



Foundation Focus

Spring 2020

Issue 88

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.
Serving United Methodists in West Virginia & Garrett County, Maryland

A Solid Mission



Everyone is doing everything in a new way during our current global pandemic reality. Churches are worshipping together on Facebook and YouTube, Sunday school classes are meeting using Zoom or other online meeting applications. Many of us are working from home using technology to connect to the office. In the midst of these changes and adaptations, we find some things remain the solid and foundational.

The mission of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia remains same. We work to create a culture of generosity that transforms the world by raising, managing, and distributing funds that serve the needs of all people and communities. How we serve may look a little different, but our work continues.

The image above is a Grants Committee meeting via Zoom. The Grants Committee met on April 7 and awarded \$54,375 in response to the applications

Continued on page 3

Inside this Issue

A Solid Mission and Grant Awards	1
Flemington United Methodist Church	2
Online, Recurring Giving	4
Foundation Academy New Dates	5
Investment Performance	5
Ministry Resources	6
Contact Information	6

Contact Us



www.umfww.org



info@umfww.org



[umfww](https://www.facebook.com/umfww)



304-342-2113

Flemington United Methodist Church

Jesse Brake is the Treasurer of the Flemington United Methodist Church in the MonValley District. He contact us because his church had \$1,500 invested in a Certificate of Deposit. To honor the donor, they only spent the interest. They wanted to review other investment options because, as you are no doubt aware, interest rates are at an all-time low. He and the leadership of the church were interested in learning about the options The Foundation could offer as an alternative.

Many churches find that a custodial account with the United Methodist Foundation is a good alternative to a CD. While a CD offers a guaranteed interest rate, the rates are generally low. Moreover, the principal is committed for the term of the CD. If the church needed to make a withdrawal, it would incur a penalty.

In contrast, with a custodial account at the United Methodist Foundation, the total market value of the account is available at any time. There is no maturity date; there are no transaction fees; there are no penalties.

After a presentation by The Foundation, the Church decided that investing through The Foundation made good stewardship sense. First, since this gift had been a long-term investment, they could garner a better investment return over time than they received through the CD. They were willing to give up the “guarantee” of the CD because they understand that, in the long-run, a balanced portfolio has always outperformed guaranteed CD rates. See page 5 for a chart showing our historical investment performance.

Second, they appreciated the flexibility The Foundation could offer in tailoring the account to fit their needs. In fact, during the meeting, they decided that they had another account they could invest as a reserve fund, where they would treat it as endowment



but under certain circumstances the principal could be withdrawn.

Finally, they welcomed the concept of sustainable investing and appreciated that their funds would not be invested in enterprises that are contrary to their Christian principles, such as alcohol, tobacco, weapons, gambling, pornography, and private prisons. They were pleased that their funds would be invested in companies that have a commitment to the environment, social values, and good corporate governance.

The Foundation offers reasonable investment returns with low fees. Consider learning more about how we can assist your church. ☺



Foundation Officers and Board Members

D. Lyn Dotson
Chairperson

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball
Honorary Chairperson

Cheryl Davis
Vice-Chairperson

Jeffrey A. Taylor
President

Kimberly A. Matthews
Vice President

Judith Raines
Treasurer

Susannah G. Carpenter
Chief Financial Officer

Maribeth Anderson

Lauren A. Godwin

Joseph B. A. Hill

Scarlett E. Kellerman

Joseph Kenaston

Aliene G. Lee

Barbara McDowell

Chris Meighen

Gina Palmer

Michael Perkins

Deborah Shaffer

Edward Sisson

Richard N. Toothman

James Wadsworth

Vernon Webster

Jeff Welshonce

Kristi L. Wilkerson

William H. Wilson

A Solid Mission

Continued from Page 1

we have received. The funding for our Foundation Grant program is from our organization's income; we tithe our expected revenue for the year. We are grateful that the strength of your Foundation and our solid mission meant that we did not reduce the amount of money awarded for grants, even in this uncertain time.

The committee awarded the following grants:

- Contemplative Retreats for Non-Profit Workers, a ministry of Avery United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, was awarded a grant to help fund its first retreat.
- Duff Street United Methodist Church received a grant to purchase an automated defibrillator for its new Sanctuary.
- First United Methodist Church of Parkersburg was approved for a grant for its Neighbor to Neighbor ministry.
- First United Methodist Church of South Charleston received a grant to purchase stage equipment for its new worship service.
- Hope Recovery Manor of Parkersburg received a grant for its addiction recovery house.
- House of the Carpenter was approved for a grant to purchase equipment for its new Youth Center.
- Kenova United Methodist Church Youth Group received a grant for a new ministry associated with its Blessing Box.
- Mt. Juliet United Methodist Church was approved for a grant to purchase a freezer and ice machine for its weekly community feeding ministry and bi-weekly children's program.
- Hope in the Mountains, a ministry of the Southern District, was approved for a grant to help fund the purchase of a community center.
- United Methodist Temple in Clarksburg received a grant to help replace windows in its Recovery House facility.

