



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

FAITH AND GENEROSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sit to write this article I cannot help but think about Warren Buffett. Earlier this week I read his annual letter to shareholders. For those of you that may not be familiar with this name, Mr. Buffett is the chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. Based on year-end financial estimates, he is one of the richest people in the world with an approximate net worth of \$85.6bn. He is an investor, business tycoon, and philanthropist who has helped many become wealthier than they ever thought they could or would be...yet he is one of the most unassuming people you will ever meet.

My wife, Debbi, is from Omaha, NE where Warren Buffett – also known as the “Oracle of Omaha” – lives. I remember visiting her family many years ago and they asked me if I wanted to see Mr. Buffett’s house. Eager to experience how the rich and famous live, I said “Sure!” Thinking his home would rival some of the nicest homes I’ve seen on the banks of Lake Norman, I was surprised. Although impressive, it was certainly not where you would think a billionaire resides! But that’s Mr. Buffett. Hardworking, down-to-earth, and matter-of-fact. Those around him understand that these characteristics have aided in his success, yet in reading his annual letter something else caught my eye. He writes that in 1983 Berkshire’s guiding principle of doing business was, “Although our form is corporate, our attitude is partnership” – and it still stands today. For those of you that know the ministry of the Foundation you understand why this caught my eye...it is us!

One need not look any further than the Foundation’s mission statement where you read that we are, “...a ministry of the Church for the Church whose mission is to build the Church for generations to come.” We were created by you, for you. Without you, we do not exist. In many cases, without us (or at least our funding), your ministry does not exist. If this does not scream “partnership,” I’m not sure what does. However, we realize that the text in our mission statement simply contains words. Without the right attitude of truly being in partnership, God’s work is more challenging to accomplish. On behalf of the board of directors and staff, I whole-heartedly share with you that we, like Berkshire Hathaway, have the attitude of partnership. We value this partnership and look forward to the day when we will be in ministry with you.

Most gratefully,

David A. Snipes, President



Celebrating Bishop Leeland

We invite you to join us in giving thanks to
Bishop Leeland by giving to the Paul and
Janet Leeland Endowment Fund



Celebrating Bishop Leeland

Dear Members of the Western North Carolina Conference,

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Since September 2016, Bishop Paul Leeland has repeated this scripture many times. More than we can possibly count! It has been a driving force as he has led the conference toward fulfilling our connectional mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These words have also been a reminder that no matter what may happen within the denomination, our call is to do the Lord’s work. Now, as he nears retirement, we asked him how the conference could thank him for his years of faithful service. In a way that is characteristic of his humble leadership, his hope is we could raise funds to support two specific ministries that are dear to him and his faithful partner in ministry, Janet.

Therefore, we, the members of The Western North Carolina Conference Committee on the Episcopacy and the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. invite you to join us in giving thanks to Bishop Leeland by giving to the Paul and Janet Leeland Endowment Fund that will financially support in perpetuity two ministries: The Northern Haiti Partnership and UMAR.

We encourage individuals as well as churches and related institutions to make their gifts prior to June 1, 2021 so that our overall fund raising efforts can be shared during our virtual Western North Carolina Annual Conference to be held on June 12, 2021. In addition, a report of total funds received will be shared during a special presentation at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to be held in November. Our hope is that Bishop Leeland’s retirement and subsequent funds collected will be a way for us to say thank you and also be a life-giving blessing to others.

Please make your checks payable to the United Methodist Foundation with the memo: Paul and Janet Leeland Endowment Fund or you may give electronically at <https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/BishopLeeland>

We look forward to celebrating Bishop Leeland’s retirement and, in keeping with who he is as a humble and committed Episcopal leader, making a difference in the lives of others.

Gratefully,

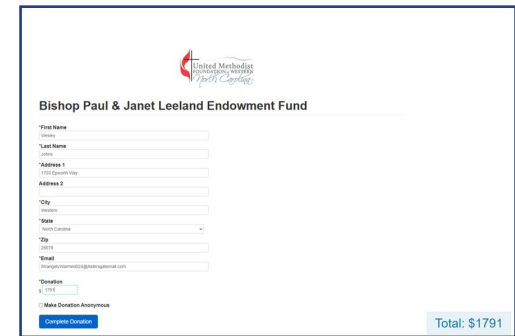
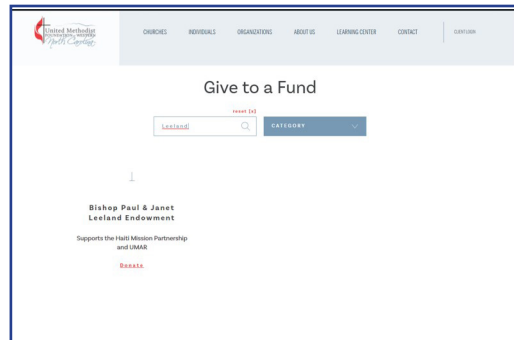
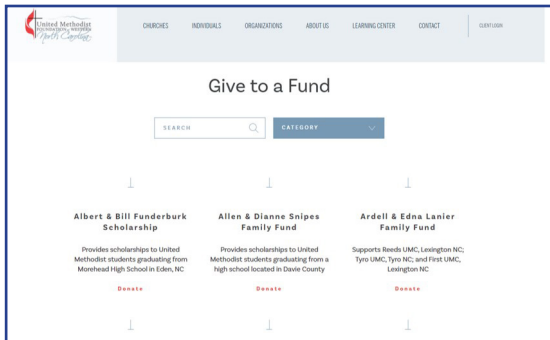
Sandy Giles
Chair of the Western NC
Conference Committee on
the Episcopacy

David Snipes
President & CEO
United Methodist
Foundation

Online Giving to UMF Funds Now Available!

