

THE FOUNDATION LEDGER

A Newsletter of The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
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Summer, 2024

BACK ON TRACK

So much has happened in The United Methodist Church since the movement began with John Wesley. So much has happened over the last several years in The United Methodist Church, especially our local churches, clergy, and parishioners. I realize that I am experiencing grief from the loss of what once was; not to mention, the grief of losing faithful colleagues to the church triumphant.

Distracted by the changes and floundering in my grief, I find the need to return to the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" but how? I don't think that I am alone. I feel like my Lionel model train cruising down the tracks; and suddenly, it stops. I unknowingly did not do anything to make it stop. Many factors can stop the train like a break in the track, or like a hump in the track's foundation, or a temporary interruption of electricity. I could return the train to its track but the next time it travels in the same area, the train will most likely stop again. I had to discern the problem, fix it, and get back on track.

Unable to move forward, I discerned that I am grieving and to fix it, I had to dialogue and reconcile with my friends and colleagues, inside and outside The United Methodist Church. Only then could I return to the track I had traveled and begin to move forward in "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

For me, I returned to the beginning of my journey as an aspiring ordained elder. In my Call and Disciplined Life paper to the Board of Ordained Ministry, I rediscover God's desire for us is to be good stewards. God never stopped working and providing through these difficult times with our church. To move forward on a repaired track, I only had to respond to what God has already done, is doing, and promises to do. This response is called stewardship!

Stewardship begins with giving thanks to the one who gifts us with the saving message of the Gospel. Stewardship is our response to the Good News of what God has done, is doing and promises to do. Life and all creation are gifts from God. Being a good steward of God's gifts naturally leads us to caring for our lives and others, cherishing life as the gracious gift from God that it is.

I could describe my journey, my grief, my derailment, my reconciliation as a hardship, yet it is simply a lesson on keeping my focus on God and respond to God's grace, not in disgust, not in anger, not in grief, but in true thanksgiving.

A couple, visiting Korea, sees a father and his son working in a rice paddy. The old man is guiding the heavy plow as the boy pulls it.

The visitors say to the guide, "I guess they must be very poor."

"Yes," replies the guide. "When the church was built, they were eager to give something to its missions and ministries, but they had no money. So, they sold their ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

After a long silence, the visitors say, "That is a real sacrifice!"

The guide responds, "They do not feel as if it is a hardship. They are just thankful they had an ox to sell."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am thankful for you and the time has come to repair our paths, get back on track, and move forward in thanksgiving, making disciples of Jesus Christ. Where do we start? Recognize and respond to God's grace that is before us.

May The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation help us onto the repaired track and provide a way forward in our journey, not in hardship but thanksgiving, recognizing and responding to God's grace.

The Reverend Robert M. Vincent, President

Institutional Members of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

Wofford College Columbia College Claflin University Epworth Children's Home
Spartanburg Methodist College Wesley Commons The United Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee

CONTRIBUTIONS, HONOR GIFTS, AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Foundation expresses its appreciation to the contributors listed here whose gifts to the Foundation were received during the period **January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024**

***Denotes In Honor Of**

****Denotes In Memory Of**

The General Endowment Fund is the Foundation's basic fund for the support of its ministry and its seven Institutional Members. The net income of the General Endowment Fund benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

The Mary Elizabeth Avinger Charitable Foundation
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The W. Harry Chandler Memorial Endowment is a special named endowment of the Foundation's General Endowment Fund which honors the memory of the Foundation's first Executive Director, the Reverend Dr. W. Harry Chandler (1917-1984). Net income benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

****The Reverend Dr. & Mrs. W. Harry Chandler**

The Reverend & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

The South Carolina Conference Ministers Endowment Fund is a special "named endowment" of the Foundation's General Endowment Fund created to honor the Ministerial Members of the South Carolina Conference and its predecessor Conferences. Net income benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

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The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the memory of the Reverend Bessie B. Parker, the first woman ordained in the South Carolina Conference (1785). Income provides scholarship awards to women students preparing for ordained pastoral ministry in South Carolina.

Fork Creek UMC, Jefferson

The James L. Belin Trust Scholarship Fund assists certified candidate students for ordained ministry in the South Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The James L. Belin Trust

The Justin Guild Stillinger Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students attending Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina with plans to continue their education at Clemson University.

***Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Stillinger, Columbia**

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

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****Justin Guild Stillinger (25th Birthday)**

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Stillinger, Columbia

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

****Justin Guild Stillinger**

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

The L. Jonathan and Felecia B. Holston Endowment Fund was created at the Foundation by Bishop and Mrs. Holston to benefit charitable interests associated with their church service, specifically Gammon Theological Seminary and Epworth Children's Home.

