

2016 ANNUAL REPORT
United Methodist Foundation
of Western North Carolina, Inc.

BUILDING THE
CHURCH FOR
GENERATIONS
TO COME



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. is a ministry of the Church 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.



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'THE MAIN THING'

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION,

When an organization is first established, those on the “ground floor” are called to envision what things might look like in the future. First and foremost, the question must be asked, “What is our mission?” Once clarity surrounding this



Rev. David Snipes

question is reached, a strategy to accomplish the mission must be implemented to ensure success. Such was, and is, the case with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.

Fifty years ago, visionary leaders including Rev. Clay Madison, Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald, Dr. Barry Miller, and Mr. W. Bryan Moore served as some of the first trustees of The Methodist Foundation of the Western North Carolina Conference, Inc. Since the original Articles of Incorporation were registered with North Carolina’s Office of Attorney General, the Foundation has been accountable to related ministries in the conference. Although the original Articles have been restated over the years, the Board of Directors and staff remain steadfast in their commitment to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ in western North Carolina and beyond.

Since 1967, we have grown from a foundation of less than \$100,000 in assets and three ministries to one of the largest United Methodist foundations in the connection with more than \$176 million in assets and 15 ministries. These ministries include, yet are not limited to, fund

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Therefore encourage one another

and build up each other, as

indeed you are doing.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11 –

management, planned giving/endowment development, loans, leadership development, stewardship education, and hospitality. Currently, we are in partnership with The Western North Carolina Conference and work collaboratively with both The Lilly Endowment and The Duke Endowment. Our intentional partnerships and connections help provide leadership ministries that make a positive difference within the lives of our constituents – both individual and organizational.

Several years ago, Bishop Bevel Jones reminded Western North Carolina lay and clergy members to keep “the main thing the main thing...and the main thing is to make disciples of Jesus Christ!” The Foundation’s multi-faceted and non-traditional approach to evangelism reflects our commitment to support the connection’s diverse needs. Many foundations focus on asset growth. Your Foundation focuses on strength in mission and vision. We believe that asset growth for asset growth’s sake does not equate to transformed lives. On the contrary, when we focus on “the

main thing” of making disciples of Jesus Christ, God reveals abundant blessings. When used faithfully, these blessings transform lives and the world is forever positively changed.

Building The Church For Generations To Come...

Sometimes we refer to it as our tagline. At the heart of it, it’s our way of carrying out the “main thing.” On the following pages you will see how we go about focusing on the main thing. As you read the stories and see the lives transformed, we hope you are intrigued and will contact us to discover ways that we might partner in ministry with you.

We look forward to the time when you do!

Very truly yours,

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

Rev. David A. Snipes
President & Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

The Foundation warmly welcomes Bishop Paul L. Leeland to The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, and appreciates the words of hope and wisdom he shares here. Bishop Leeland began



Bishop Leeland

his duties on September 1, 2016, succeeding our friend Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, who retired. Before coming to this Conference, Bishop Leeland served as bishop of the Alabama-West Florida

Conference. Originally from North Carolina, he is a graduate of North Carolina Wesleyan, Duke Divinity School, and North Carolina State University. Among his many honors and achievements, in 2007, he received the Red Shoe Award, presented by the clergywomen of the North Carolina Annual Conference for “encouragement and support of women in ministry through advocacy, appointment, mentoring and friendship.” He and his wife, Janet, have three married children and six grandchildren.

Q Please reflect on the work of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc., to share God’s love with a world in need.

Generosity is a spiritual gift where the people of God are moved by the Spirit to contribute time and resources to developing principled Christian leaders and to create and offer ministries where the compassion of Christ both illuminates the presence

of God and also invites others to become followers of Jesus Christ. Our United Methodist Foundation offers a framework where the resources which are contributed can be multiplied many times over, serving the Church for generations to come.

Q The theme of this 2016 annual report is “Building The Church For Generations To Come.” What does that mean to you in terms of the Conference, the Foundation, and the congregations and ministries of Western North Carolina?

Building the Church for many generations to come means we embody the mind of Christ, who has gone before us to prepare a place for us. In the same way, we are preparing a place for those who come behind us, and we do this by wisely investing our resources so they can grow and multiply over many years. This is more than offering a specific resource. This is allowing our contributions to offer multiple ministries year after year.

Q In this turbulent world of ours, what is your prayer for the future of The United Methodist Church and the role that its people and institutions can play in fostering peace and hope?

We have a great moment in this period of time to become a viable presence of reconciliation and hope. We pray God will raise up a voice similar to John Wesley in which our nation and communities will be united in peace – both with God and with one another. The investment of our prayers and

“

We have a great moment in this period of time to become a viable presence of reconciliation and hope.

– Bishop Leeland –

”

energy will allow us to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, who is with us in the midst of the storm, rather than being preoccupied by the fears and storms that dominate our current environment. This was the prayer of Zachariah as he gave thanks to God, “to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

BUILDING THE CHURCH

I've seen a lot of church-building in my day, especially when I served as religion editor of *The Charlotte Observer* and pastors would call to share the good news of a new sanctuary, gym, or fellowship hall. Good news indeed, for it gave the faithful space to love God, and serve God.



Ken Garfield
Editor

But in this 2016 annual report of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc., we lift up a different kind of church-building, one that has more to do with heart and soul than brick and mortar.

