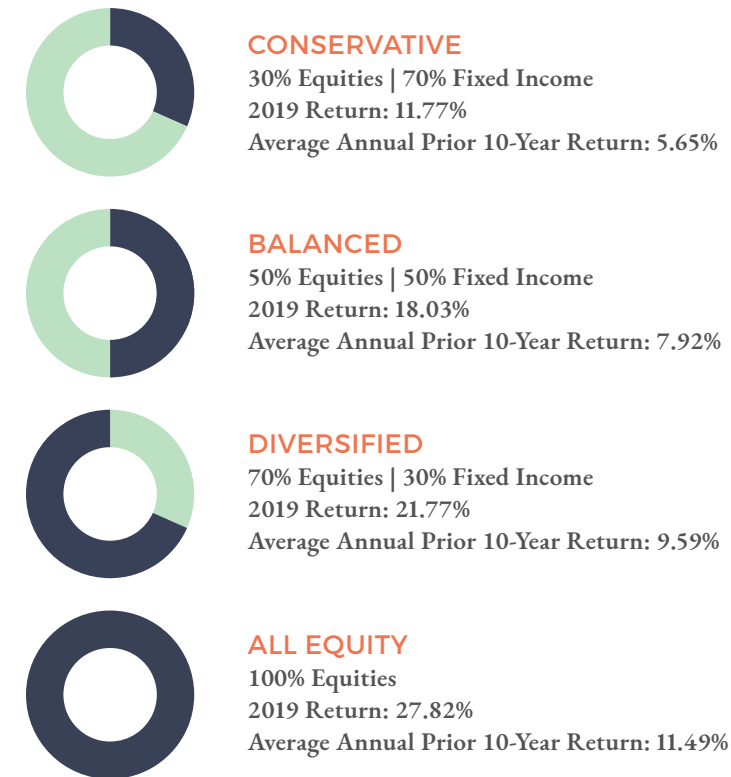
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INVESTMENT FUND OPTIONS AND RETURNS

Our fund options were created with a singular purpose: helping Methodist ministries be the best stewards of their financial resources. When a church or other ministry entrusts funds to the Foundation, we become stewards: exercising prudent care over something that belongs to another. Excellent returns in 2019 mean our clients have an expanded capacity for faithful and forward-looking ministry.

2019 Performance Report by Fund



Why Invest Your Ministry's Funds At The Foundation?

"We knew there was something special about the Foundation once we met with the staff. The Foundation understands who we are and what we are about. We met with others who didn't understand our motives and mission. To them, it was about money. We have entrusted the Foundation with funds that will perpetuate the church's missions and ministries into the future.

The Foundation understands the financial aspects, but knows it's all about people and our desire to lead them to Christ while loving and caring for them. We see the staff's personal and professional passion and their commitment to help us achieve our goals. Without the Foundation, we believe we will miss opportunities to receive significant financial gifts for the Kingdom."

Good Shepherd Church, Charlotte

"Our congregation was blessed to receive a large bequest from a generous donor. After keeping it in a savings account, we realized our funds could be gaining substantially more with the Foundation. It was a win-win for us: potentially better performance of our funds and supporting the Foundation's ministry of churches helping churches. The Foundation understands the Church and we have respect for their conscientious care of our funds. It is nice to know the Foundation is theologically-grounded and there is always a moral conscience behind their investment strategies.

If you aren't invested in the Foundation yet, you should be! They have become a trusted ministry partner for our church."

Pine Grove UMC, Kernersville

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF REYNOLDS MINISTRIES

And Preparing for the Next 20

When Royce and Jane Reynolds of Greensboro entrusted the Foundation with the task of carrying out their vision for growing the Kingdom of God by financially supporting disciple-making ministries, it was because of a shared mission: to build the Church for generations to come. Since that time, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have continued to invest in the future of the Church with the addition of several leadership development offerings. In 2019, “Reynolds Ministries” continued to move faithfully forward.