***Bishop L. Jonathan Holston**

The Reverend & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

***Bishop & Mrs. Holston's Anniversary**

The SC Conference Committee on Episcopacy

The Lynchburg Cemetery Endowment Fund provides for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Lynchburg Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Corinne V. Sade, Charleston

***Mrs. Corinne Sade on Mother's Day**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

***Dr. Howard F. Vincent, Jr.'s Birthday**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

***Mrs. Judith Vincent on Mother's Day**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

****Mrs. Corinne Vincent on Mother's Day**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

****Mr. Howard F. Vincent on Father's Day**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

****Mrs. Dool Vincent on Mother's Day**

Mrs. Corinne V. Sade, Charleston

The Martha Pinson Manry Endowment Fund for Latimer Memorial UMC was created by the late Martha P. Manry to benefit the maintenance, repair, improvement, and upkeep of the property of Latimer UMC.

The Estate of Martha P. Manry

The Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery Endowment Fund provides support for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Dr. & Mrs. Charles W. Brockwell, Louisville, KY
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***Glory to God**

The Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Dillard, Duncan

****Reid & Hazel McBride**

Greyson McBride, Bessemer City, NC

****Mrs. Linda P. Stephenson**

The Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Dillard, Duncan

The Roger M. and Marilyn M. Gramling Fund For White House Church benefits maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the property of White House United Methodist Church in Orangeburg County.

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

The Roger M. Gramling Scholarship Fund For Pfeiffer University provides scholarship assistance to Pfeiffer students with preference given to students interested in the ordained ministry of a Christian denomination.

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

The Ross Rikard Memorial Endowment Fund supports ministries with youth or young adults that assist young persons battling personal addictions.

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

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****Mr. Ross Rikard**

The Reverends Fred & Linda McDaniel, Clio
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Stillinger, Columbia

****Mrs. Rachel Weed**

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Stillinger, Columbia

The South Carolina Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund provides funding for scholarship awards to South Carolina students in United Methodist seminaries and theological schools pursuing preparation for full-time ordained ministry.

Asbury/Shiloh UMC

***Bishop L. Jonathan Holston's Birthday**

The SC Conference Committee on Episcopacy

The Walter H. McKelvey, Sr., Endowed Scholarship Fund provides scholarship assistance to Gammon Theological Seminary students, while honoring Dr. McKelvey.

Dr. Loretta Felder, Columbia

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Board News

The Reverend Milton McGuirt

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of a beloved Board Member. The Reverend Milton McGuirt, representing The Manor of the Pee Dee, died on June 20, 2024. He faithfully served on The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation Board of Directors for almost 25 years. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mrs. Betty Moss McGuirt, wife and children Bob McGuirt and Beth Stuart.

Retiring Board Members

We have two At-Large Board Members retiring from The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation's Board of Directors. The Reverend Toni White and The Reverend Eugene Curry have been pillars of the Board for many years, offering valuable guidance to The Foundation's operations. The Reverend White is the longest serving Board Member with 37 years. While The Reverend Curry served for 19 years. Both Board Members will be greatly missed.

Net Income Distribution

During its meeting on April 9, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the distribution of \$209,351.00 to its Institutional Members. This distribution represents one hundred percent of the Foundation's operating income from its 2022-2023 fiscal year.

2024 Scholarship Recipients Named

The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation awarded \$82,000.00 in Seminary scholarships and \$16,236.00 in Undergraduate scholarships, totaling \$98,236.00 from the following Funds for 2024. These scholarship funds are designated endowment funds of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation and gifts to these Funds are welcomed.

Belin Trust Scholarship Fund

Amber Scates Forrest
Candler Theological Seminary

Bessie Bellamy Parker Scholarship Fund

Heather Roberts Connor
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

Elizabeth Loughran
Candler Theological Seminary

Cook Scholarship Endowment Fund

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David E. and Ruth N. Garrison Scholarship Fund

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Anderson University

Jayden Harden
University of South Carolina

Kaylie Jaden
Clemson University

Brianna Pace
Clemson University

Garrison-Cannon Sunday School Class Scholarship Fund

Heather Roberts Connor
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

Clarence D. & Belva M. Williams Scholarship Fund

Heather Roberts Connor
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

Christopher Charles Key
Duke Divinity Seminary

John Sterling Poole
Duke Divinity Seminary

Renee Moore Ritter
United Theological Seminary

Gene Roger and Mildred W. Wimberly Kizer Scholarship Fund

Amber Scates Forrest
Candler Theological Seminary

Elizabeth Loughran
Candler Theological Seminary

Renee Moore Ritter
United Theological Seminary

Grace Brooks & E. Perry Palmer Scholarship Fund

Christopher Charles Key
Duke Divinity Seminary

The J. Lawrence & Margaret F. McCleskey Scholarship Fund

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Christopher Charles Key
Duke Divinity Seminary

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Janie Robinson Thomasson Memorial Scholarship Fund

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Zachary Albert Smith
Columbia College

South Carolina Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund

Heather Roberts Connor
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

Christopher Charles Key
Duke Divinity Seminary

John Sterling Poole
Duke Divinity Seminary

Renee Moore Ritter
United Theological Seminary

Leave A Legacy to Change Lives

*Extend Your Love For The Church
And Its Institutions
Beyond Your Lifetime
Through Gifts And Bequests To
The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.*