Inspired by the Foundation's mission statement shared on the inside cover of this report, we lift up those ministries whose goal is building the Church for generations to come.

The Foundation is building the Church for generations to come, financially and otherwise, all of it offered boldly, to equip the Church with what it requires to reach a world in need...

Turn the pages to read about First United Methodist Church in Asheboro, and how the Foundation's Reynolds Ministries Fund has helped infuse an old church with fresh vitality and new believers.

Learn how the Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program is helping pastors manage their finances in a way that reduces stress – the better for them to tend to their flocks with an unworried soul.

Appreciate the work of the Church Legacy Initiative in guiding congregations toward the

right path into the future.

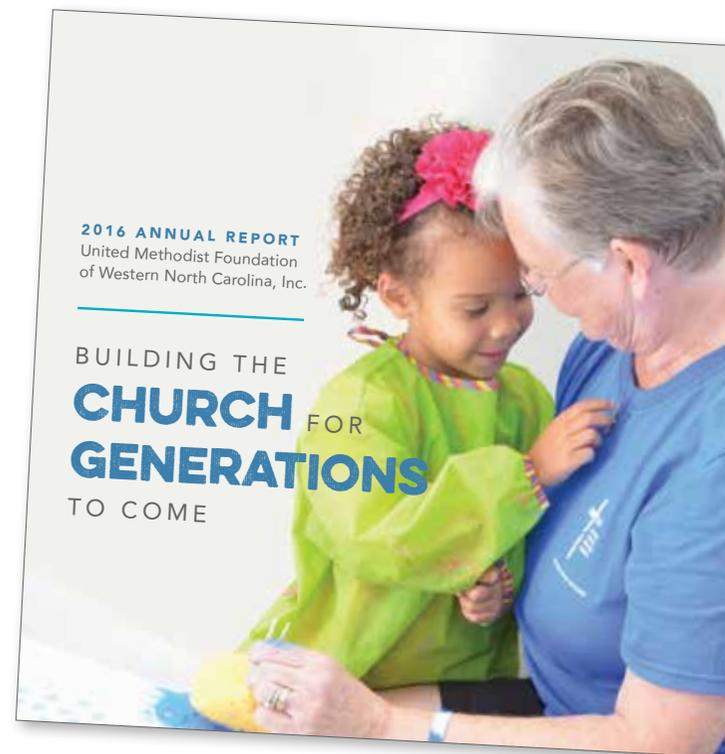
Celebrate a Foundation-sponsored workshop that helped African-American congregations embrace stewardship with creativity and consistency.

See the symmetry at work in the UMF Development Fund: Some have resources to invest, and others borrow those resources to grow their ministry.

There's more valuable material inside, including the financial report for 2016, a list of Foundation leadership, and reflections from the Bible and elsewhere on what it means to build something with meaning that lasts and truly matters.

This is the third year I've had the privilege of telling the Foundation's stories in its annual report. Thanks as always to the staff for sharing their expertise, and to the clergy and laity of this great Conference for sharing the call that expresses itself in so many powerful ways. Thanks to our new Bishop, Paul L. Leeland, for his words of wisdom. Thanks as well to designer Christine Long and United Printing Co. in Charlotte for making sure the words and photos jump off the page with impact and verve.

Read on to see how the Foundation is building the Church for generations to come.



The cover photograph lifting up the theme, *Building The Church For Generations To Come*, was taken by Shannon Cotton Williams, Director of Communications at Matthews United Methodist. That church has long been a friend to the Foundation. A volunteer's love and devotion leading a child to faith...Shannon explains: "Wendy was volunteering at Vacation Bible School when the child, Lucy, noticed the cross around her neck. Lucy was enamored with its beauty." Ken Garfield, editor for this annual report, is Director of Communications at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Reach him at (704) 295-4819 or ken@mpumc.org.

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When Rev. Rebekah Ralph and Duke Divinity School classmates learned of the Foundation’s Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program, the reaction was unanimous: “We looked at each other and said, ‘What!? Clergy debt reduction!’”



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CREATIVE, CONSISTENT STEWARDSHIP

A Foundation-sponsored workshop on stewardship counsels clergy and laity, "Don't be afraid to ask."

Though it was a Saturday in autumn, the message delivered at a workshop on "Stewardship In The African-American Church" could easily grace a Sunday morning sermon any time of year: Supporting the church isn't solely about paying the bills. "It's about loving God," says



Rev. Alexis Anthony

Rev. Alexis Anthony of Greater Vision United Methodist Church in Huntersville.

The Foundation sponsored the unique workshop last October 2016, welcoming 150 clergy and laity to a day of learning, dialogue, and fellowship. Greater Vision served as the host, signaling the strong bond between the congregation and the Foundation. A Foundation loan in 2008 helped the largely African-American congregation settle into its building on Eastfield Road. "Before that," Anthony says, "we were nomads." Greater Vision welcomes 220 to worship on a typical Sunday.

Wanda Carpenter, Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries, was thrilled that the Foundation could support stewardship in the African-American church in this way. "I love it when a mission statement defines our ministry so well. Our facilitator, Rev. Melvin Amerson, shared that he had not seen another foundation engage on this level in this ministry with the African-American church."



Rev. Melvin Amerson helped guide a powerful workshop on *Stewardship In The African-American Church*.