You can now give to UMF Permanently Restricted Endowments on our website!

Explore our latest project on our website! A new option is available that will allow you to give to a Foundation-owned fund. You now have the ability to browse our Permanently Restricted Endowments, or search them by name, church or organization, or cause. [Click Here to visit the “Give to a Fund” page.](#)



1. You'll be taken to a list of all Foundation-owned funds to which you can make a donation.

2. Type a name, church, or cause into the search to see if there is a fund you'd like to support. Then click “Donate”.

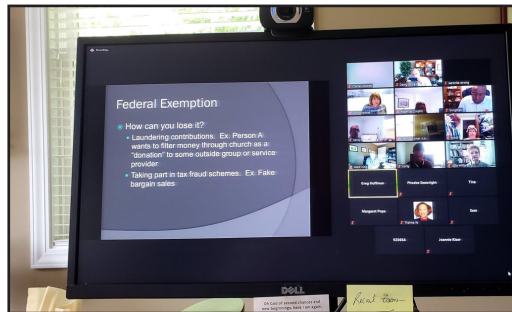
3. You'll be taken to a secure giving portal to enter your information and complete your gift. You'll receive an email verifying your tax-deductable donation.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CHURCH TREASURY 2021

Only a few spots remain in the upcoming offering - Register now to save your space!

The four-session program will be held March 20, 27, April 17 and 24, from 10am-3pm virtually via Zoom. There is a registration fee of \$25.

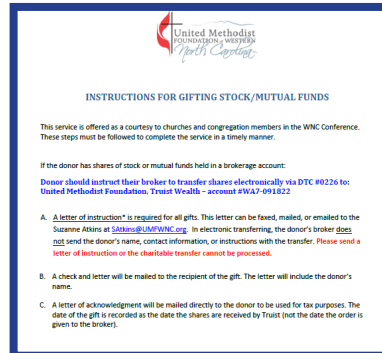
[Click Here to Register](#)



The Certificate Program in Church Treasury is offered collaboratively with the WNCC Office of Treasury Services. The four-session program is 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 cover topics such as accounting, stewardship, law, apportionments, taxes, and insurance.

New Gift of Stock Instructions for Donors

For those who utilize the Foundation's complimentary service to make stock gifts to their local UMC or other Methodist ministry, our instructions for stock gifts have recently changed. Make sure you have the most recent and accurate instructions so there is no delay in your gift being received!



Visit 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 dispersed.

REYNOLDS MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS

Grants from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund in 2021

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina received a record number of applications for grant funding from the Reynolds Ministry Fund by the 2021 deadline. All applications are being reviewed and prayerfully considered by the members of the Reynolds Ministries Team which is comprised of both clergy and laity volunteers from around the Western North Carolina Conference. Our aim is to announce all award decisions by the end of March 2021. We continue to celebrate the ministry that is enabled by the generosity of Royce and Jane Reynolds of Greensboro.

For more information on Reynolds Ministries & Programs, contact:

Caroline Cox, Director of Reynolds Ministries & Programs
ccox@umfwncc.org or by phone (888)450-1956, ext. 1511

Welcome Layne Smith, Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina recently welcomed a new team member to the office... Layne Smith, a graduate of Appalachian State University and life-long United Methodist, began her duties as Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs in January 2021. Layne spoke to her passion for the work-at-hand saying, "I am blessed to be a part of this amazing team and to be provided the opportunity to serve as the Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs. This position allows me to see firsthand how Royce and Jane Reynolds's vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ plays out in our everyday lives. I am eager to learn and continuously help act on the Foundation's mission of building the Church for generations to come."

Layne Smith, Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries & Programs
lsmith@umfwncc.org or by phone (888)450-1956, ext. 1515

Reynolds Program in Church Leadership – Apply Now!

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina hopes to offer the Reynolds Program in Church Leadership again starting this August! Now is the time for senior pastors to apply AND a time in which we welcome nominations! For more information about the program please visit <https://www.umfwncc.org/individuals/reynolds-ministries-of-the-united-methodist-foundation/>.





Layne Smith with her dog, Moe.

The Foundation is happy to welcome two new staff members! Layne Smith (left) is now serving as Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries and Programs. Matt Garfield (right) will join the team in April as Communications Specialist.



Matt Garfield with wife, Marie, and children, Clara (3) and Henry (4).