Thompson Wyatt, Reynolds Program in Church Leadership

Reynolds Program in Church Leadership

Revs. Janice Virtue and Russ Moxley ardently served as “Program Guides” for the Reynolds Program in Church Leadership since it was launched in 1999. In May 2019, program leaders and participants gathered at a retirement celebration for Russ Moxley to thank him for his years of service as well as observe a ‘passing of the torch.’

Dr. Thompson Wyatt joined the team as a Program Guide following Russ’s retirement. He says, “I was thrilled to be asked to join the team for the Reynolds Program in Church Leadership. Much of my previous experience as a clinical psychologist has been teaching leadership development and executive coaching in business settings. It is extremely gratifying to work with these talented pastors who are so eager and appreciative of the learning opportunities that fill key gaps in their path towards excellence.”

Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism and Discipleship

In addition to gathering locally, the Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism and Discipleship participants traveled to both Washington DC and the United Kingdom in 2019. Each session was intentionally designed to address the uncertainty the United Methodist Church now faces with encouragement, hope, and an urgent call to action.

Rev. Chris Westmoreland, Chair of the Design Team for the Reynolds Leadership Academy, says:

“Out of all the years I’ve been involved with the Reynolds Leadership Academy, 2019 was filled with lasting impact. For me, 2019 stood out for its spiritual depth and the way that the Reynolds Leadership Academy participants opened up to one another about success and struggles in a new ways. Walls were broken down and hearts were encouraged in what are difficult times in the pastorate. If this diverse group can connect on so deep a level through these experiences, it gives me hope for the future of the Church.”

About the 2019 session that took place in the United Kingdom, Reynolds Leadership Academy participants share the following:

“Following in the footsteps of the Wesleys was more meaningful than I imagined. Seeing where Methodism began and how it spread sparked new hope in me for the next chapter for the movement.” –*Rev. Kyle Thompson, SouthPark Church, Charlotte*

“Beyond the rich historical treasures, this trip was an opportunity to learn from folks who are passionate about reaching people with the love of Jesus Christ. It has inspired my preaching and reignited a passion to reach those in our community who are not part of a church.” –*Rev. Duncan Martin, Fairview UMC, Pinnacle*



Clockwise from top left: Jonathan Marlowe, Angela Marlowe, Rod Ingram, Jim Parsons, Pam Blackstock; Reynolds Academy for Ministry Management



Andy Lambert, Otto Harris; Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism and Discipleship

Reynolds Academy for Ministry Management

In 2019, the Reynolds Academy for Ministry Management was offered to another cohort of pastors eager to learn more about how to successfully manage staff, resources, facilities, time, and more for the sake of Christ’s Church.

2019 participants shared the following:

“This program gives you the essential knowledge of how to lead a church with a staff. These are vital tools to have in our ministerial toolbox that we may never get anywhere else.” “With all the uncertainty in the UMC, management from the pulpit and managing change are going to have great importance. I will use what I learned to help me pastor in these difficult times.”

Grants from the Reynolds Ministry Fund

The Foundation was blessed to receive 58 grant applications in 2019 which totaled nearly \$1,159,000 in requested funds. We celebrated this as a sign of the abundance of wonderful and innovative ministry taking place around our Conference and beyond. In 2019, the Reynolds Ministry Fund was able to distribute approximately \$423,870 in grant awards.

2019 MINISTRY MARKERS

Numbers never tell the whole story, but they are important sign posts along the way! Some of the numbers that measured our ministry in 2019:

\$350

Average saved per month by our 87 Clergy Debt Reduction participants

1,050

Foundation logo umbrellas handed out at Annual Conference

98

Minutes from handing out the first umbrella until the skies opened

406

Equivalent work days volunteered to the Foundation by our Board of Directors

66

Outside groups welcomed to the Foundation building for meetings

147

Face-to-face client visits and meetings

25,379

Ministry miles driven by staff (around the equator + across North Carolina)

\$20,258,297

Disbursed into the world for ministries to continue moving forward in faith

WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE TO BE THE ANSWER TO SOMEONE'S PRAYER?