The workshop's overriding mission wasn't just to help the African-American faith community become more effective at raising money. It was to deepen appreciation for the fact that giving is a spiritual discipline. Anthony said the workshop was particularly helpful to African-American churches, many of which are smaller and less endowed with financial resources. As he joked, "I'm not preaching to millionaires, I'm preaching to hundredaires!" Still, he said, the counsel shared by Amerson, a Senior Area Representative for the Texas Methodist Foundation in Austin, Tex., applies to all congregations:

- Don't be afraid to celebrate stewardship, whether preaching about it once a quarter or focusing on the theology behind it one month each year. And don't take it so seriously, for humor can put a congregation at ease. "If you're going to talk about it," Anthony says, "make 'em laugh."

- Be willing to change with the times. Worshipers, for example, don't always bring cash or

a check to drop in the plate on Sunday morning. Make sure they can give online, and through their cell phones. "The key emphasis of the workshop was on being creative," Anthony says.

- Emphasize remembering the church in your will or estate when it's time to honor a life well lived. "Flowers wither away," Amerson advises, "but memorials keep living and giving."

- Stress consistency no matter the amount. As Anthony says, "Give \$10 a week until you can build yourself up to \$15 a week." As Amerson writes, "Generosity is not measured in amounts, but in the spirit in which it is given."

The workshop offered those who came much practical wisdom to take back to their church home. But its reach hasn't stopped here. The day Alexis Anthony shared his thoughts for this annual report, a pastor friend from Harlem called to ask him if the workshop is worth bringing to his church in the heart of New York City.

Anthony's answer, of course, "Yes!"

FIRST WORSHIP STRIKING A CHORD

A grant from the Reynolds Ministries Fund has helped bring new life to First United Methodist Church in Asheboro.

Buoyed by the support of the Foundation, a once-struggling downtown church is bursting with energy – and the blessed problem of nearly too many people to accommodate on Sunday morning.

“We focus on the love of Christ without



Rev. Lynda Ferguson

labels,” says Rev. Lynda Ferguson of First United Methodist Church in Asheboro. “People are engaged. They’re serving the Lord with their whole hearts.”

The centerpiece of this revival is *First Worship*. Ferguson describes it as a “modern” service held each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in an old bank building next door that the church purchased, renovated, and renamed Asbury Center. Seeking to make new believers and inspire all the faithful in a fresh way, the service offers a praise band and worship led by Tim Clements, including the Apostles’ Creed and The Lord’s Prayer. Together, the contemporary and the traditional reflects the church’s mission: “Loving all in and beyond the walls.” Since starting on October 11, 2015, *First Worship* has grown to welcome a packed crowd of 140 each week – young families with children, people of means, and the “nearly



A grant from the Reynolds Ministries Fund has helped breathe new life into First United Methodist Church in Asheboro, reflected in the sweet sound of construction.

homeless,” as Ferguson describes them, united in their love of the Lord and their passion for this new gathering. Including the more traditional 8:30 and 11 a.m. services, the church now draws 350 worshippers each Sunday. Through Christmas of 2016, the church had welcomed 68 new members.

“It’s a beautiful, beautiful thing,” says Ferguson, who found a downtown church in decline when she arrived in 2014.

A \$20,000 Reynolds Ministries Fund grant, along with \$30,000 each from The Western North Carolina Conference and Uwharrie District, have been used to renovate the bank

building, refurbish the children’s and youth wings, and help pay for expanded ministry in those two areas. The number of children participating in the life of the church has skyrocketed from a handful to 75 each week. It’s just a start: In the works at the Asbury Center are Discipleship Groups, and a Saturday night coffeehouse aimed at 18- to 30-year-olds.

Wanda Carpenter, Associate Director of Reynolds Ministries, reports that in 2016, grants totaled \$448,700. The goal of the program is clear: “To support innovative, engaging, and ambitious initiatives that will invite new believers into a relationship with Christ.”



First Worship at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday is infusing the downtown church with fresh energy. Says Rev. Lynda Ferguson: "It's a beautiful, beautiful thing."

Clearly, *First Worship* qualifies. "It's exciting to see there is diversity in the new membership," Carpenter says, "and that they are intentional in embracing all persons regardless of race, economic, or other differences."

Just as First United Methodist in Asheboro is basking in the glow of being on fire, so is its senior pastor.

In addition, Ferguson feels blessed to be a part of the Foundation's Royce and Jane Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism & Discipleship. The four years of programs and fellowship among participating pastors has offered her insight and inspiration. "A huge blessing," she calls it, citing as well the warmth

“
 We focus on the love of
 Christ without labels.
 – Rev. Lynda Ferguson –
 ”

and encouragement of Foundation staff in empowering her for this journey she's dreamed of taking since she was a child.

Having grown up in First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly, she has yearned to

lead a "First Church" – to infuse a downtown landmark with the love of God, and the energy of a people eager to embrace change for the sake of winning souls. Now here she is, in the heart of the Piedmont Triad, right where God has led her to be.

Says Ferguson: "How grateful we are as a church for the Foundation."

FREE FROM THE BURDEN OF DEBT

A partnership between the Foundation and The Western North Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is helping clergy meet the challenge of financial debt.

