

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

FAITH AND GENEROSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

It's that time of the year in the lifecycle of the Foundation when we look back at the previous eight months to see our successes as new ministries were created. As you all know, the first half of this year looks differently from previous years! Who would have thought that the challenges we have experienced thus far would be carrying us into the beginning of 2021? Nonetheless, we find ourselves worshipping virtually, the number of participants we can accommodate at events has been limited, our church playgrounds have been closed, and everyone is "Zoomed Out!" Life goes on, though. Such is the case with the United Methodist Foundation, which is here to serve you.

Since the last time you received *Faith & Generosity*, we have entered into a new conference year which marks the beginning of a new year of board leadership at the Foundation. During the 2020 Session of The Western North Carolina Annual Conference, the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation took place. During this time our Class of 2023 was elected and includes the following: Reverend Pam Blackstock, Rob Byrd, Reverend Tom Latimer, Bill Mileham, and Leesa Sluder. In addition, David Mildenburg was elected to fill a vacant position for the Class of 2022. All 15 of our elected board members bring a unique history and experience that help us fulfill our ongoing mission to "...build the Church for generations to come." Hopefully, this has been your experience.

On the following pages you will find more information about our newest board members. Also there are articles related to the ways we have responded to the pandemic through 1) grants that help improve technology that will aid in virtual worship, 2) interest-only payments for our UMF Loan and Clergy Debt Reduction Loan programs, and 3) a 10% fee discount for all our fund management clients. The decision to offer these modified ministries was a "no brainer" as far as we are concerned. Please know that our on-going commitment always has been and will continue to be about partnering with you to ensure that you are being the best steward of God's blessings. If you are an existing client...THANK YOU! If our paths have yet to cross...we look forward to the day when they do!

Most Gratefully,
David A. Snipes
President & CEO

Can we Zoom with you?

Staying Connected During Covid-19

Ministry is still happening, plans are being made, and the Foundation is still honored to be invited in as your ministry partner. Though we have continued to follow strict protocol to keep our staff and clients safe and healthy, we remain committed to meeting with you and providing the excellent service you have come to expect from your Foundation.

In recent months, that has meant meeting via Zoom for remote presentations and meetings with our clients and prospective clients. We have adjusted to this as the way things are, and find it provides us with different ways of connecting and sharing information with you.



Fund Management meeting with Plateau & Wesley Chapel UMC

If your church is making plans and you would like for the Foundation to join you to discuss investment fund management, planned gifts, endowments, or loans, we would be happy to meet with you via Zoom – in your Zoom room or ours! While we miss being with our clients in person, we are grateful for the technology that allows us to stay connected, even when we are apart!

Endowment Development



Rex & Nancy Idol

When you establish an endowment, you set the purpose of the endowment. You name the beneficiary organization who will receive annual distributions from the endowment. You also name the use of those funds, such as missions, capital needs, scholarships, or any other ministry purpose which you care about deeply.



Rex & Nancy Idol Memorial Scholarship

"I want to do something that will honor Mother and Daddy's legacy, and keep their name alive in the church they loved." – Kathryn Idol Richardson

With Kathryn's guidance, we created the Rex and Nancy Idol Memorial Scholarship Endowment, a permanently-restricted endowment of the Foundation. This fund will award scholarships every year to students from Bunker Hill United Methodist Church in Kernersville in Rex and Nancy's name.

We work with individual donors, like Kathryn, to create permanently-restricted endowment funds for a cause or ministry

they care about. Each year, a portion of the fund is disbursed, providing funding for the ministry designated by the donor. The fund is invested to grow at a rate that's greater than what is spent. This allows the endowment to meet two goals at the same time: perpetual growth, and perpetual income.

Endowments are often named for a family member or beloved relationship as an honorary or memorial tribute. Because the fund is designed to last forever, their legacy can live forever, as well, while making meaningful contributions to essential ministries.

Kathryn funded this endowment with appreciated stock, and was able to

receive two charitable benefits: the tax deductibility of the gift, and avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the donated stock.