The next grant application deadline is July 31, 2020. Information and applications can be downloaded at www.umfwv.com/foundation-grants. ☺



The Benefits of Online, Recurring Giving



It has been amazing to watch how quickly churches and parishioners adapted to continuing to have worship experiences while maintaining physical distancing requirements. The pandemic seems to have caused a surge in creativity as pastors and other leaders found ways to bring meaningful worship experiences into our homes using YouTube, Facebook, and streaming services. Some churches and parishioners have been slower to adapt to online giving and recurring giving.

Most people today do a large part of their business online. We shop and order dinner using smart-phone apps. We file and pay our

taxes using cloud-based software. We pay our mortgage and utility bills online. For many of us, our tithe is the only check we write each week, because our church has been behind the curve on setting up online giving.

We've heard the arguments against online giving. The most common objection voiced is the cost; usually those who complain about the cost of online giving have not done a complete cost-benefit analysis that includes the complete cost of receiving cash and checks—the time involved in counting and physically making a bank deposit. Of course, the greatest cost is that experienced in the midst of a global crisis that prohibits us from physically gathering together. How do you receive a morning offering if no one is in church?

Churches who encouraged online, recurring giving have been able to continue to encourage gifts despite physical distancing. Parishioners can give from their phones, computers, and tablets. Better yet, they can set up an ongoing contribution that automatically deducts money each week or each month, the same way they set up other payments.

Are you interested in learning more about online giving? Join us for a free webinar on May 20 - the details are in the box to the right. ☺

Free e-giving webinar

Learn how to create and promote a successful electronic giving program by attending The Foundation's free Electronic Giving webinar on Wednesday, May 20 at 2:00. Registration is necessary; go to www.umfwv.org and click on the link in the right sidebar. A recording of the webinar will be available for those who are not able to join us live.

Photo credits:

Left: Flemington UMC from Flemington UM Charge Facebook page.

Middle: Communion at United Methodist Temple, Clarksburg, image from WVAC Communications.

Above: Online giving image from rupixen.com on Unsplash

Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity

In March, after consultation with the leadership of our Board of Trustees and our presenters, we made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity, which had been scheduled to be held at Canaan Valley Resort in Davis, West Virginia. We give thanks to Canaan Valley Resort, whose management, Regency Hotel Management, graciously agreed to allow us to postpone the Academy without any cancellation fees or penalties. It turned out to have been the right decision, as the Stay at Home order would have prevented our gathering.

We are excited to announce that the Academy has been rescheduled for October 14-16. Add these dates to your calendar; registration will begin in the summer. Our previously scheduled presenters, Rev. Scott McKenzie and Rev. Craig Miller, from Horizons Stewardship, will be joining us for our rescheduled event. We all look forward to being together and enjoying the beautiful fall scenery in Canaan Valley. ∞

Investment Performance

Investment Fund	Year to Date 3-31-20	1- Year 2019	3-Year Average 2017-2019	5-Year Average 2015-2019	10-Year Average 2010-2019
Fund A - Fixed Income Fund	-1.51%	5.40%	2.58%	1.69%	2.18%
<i>Benchmark</i>	0.43%	5.06%	2.00%	1.22%	1.78%
Fund B1 - Conservative Balanced	-11.40%	16.18%	7.82%	5.45%	5.23%
<i>Benchmark</i>	-9.27%	15.63%	7.01%	5.11%	4.97%
Fund B2 - Moderate Balanced	-13.28%	18.12%	8.87%	6.30%	6.34%
<i>Benchmark</i>	-11.16%	18.26%	8.36%	6.10%	6.28%
Fund B3 - Aggressive Balanced	-15.83%	20.07%	10.08%	6.88%	6.32%
<i>Benchmark</i>	-15.46%	19.42%	9.04%	6.41%	6.80%

All returns are reported net of all fees. Benchmarks are customized to match the asset allocation in each Fund, adjusted for fees.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chas. WV 25301
Permit #2780

**Return Service
Requested**

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 3811
Charleston, WV 25338-3811

Contact Information

Phone: 304-342-2113
Fax: 304-342-2632
Email: info@umfww.org
Website: www.umfww.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/umfww

Staff

Jeff Taylor, President
Kim Matthews, Vice President
Susannah Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer
Becky Parkins, Accounting and Communication Assistant

Ministry Resources

Are you looking for resources as you navigate ministry during the pandemic? The Foundation is dedicated to helping you as you continue to create cultures of generosity in your church and ministry.

At the end of March, we sponsored a webinar with Horizons Stewardship called “Fully Funding Ministry during Social Distancing.” You can find a YouTube link to the recording of this webinar and slides you can download to share with your finance committees on our website. Go to www.umfww.org/coronavirus.

This webpage also contains information on the Paycheck Protection Program of the recently passed CARES Act. These potentially forgivable loans are available for churches. Funding for the loans is limited, so time is of the essence. The www.umfww.org/coronavirus page has information that may help.

On page 4 of this newsletter, you can read how electronic giving, especially recurring electronic giving, can be helpful for churches. To learn more, join us for a free e-giving webinar on May 20. Details can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Please feel free to call The Foundation for help as you navigate through this time of uncertainty. ☺