Bottom line, a unique initiative is helping clergy answer the call, free from the burden of crippling debt. Such is the impact of the Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program. Rev. Rebekah Ralph remembers the precise moment she and her equally excited classmates at Duke Divinity School heard about it for the first time: “We looked at each other and said, ‘What!? Clergy debt reduction!’”

The Foundation and The Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The Western North Carolina Conference have teamed up to offer low-interest loans to clergy. The effort includes meeting with a Certified Financial Planner and one-on-one mentoring to help pastors manage their finances in a way that reduces stress – the better for them to tend to their flocks with an unworried heart and mind.

Since the program launched in July 2016, 33 clergy have benefited from \$1.8 million in loans. Foundation Chief Financial Officer Tammy Lehman says the loans are offered at 1.5-percent interest – a 15-year repayment period for up to \$100,000 in student loan debt, and a five-year repayment period for up to \$80,000 in installment debt restructuring. “This program has given clergy hope and a vehicle to change their financial habits and learn to live debt-free,” she says. “For other clergy, the program has given them the ability to



Rev. Rebekah Ralph (left) shares a moment of fellowship with two friends in ministry. The Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program, she says, has eased her burden.

pay off significant student loan debt in a finite time period.”

Clergy who have benefited from the program are its most powerful spokesmen and spokeswoman...

Jeff, a 50-year-old pastor, and his wife felt challenged by debt and taxes – until \$65,000 in low-interest loans from the program helped them get their financial house in order. They plan to pay off the loans in 36 months. They also find comfort in their monthly mentoring sessions with Rev.

Dennis Marshall, a former banker who serves on the Foundation board. Jeff has always preached to his congregation about being good stewards. Now he’s Exhibit A. “I know what it feels like to slay the dragon,” he says. “The peace of mind is amazing. It’s an amazing gift from the Foundation and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.”

Rev. Rebekah Ralph, 29, serves First United Methodist and Kistler United Methodist churches in Lawndale in rural Cleveland County. A



Rev. Rebekah Ralph (left) at a conference, and taking the new church van on a UMW outing at Kistler United Methodist Church.

preacher's kid, she has watched her dad, Rev. Michael Shuford of First United Methodist in Sylva, fret over the financial prospects of retirement, as so many pastors do. Now as a young pastor, newly married, she embraces her first appointment at these two small churches – but worries about the \$50,000 in divinity school loans she faces. She's not alone: A 2007 Clergy Health Initiative by The Duke Endowment found that many clergy face health issues, and financial stress often plays a role.

Enter the Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program.

A low-interest loan of \$50,000 will allow her to pay off the debt in 11 years, aided by the fact she's paying more than the minimum each month. That, in turn, opens the door to her family owning

“
I can continue to live into
what God's called me to do.

– Rev. Rebekah Ralph –

its own home sooner rather than later – a key to financial well-being. Ralph has also appreciated working one-on-one with Mary Langhorne, who is a Certified Financial Planner, and attending Conference-sponsored workshops on such key issues as taxes, pensions, and retirement plans.

Any time a question comes to mind, she says, the Foundation's Tammy Lehman is there to help find the answers.

“She is so awesome to work with,” Ralph says, taking a step back to reflect on the deeper meaning of it all. “Nobody ever goes into ministry for the money. This definitely relieves me of a burden. I can continue to live into what God's called me to do.”

A FAITHFUL PATH FOR THE FUTURE

With understanding and grace, the Church Legacy Initiative helps congregations face the future.

A unique, new ministry is helping churches chart what can sometimes be a difficult journey into the future. The goal of the Church Legacy Initiative, though, isn't to shutter struggling congregations in The Western North Carolina Conference. It's to point them toward the best path to renewal.



Rev. Lyn Sorrells



Rev. Angela Hollar

“Churches are like people,” says Rev. Lyn Sorrells. “Most have a natural life cycle. They don't live forever. Our goal is to help them discern a faithful path for their future...A path that leads to new life.” After all, he says, “We're resurrection people.” The Church Legacy Initiative was launched in July 2016 as a Conference program in partnership with the Foundation and The Duke Endowment. Sorrells credits Foundation Chief Executive Officer David Snipes and Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley with recognizing early on the need for such a ministry. “They were very instrumental in helping it to begin,” he says.

Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley articulates the importance of the Initiative this way: “The United Methodist Foundation has a long-standing

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Churches are like people.
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life cycle. They don't live forever.
– Rev. Lyn Sorrells –

commitment to stewardship, and we believe that our participation in the Church Legacy Initiative encourages the faithful use of God's gifts. As the Church Legacy Initiative offers churches new ways to make disciples, our support for this ministry is yet another way we fulfill our mission to build the Church for generations to come.”

The Initiative is housed in the Foundation office in Huntersville and supported initially by a five-year grant from The Duke Endowment. Sorrells, former Catawba Valley District Superintendent, serves as Team Leader. Rev. Angela Hollar serves as Associate Team Leader. The Initiative grew out of the 2008 recession and the facts facing many congregations, especially in less urban areas. Communities are changing in demographics or shrinking as young people move elsewhere, both realities leaving many churches in a lurch. Too, at a time when most mainline denominations are declining in membership, the graying of congregations is taking its toll on attendance and giving. In this Conference of 1,100 churches,

more than 500 average less than 50 worshippers on Sunday morning – and 163 congregations average less than 20 worshippers each Sunday.