"I feel great joy in working with the United Methodist Foundation to establish a scholarship honoring my parents, Rex and Nancy Idol," writes Kathryn. *"They would be pleased to know we have honored their memories with this scholarship. Thanks for making it happen!"*

Would you like to feel the same joy Kathryn discovered? Contact the Foundation today to make a gift that keeps giving by creating an endowment to benefit your church or ministry.

UNITED METHODIST HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Each year the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina participates in the Dollars for Scholars program that is offered through the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Through this program, students can receive scholarships from \$2,000 up to \$4,000. They are able to reapply each school year. These scholarships are made possible because of matching support from a student's church, UMHEF, participating United Methodist related colleges, and UMC conference Foundations.

In 2020 the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina was blessed to be able to donate \$28,000 which went to help provide scholarships for 28 students in our conference.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship, visit www.umhef.org/scholarships/umdfs/ for more information on how the program works and application deadlines.



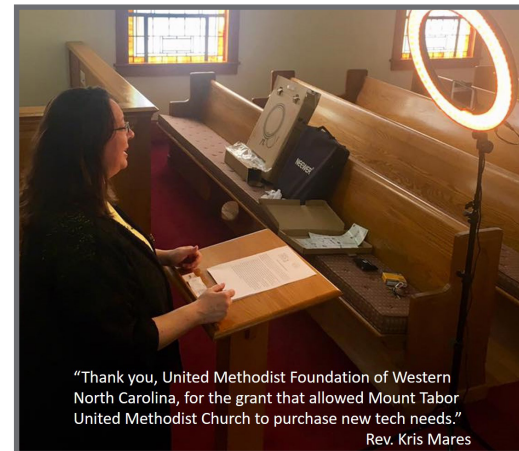
Scholarship recipient Andrew Ingram and parents, Eddie (middle) & Kim Ingram (right)

“Thank you for the scholarships throughout the years. It has enabled me to succeed at Brevard College. I am starting my Junior year and have decided to major in Criminal Justice. I am very appreciative!”
- Andrew Ingram, Scholarship Recipient

FOUNDATION COVID-19 RESPONSE

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina is committed to supporting you through the current COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to share the ways that we have adapted to serve and keep ministry growing during this time. Our efforts have provided relief for our Methodist clergy, loan and managed fund clients, as well as other churches and organizations within the Western North Carolina Conference.

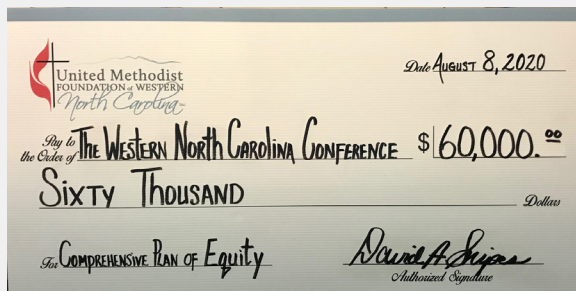
- The Foundation gave Managed Fund clients a 10% discount on administrative fees. Almost 300 clients with equities exposure benefitted from the discount.
- More than 1/3 of churches that are clients of the UMF Development Fund Loan Program are taking advantage of interest only payments.
- 1/3 of clergy participating in the Clergy Debt Reduction Program took advantage of an offer to make interest only payments. On average, this is saving the clergyperson \$500/month.
- Over \$105,000 in Special Grants from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund were awarded to almost 200 churches and organizations in April. These grants allowed for the purchase of technology and items that helped keep ministries going in light of the pandemic.



"With the Covid-19 and having to close our doors, giving has gone way down. As many other churches, we have been live streaming and doing our best to stay connected with our members through the internet which has gone very well, considering. A few months of interest only payments on our mortgage are extremely helpful." - St. Andrews UMC (Charlotte)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference 2020 was held virtually on August 8th. President David Snipes led the Foundation Annual Meeting of the Membership and presented a \$60,000 gift to the Conference for the Comprehensive Plan of Equity.



The Foundation Board of Directors Class of 2023, along with an open position in the class of 2022, was elected with 93% of the vote. We are very happy to welcome Rev. Pam Blackstock, David Mildenberg, and Leesa Sluder to our Board of Directors.

