



"Building the Church for generations to come."

May 3, 2021

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 through the Foundation's website at www.umfwnc.org.

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.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Giles".

Sandy Giles
Chair of the Western North Carolina
Conference Committee on the Episcopacy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Snipes".

David Snipes
President & CEO
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