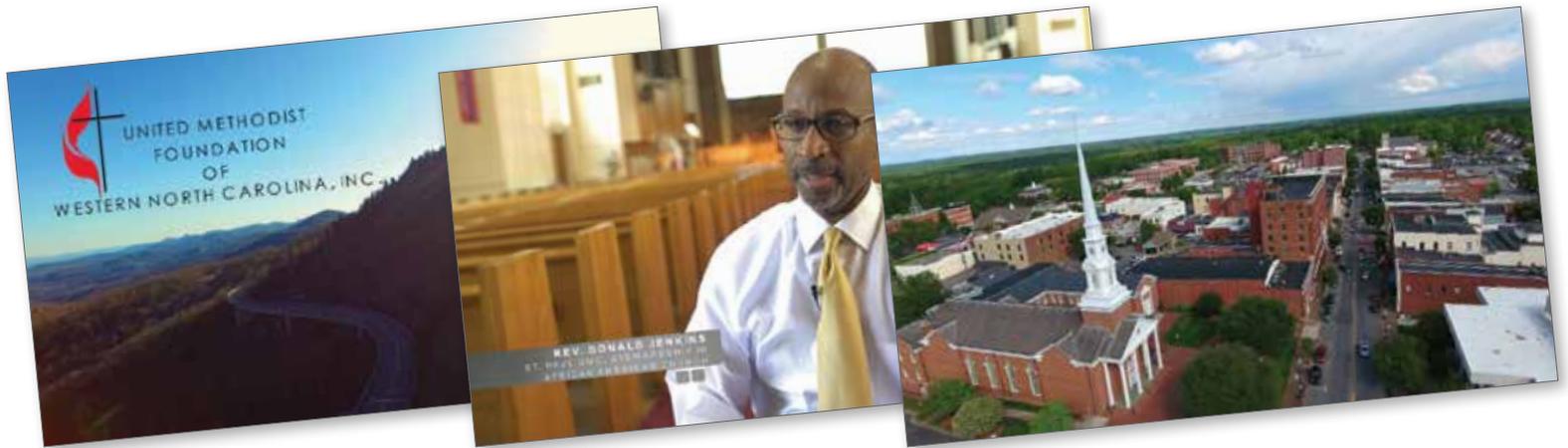
The Initiative comes alongside challenged congregations and helps them address their situation and explore how they might be revitalized. Maybe the answer is to merge with a larger church and become a satellite campus, partner with a congregation in some other way, or create a new kind of ministry on the church property, one that can more effectively serve a changing demographic.

Or maybe God is pointing a congregation toward closing...

In the case of a congregation becoming a legacy church, as Sorrells puts it, the Initiative will work to make sure the closing is handled in a “well-ordered, grace-filled way.” The Initiative will help members find a new church to join, even contacting other pastors to make the introductions. It will help resolve issues surrounding the property and buildings and tackle maintenance matters that might arise. If the church has a cemetery, the Initiative will ensure that these final resting places are maintained with love and dignity. “We walk alongside these churches every step of the journey,” Sorrells says.

Sorrells stresses that just because a church is small doesn't mean it's endangered. But if the passing of time and the shifting of communities rattles the core of a once-strong church, the Initiative will be there to share a prayer and a plan to serve God.

VIDEO LIFTS UP THE FOUNDATION



Clips from the video by Jennings Burchfield. View the video online at www.umfwnc.org.



Jennings Burchfield at work on his next project.

In powerful words and spectacular images, a new video tells the story of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. Filmmaker Jennings Burchfield of Unlocked Videography in Concord created the piece, found on the home page of www.umfwnc.org. The goal, he says, was to showcase the Foundation's services while celebrating the diversity of The United Methodist Church. Take five minutes and learn about the Foundation's ministries: Planned giving, loans, grants, endowment development, and more, all building the Church for generations to come. Admire the beauty of The Western North Carolina Conference, from the Blue Ridge Parkway to the skyline of Charlotte. Hear an invitation from President and CEO David Snipes to partner in making disciples. Appreciate the testimony of those in the video who celebrate the power of the Foundation to help shape churches and change lives. As Rev. Alexis Anthony of Greater Vision United Methodist Church in Huntersville put it, "The Foundation is a godsend."

DOING WELL WHILE DOING GOOD

The UMF Development Fund serves investors, which, in turn, helps churches expand their reach in Christ's name.

There is a beautiful symmetry to the UMF Development Fund. As the Foundation's Executive Director of Client Relations & Cultivation Christian Burns explains, "Some have resources to invest, and others borrow those resources to grow their ministries."

This ministry of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc., is in its 10th year of offering a unique capital-sharing opportunity. Burns elaborates: "Any North or South Carolina resident, United Methodist Church, or related church organization can invest in the UMF Development Fund with a minimum investment of \$1,000. The Foundation uses the accumulated assets to fund low-interest loans to churches for new construction, renovations, property acquisition, and refinancing of existing debt. By investing with the Foundation, you can do well financially while supporting the growth of the Church."

Thirty-six loans are currently outstanding, including the largest to date – \$2.4 million made in 2016 to Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Thomasville.

From both sides of the equation, investors and borrowers appreciate the power of the UMF Development Fund to make a difference.

'IT WORKS FOR ME'

John and BJ Butler are longtime members of Davidson United Methodist Church. At age



A \$2.4 million loan from the UMF Development Fund is helping Mt. Pleasant United Methodist in Thomasville build this blossoming church for generations to come.

