

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

FAITH AND GENEROSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

Hopeful anticipation! That's the mood at the moment. But it takes on a new, profound meaning in 2020.

As I write we have just celebrated the third Sunday in Advent where we focus on the theme of "joy," my Spotify Christmas list is playing in the background, and a few, but not all, Christmas presents are under the tree. Scripture that often accompanies the third Sunday in Advent is Matthew 2:10-11 where we read about the Wise Men seeing the star and being filled with joy. They actually see a sign that brings them hope and joy. As we journey through Advent, Christmas and on to Epiphany, my hope is that we can continue to focus on those things that bring us joy even in the midst of uncertainty. The following includes a few things I'm considering...maybe you could join me or even add to the list!

- Doses of COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed...bringing us hope the pandemic will end soon and our lives can get back to some sense of normalcy!
- The certification of votes by the Electoral College for this year's presidential election ...a new opportunity for healing to begin after a contentious election season.
- Politicians appear eager to pass a COVID relief package prior to Christmas break...a badly needed lifeline to many of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
- The market continues to remain steady...positioning us for a strong recovery once the pandemic ends meaning that there will be more monies available to carry-out ministry in God's Kingdom.

When I wrote the December 2019 Faith & Generosity article, the focus was on the good things that had happened at the Foundation over the preceding 12 months. I am happy to share that many of the things we celebrated a year ago still are happening today: strong financials, a committed board and staff, innovative ways to partner with our constituents, and the knowledge that in the midst of all we do, God is there guiding the way.

If we read further into the Matthew text referenced above, verse 11 tells us the Wise Men presented their "treasures" of gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. My prayer for you, your family and ministry is one filled with hopeful anticipation that as we near not only a new liturgical year, but also a new calendar year, we will present our treasures before God as an act of faithful stewardship as we build the Church for generations to come.

May God bless you well during these Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons!

David A. Snipes, President



Royce and Jane Reynolds

Reynolds Bequest Gift

Royce Reynolds' Bequest Marks Largest Gift in United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina History



Reynolds Bequest Gift

The late Royce Reynolds, philanthropist and founder of Crown Automotive, has secured a faithful legacy with a bequest to the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. It is the largest single gift ever received by the Foundation, which has a mission of building the Church for generations to come.

Royce Reynolds grew up in the 1930s on the family farm in the Flat Creek community near Franklin, TN. Determined “not to lead an average life,” he put himself through Middle Tennessee State College selling Bibles door-to-door. In 1959, he traded Bibles for cars, taking a job with a Birmingham, AL dealership, eventually gaining a partial ownership in the business. In 1973, he set off on his own, purchasing a Pontiac dealership in Greensboro, NC, which he re-opened as Crown Pontiac. Over the next 25 years, he expanded Crown Automotive Group to

include ten additional dealerships selling 20 makes of new vehicles, a finance company, and a used car auto mall.

Reynolds, who died in May, and his wife, Jane, shared a lifelong Christian faith with a particular passion for growing Methodist churches. “We have one purpose – to make disciples for Christ,” he often said. This passion led them to create the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina in 1998. The fund supports clergy leadership development programs and grants to ministries that demonstrate ability and intention to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Mr. Reynolds’ bequest will be a lasting investment in endowing the Reynolds Ministry Fund for its work.

“The United Methodist Foundation is so grateful to be entrusted with this most generous bequest from the Royce O. Reynolds Trust. It will enable us to carry out ministries Royce helped to create prior to

his passing,” shared the Rev. David Snipes, President and Executive Director of the Foundation. “In all the years we’ve known each other and worked together, I do not know of a time when Royce waived from his passion for making disciples of Jesus Christ. It was his life, professionally and personally, to make sure all people received an invitation to Christian discipleship. We are honored by the faith Royce and Jane have placed in the Foundation as we transform lives. The board of directors, staff and I are committed to making sure his passion continues in perpetuity as we build the Church for generations to come.”

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina serves churches, organizations, and individuals across 44 counties from Greensboro to the Tennessee line. Its ministries include investment fund management, gift planning, endowment development, low-interest loans, leadership development, and grants. Learn more at www.umfwnc.org.

Reynolds Ministry Fund Grants Coming Soon!

Grants from the Reynolds Ministry Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina

The faithfulness and generosity of Royce and Jane Reynolds of Greensboro has, for many years, supported disciple-making initiatives on an extraordinary level. Our gratitude for Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds cannot be overstated. We continue to be inspired by their commitment to evangelism.