Your favorite ministry has a dream that's bigger than its resources. Its leaders are praying for ways to start new initiatives and expand current offerings in order to touch more lives with the love of God.

What if you could be the answer to their prayers? Faithful individuals turn to the Foundation for help making ministry dreams a reality. When they do, they've taken the first step in making a planned gift.



The first question is "What is your dream for your favorite ministry?" Are you passionate about missions or scholarships? Do you care deeply about children or music? Do you want to replace your current giving on an ongoing basis beyond your own lifetime, or make sure the building is cared for so future generations can invest more directly in mission and ministry? Start with the dream.

Second, "What do you have?" We typically turn to our assets as the source of a planned gift. You may have more to your name than first thought; a reminder that *anyone* can make a planned gift.

Finally, "What are your goals?" In addition to supporting your favorite ministry, are you trying to reduce your tax liability? Secure a lifetime income? Preserve something for an heir? Depending on your goals, there's a planned giving option that takes those goals into consideration.

Some planned gifts are deferred to a later date, while others, like stock gifts, can be made now. In 2019, the Foundation processed 49 stock gifts from individuals, totaling \$434,110, to Western North Carolina United Methodist churches. Aside from an incidental bank fee, there is no cost for this service, saving an estimated \$6,511 in brokerage fees and commissions – meaning more money for ministry.

2019 SERVANT LEADERS

Staff

Suzanne Atkins
Senior Administrative
Assistant

Susan Cothorn
Director of Ministry Services

Caroline Cox
Director of Reynolds
Ministries & Programs

Brad Crossley
Director of Financial Services

Donna Johnson
Senior Accountant

Scott Lucas
Staff Accountant

David Snipes
President & Executive
Director

A.J. Thomas
Director of Client Relations

Janey Wooliever
Receptionist & Facilities
Coordinator

Board of Directors

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Pisgah Forest, NC

Rob Byrd
Charlotte, NC

Brad Chapman
Mocksville, NC

Jennifer Davis
Gastonia, NC

Tom Jordan
Greensboro, NC

Tom Latimer
Jamestown, NC

Ken Lyon
High Point, NC

Anne Martin
Lake Junaluska, NC

Bill Mileham
Charlotte, NC

Wanda Musgrave
Charlotte, NC

Will Rucker
Shelby, NC

Jimmy Saine
Catawba, NC

Charlie Smith
Charlotte, NC

Cindy Thompson
Whitsett, NC

Steve Wilson
Davidson, NC

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Greensboro, NC

Harley Dickson
Asheville, NC

Royce Reynolds
Greensboro, NC

Ex-Officio Directors

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WNCC Assistant to
the Bishop

Mark King
WNCC Treasurer

Glenn Kinken
WNCC Council on Finance
& Administration

Paul Leeland
Resident Bishop

Tony Orsbon
Legal Counsel

Caroline Wood
WNCC Director of Missional
Engagement & Connectional
Ministries

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Susan Cothorn
Assistant Vice President

Jennifer Davis
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A.J. Thomas
Assistant Secretary

Rob Byrd
Treasurer

Brad Crossley
Assistant Treasurer

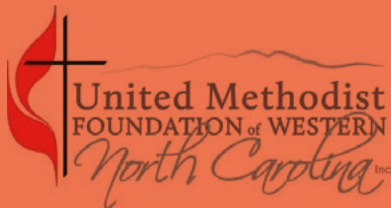
We are grateful for every ministry and individual whose faith journey has intersected with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina. We are inspired by those who have stepped out in faith with their full being and financial resources, not sure what the outcome might be, but fully immersing themselves in God's call.

Thank you for having faith in your Foundation.

It is our privilege to nurture what you have entrusted to us. God is still calling, and new seeds of faith are being planted. Imagine what is possible! By God's grace, let us step forward together in faith to build the Church for generations to come.



Wild mustard beside the Sea of Galilee.



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