69, John is semiretired from the construction business. The Butlers were looking for a way to invest their money meaningfully while receiving an attractive rate of return. At one of the Butlers' Life Applications Sunday school classes, they had the opportunity to listen to David Snipes, the Foundation's President and CEO, share information about such a pathway through the Foundation's UMF Development Fund. When it came time to consider making an investment, their decision sprang, as so many decisions do, from the relationships they had forged with the people they trust. As a result of this knowledge, the Butlers

honed in on the UMF Development Fund as the vehicle for them.

As Burns notes, money deposited in the UMF Development Fund earns a higher rate of interest than most commercial savings, money market, or certificate of deposit accounts. Interest is accrued from the time of deposit to time of withdrawal. Money is available on demand, without penalty.

Butler, a no-nonsense fellow who gets right to the bottom line, says this about the UMF Development Fund: "We get a good return on our money. It remains liquid if I need it. It works for me. I feel good about it."



Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building.
 Church is what you do. Church is who you are.
 Church is the human outworking of the person
 of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church.
 – Writer Bridget Willard –



'IT'S A GREAT BLESSING'

UMF Development Fund investors like John and BJ Butler make it possible for churches like Mt. Pleasant United Methodist in Thomasville to reach new people for Christ.

The congregation of 450 received the Fund's largest loan to date – \$2.4 million – to build a Family Life Center that will expand the church's ministry in nearly all areas. The 22,400-square-foot center will include an athletic court, worship stage, banquet hall that can seat 70, and a commercial kitchen. The downstairs will house ministry areas for junior and senior high youth. The current fellowship hall will be remodeled for the preschool and church offices, a 2,500-square-foot project. Mt. Pleasant's two contemporary services will take place in the new center. The church broke ground on March 22, 2016, and hopes to be in the building – how appropriate is this? – on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017, to begin a new phase in the life of the church.

It's all made possible by the 20-year, low-interest loan from the UMF Development Fund, the



"It's a great blessing," Rev. Chris Clontz says of the loan that's making the church expansion possible.

congregation contributing \$1 million, and, as Rev. Chris Clontz is quick to add, God's continuing grace. "If we're going to reach people for Christ," he says, "we have to have a place to minister to them."

The church did its due diligence by exploring other options, including borrowing from a bank. But Clontz says the Foundation's Christian Burns did a great job walking Mt. Pleasant through the advantages of working with the



Rev. Chris Clontz

UMF Development Fund: rates typically lower than commercial rates, flexible terms, competitive closing costs, and loan officers who are familiar with United Methodist Book of Discipline guidelines.

In the end, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church heard the call to do business in a way that serves the cause of Christ far beyond Thomasville.

"By paying off a very low-interest loan, we're helping other churches," says Clontz. "There's a missional aspect to paying off the loan. There's something special about that. It's a great blessing."

To learn more about the Development Fund, contact Christian Burns at 704.817.3990 (ext. 1507) or email him at cburns@umfwnc.org. He's glad to sit down and share the blessings and details of this ministry.

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Harley Dickson Honorary

Lacy Baynes Honorary

Ex Officio

Tony Orsbon Legal Counsel

Paul Leeland WNCC Resident Bishop

Amy Coles WNCC Assistant to the Bishop

Mark King WNCC Treasurer

Caroline Wood WNCC Dir. of Missional
Engagement/Connectional Relationships

Glenn Kinken WNCC Council on Finance
& Administration

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chris Davis Leader
David Snipes
Tom Jordan
Anne Martin
Rob Byrd

NOMINATING AND BOARD DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Anne Martin Leader
Tom Latimer
Brownie Plaster

Ex Officio

Chris Davis
Lacy Baynes

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

David Snipes

INVESTMENT TEAM

Charlie Smith Leader
Lacy Baynes
Anne Martin
Jimmy Saine
Dave Guilford
Allen Squires
Ted Sumner
John Williams
Steve Wilson

Ex Officio

Chris Davis
Mark King

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

Christian Burns
Tammy Lehman
David Snipes
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

FINANCIAL PRACTICES TEAM

Rob Byrd Leader
Mark King
Brad Chapman
Brownie Plaster

Ex Officio

Chris Davis

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

David Snipes
Tammy Lehman
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

GRANTS TEAM

Wanda Musgrave Leader
Mark Bailey
Charlie Smith

Ex Officio

Chris Davis

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

David Snipes
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Tammy Lehman
Wanda Carpenter

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Camille Roddy Leader
Donald Jenkins

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

David Snipes
Wanda Carpenter

CLERGY DEBT REDUCTION

LOAN TEAM

Dennis Marshall Leader
Al Jones
Tom Jordan
Paul Christy

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

Tammy Lehman

UMF DEVELOPMENT FUND/ LOAN TEAM

Bill Mileham Leader
Brad Chapman
Pam Gillespie
Roy Helm
Dennis Marshall
AJ Thomas
Cindy Thompson

Ex Officio

Chris Davis

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

Christian Burns
Tammy Lehman
David Snipes
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

REYNOLDS MINISTRIES TEAM

Tom Latimer Leader
Brad Farrington
Wanda Musgrave
Sam Smith
Jody Seymour
Todd Steck
Sally Queen
Ken Lyon