We missed seeing you at Lake Junaluska this year and look forward to the time when we will meet again!



Pam Blackstock

Central UMC, Charlotte

Metro District

Senior Pastor

Pam is an Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference. She received her Masters of Divinity from The Divinity School at Duke University. Currently Pam is serving as the Senior Pastor at Central United Methodist Church in Charlotte.



David Mildenberg

Dilworth UMC, Charlotte

Metro District

Business North Carolina Magazine - Editor

Dave serves as the Editor of Business North Carolina magazine in Charlotte, a position he has served since 2014. He previously worked in Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh for various media organizations, including Bloomberg News and American City Business Journals as well as the Charlotte Observer.



Leesa Childress Sluder

Central UMC, Asheville

Blue Ridge District

Earth Equity Advisors – Financial Advisor

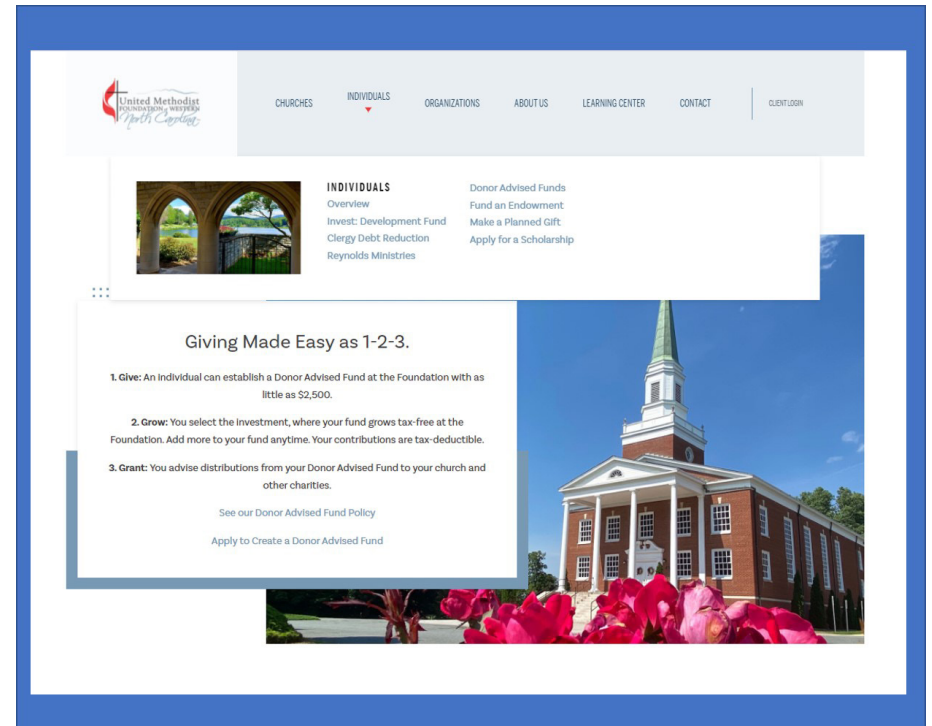
Leesa has an extensive background in working with Fortune 500 executives, professionals, and small business owners. She joined Earth Equity Advisors in 2015 after serving as president and principal consultant of Triple Bottom Line Consulting. Prior to TBL, she spent time working for three major corporations: Citibank, Cone Mills Corporation, and Bank of America, among other things, as a Managing Director/Senior Vice President.

NEW FOUNDATION WEBSITE

If you have visited the Foundation website since June, you have seen that it has been completely redesigned from the ground up. It was designed for a completely client-centric experience. If you are coming to the site representing a church, church-related institution, or as an individual, the navigation anticipates what you are looking for and the content speaks to ways the Foundation can meet that need.

The images on the site are a combination of our beautiful Western North Carolina scenery and our client churches and organizations, which were either provided by our clients or captured by Foundation staff. As you scroll through the site, don't be surprised when you see a familiar face or place!

Of course, while we hope you can find the information you need quickly and easily, what we would like most is to hear from you. Please reach out to us on our [Contact Us](#) page, or call us directly!



Visit us at www.umfwnc.org