A United Methodist Church holds virtual worship.
Source: New York Times

Grant Guidelines and Application will be available
on January 13, 2021 on the Foundation website:
umfwnc.org/organizations/ministry-grants/

Applications will be due in February 2021

Please direct all questions to [Caroline Cox](#)



Source: One by One
Leadership Foundation

“If I can pay for things that nurture the Church, I am blessed.
Other people can do other things. This is what I do.”

-Royce Reynolds

UMF DEVELOPMENT FUND LOANS

A RECORD YEAR

It's been a record-setting year in the UMF Development Fund! This year, 13 loans have been approved, shattering the previous single-year record of 11. In the midst of a pandemic, ministry is still happening and the United Methodist Foundation is honored to be a part of your big plans!

In 2020 loans have been approved for 11 churches in the Western North Carolina Conference, one church in the North Carolina Conference, and one campus ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference.

When the Foundation services your loan, we are more than a lender. We are your ministry partner. If your church or organization would like to know more about a loan with the Foundation or application requirements, please visit us at :

www.umfwnc.org/churches/umf-loan-program/

**“We are grateful for the Foundation’s confidence in our work.
We were delighted to discover the loan program and this
opportunity to work together”**

-Kathy Bradley, Duke Memorial UMC



Rev. Romanat (Light of Christ UMC) models the location she will preach in the new worship space that is under construction



Artists' rendering of the new Fellowship Hall under construction at Mt. Pisgah UMC.

Gifting Stock to Create a Win-Win!

An increasing number of churches are utilizing the Foundation to facilitate gifts of stock from their members. Gifts of stock are tax deductible just like cash gifts, AND donors can avoid capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stock rather than selling it outright and then donating the proceeds. The result is a lower tax bill for the donor and more of the gift going directly to the church or ministry – a Win-Win!

We send the proceeds from most stock gifts as a check to a church for its unrestricted use. Additionally, some donors have asked us to apply their gift toward:

- The outstanding principal on their church's UMF Development Fund loan
- An existing investment account held by their church and managed by the Foundation
- Creating a new endowment account to benefit their church
- Donor Advised Funds



DONOR RESOURCES

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIFTING STOCK

A courtesy service to your ministry

[DOWNLOAD NOW >](#)

Head over to the [Donor Resources](#) tab on our website to download Instructions for Gifting Stock with the Foundation. Please note that we ask all donors to provide a letter of instruction that indicates where gifts should be sent. Donors will receive an acknowledgement letter for their tax purposes after funds have been dispursed.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CHURCH TREASURY

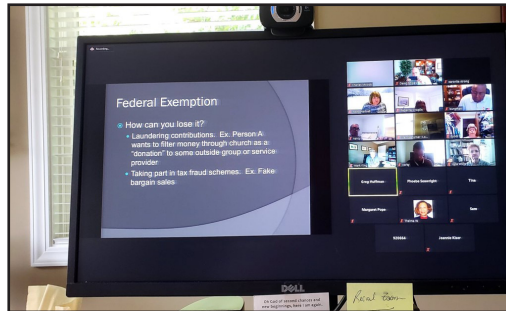
After years of planning, the inaugural cohort of the Certificate Program in Church Treasury launched in early 2020. Offered collaboratively by the WNCC Office of Treasury Services, the four-session program was designed to help the volunteer finance officers of our local churches become more informed and trained for their ministry of efficient and effective management of local church finances. The sessions covered topics such as accounting, stewardship, law, apportionments, taxes, and insurance.

Due to the pandemic we were unable to complete sessions three and four as planned at the UMF Office building located in Huntersville. However, due to flexibility and adaptability on behalf of the facilitators as well as participants, we were able to offer the final two sessions via Zoom. As a result, 17 church treasurers received their certificates of completion. We commend these local church leaders who care enough about their role in fulfilling their church's ministry that they gave up their Saturdays to complete the course. They, and the churches they serve, are stronger and better equipped because of their commitment!

We would like to extend special thanks to the participants, the presenters, and the WNCC Office of Treasury Services for this ministry offering.



First Session held at the UMF Building



Final Session held via Zoom



Certificates of Completion



We are grateful for another year of partnership in ministry!

*We wish you a Christmas abundant with the gifts of joy,
laughter, and peace; and a New Year filled with love and
prosperity!*

*The United Methodist Foundation
of Western North Carolina Staff*