Ex Officio

Chris Davis

Ex Officio / Staff Liaison

Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Tammy Lehman
David Snipes
Wanda Carpenter

Advisory

Royce Reynolds
Jane Reynolds

MARKETING TEAM

Mark Bailey Leader
Brownie Plaster
Tom Jordan

Ex Officio

Chris Davis

Ex Officio/Staff Liaison

Christian Burns
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Janey Wooliever

TRANSITION INTO MINISTRY COORDINATION TEAM

Bishop Paul Leeland
Donald Jenkins
Ashley Crowder Stanley
Kim Ingram
Lucy Robbins
Kevin Miller

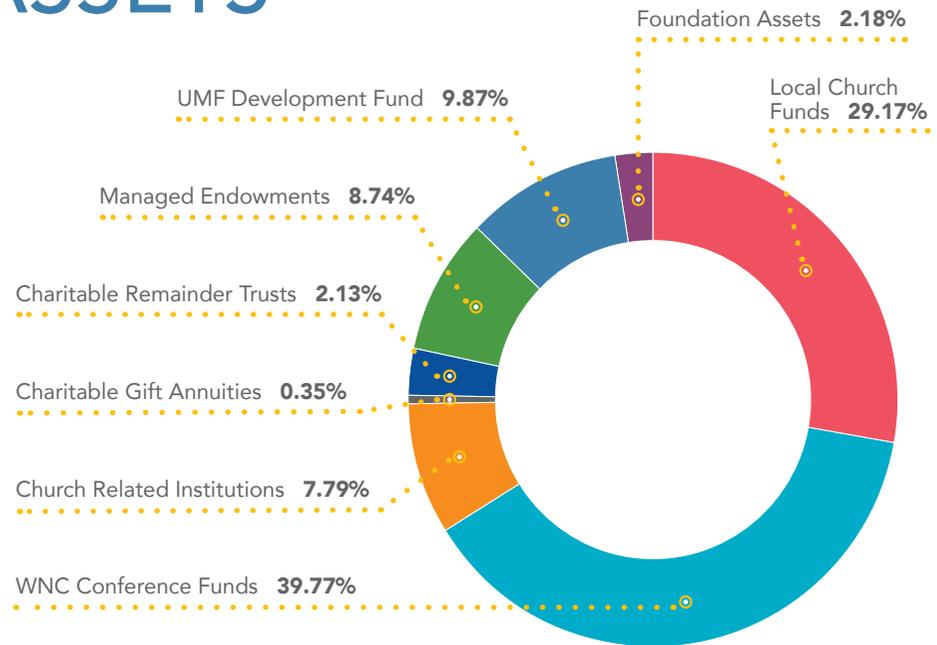
Ex Officio/ Staff Liaison

Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

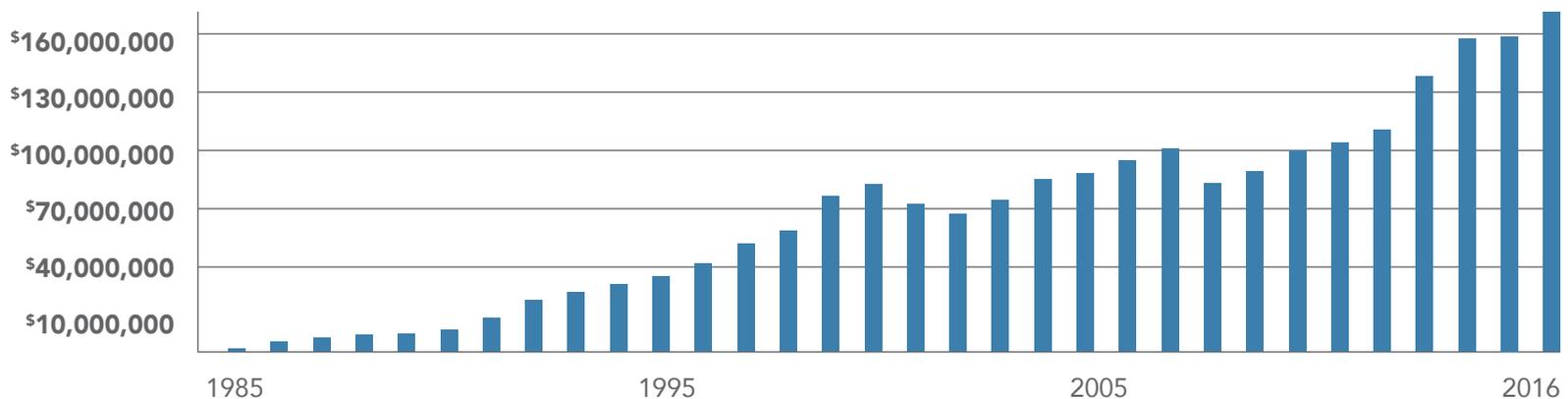
FOUNDATION ASSETS

MANAGED ASSETS AT A GLANCE

Local Church Funds	\$51,545,020
WNC Conference Funds	\$70,277,603
Church Related Institutions	\$13,769,105
Charitable Gift Annuities	\$626,737
Charitable Remainder Trusts	\$3,762,816
Managed Endowments	\$15,442,113
UMF Development Fund	\$17,441,190
Foundation Assets	\$3,830,415
Total Assets	\$176,695,000



TOTAL ASSETS BY YEAR

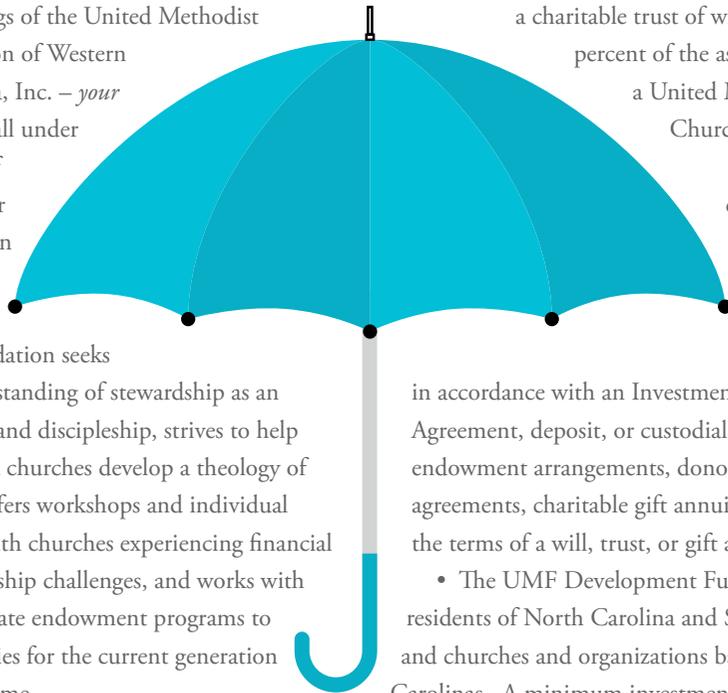


Advice Statement: The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) institution incorporated in the state of North Carolina. We do not engage in taxation or legal advice. It is recommended that all clients of the Foundation seek tax and/or legal advice from their respective accountant and/or attorney prior to engaging in any contractual relationship. Past performance of the Foundation's fund options does not guarantee future returns. Investment in the Foundation's fund options and UMF Development Fund are not FDIC insured. Independent audit provided by RSM US LLP. Copies are available upon request, please contact the Foundation office for additional information.

THE UMBRELLA OF STEWARDSHIP

The offerings of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. – *your Foundation* – fall under the umbrella of stewardship, for stewardship is in all that we do:

- The Foundation seeks to foster understanding of stewardship as an act of worship and discipleship, strives to help individuals and churches develop a theology of stewardship, offers workshops and individual consultation with churches experiencing financial and/or stewardship challenges, and works with churches to create endowment programs to further ministries for the current generation and those to come.
- Planned giving workshops and individual meetings help potential donors understand how they can pursue their gift-giving goals. This includes remembering the church in their will, estate plans, gifts of appreciated stock, life insurance, retirement plans, trusts, charitable gift annuities, donor advised funds and more.
- The Foundation and Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the Western North Carolina Conference have teamed up to offer low-interest loans to clergy through the Clergy Debt Reduction Loan Program. The program includes workshops and mentoring to help pastors manage their finances.
- The Foundation acts as a managing trustee of



a charitable trust of which at least 50 percent of the assets will benefit a United Methodist

Church or institution.

- Church and church-related institution funds are managed and deposited in accordance with an Investment Management Agreement, deposit, or custodial arrangement, endowment arrangements, donor-advised gift agreements, charitable gift annuities, or under the terms of a will, trust, or gift arrangement.

- The UMF Development Fund is open to residents of North Carolina and South Carolina and churches and organizations based in the Carolinas. A minimum investment of \$1,000 is required to open an account. Investors receive a rate of interest from the date of deposit to date of withdrawal. Those funds provide low-interest, first-mortgage loans to United Methodist churches or agencies in the Carolina Conferences. Loans are available for building-related projects, purchasing property, and refinancing existing debt.

- Grants are provided for the creation/support of ministries and scholarships.
- Through the generous support and vision from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Ministry Fund, the Foundation provides grants for church and institutional programs aimed at making disciples of Jesus Christ.

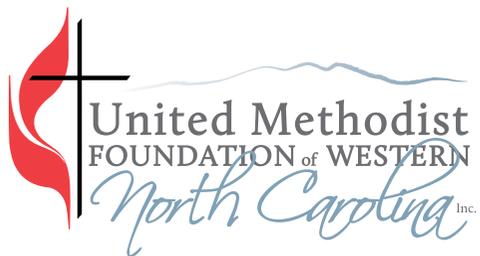
- The Royce and Jane Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism and Discipleship offers an opportunity for 25 pastors to complete a two-year program in leadership development.

- The Royce and Jane Reynolds Program in Church Leadership provides an opportunity for 24 clergy leaders to complete a year-long intensive program in leadership development. The Reynolds program is a joint venture between the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. and the Center for Creative Leadership.

- The Royce and Jane Reynolds Academy for Campus Ministry on Evangelism and Discipleship believes the harvest is great for those who serve Christ on college campuses. The participants gather four times in a two-year period to learn from leaders in the field as well as from each other.

- The Foundation extends the hand of hospitality by inviting churches and other entities to use its facilities for meetings and retreats.

Visit www.umfwnc.org to learn more about the Foundation. While you're on the website, take five minutes to watch a colorful video celebrating the many dimensions of our work.



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Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

– Psalm 127:1 –