



# Foundation Focus

Summer 2018

Issue 83

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

## Creating a Culture of Generosity

*The Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity*

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. wants to help your congregation create a culture of generosity. Join us at beautiful Stonewall Resort in central West Virginia for the Foundaiton Academy of Faith and Generosity on September 17-19, 2018. Inspire your congregation by learning how to:

- Teach about the spiritual nature of giving
- Encourage gratitude
- Transform attitudes of scarcity into abundance
- Equip stewardship ministry with best practices
- Lead change in thoughts about money
- Encourage legacy gifts
- Develop a transformational ministry plan

The event is open to both clergy and laity. Attendees will earn 12 credit hours of continuing education.

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### Registration fee of \$75 includes:

- ▶ Cost of event
- ▶ 2 nights lodging at Stonewall Resort (with Conference Attendee roommate)
- ▶ Meals
- ▶ 12 contact hours

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## *Contact Us*



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# Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity

## Presenters

The Academy features two keynote presenters. Rev. David Bell is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church from the East Ohio Conference. He serves as the Executive Director of the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. David is also Senior Design Partner with Design Group International. His experience includes stewardship education, organizational visioning, leadership development and planned giving. David empowers leaders to discover their vital role in enabling community of faith to embody a generous culture. Bonnie I. Marden, the Founder of MYTE Ministries, is a project manager for the Wespath grant through the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. Her experience includes fundraising, stewardship, conflict management and leadership education. Bonnie is the author of *A Leader's Guide to Financial Stewardship*, to be published in 2019 by the United Methodist General Board on Higher Education and Ministry.

Additional presenters include Rev. Claudine Leary, Director of Development for Methodist Theological School in Ohio; Kirsty Jenkinson, Managing Director for Sustainable Investment Strategies for Wespath Investment Management; Rev. Jeff Taylor, President of United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.; and Kim Matthews, Vice President, United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

## Agenda

### Monday, September 17

- 1:00 p.m. Opening Worship with Rev. Claudine Leary  
2:00 p.m. Sustainable Investing: Focusing on Long-term Value Creation  
Kirsty Jenkinson  
3:30 p.m. Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving: A Call to Financial Discipleship  
Rev. David Bell and Bonnie Marden  
6:00 p.m. Dinner including Plenary: Socially Responsible Investments  
Rev. Jeff Taylor

### Tuesday, September 18

- 9:00 a.m. Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving: Practical Leadership Tips for Financial Discipleship - Rev. David Bell  
1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions  
• Ministers as Fundraisers – Rev. Claudine Leary  
• Accountable Congregations – Bonnie Marden  
• Clergy Taxes and Compensation – Rev. David Bell  
3:30 p.m. Encouraging the Joy of Generous Legacy Giving  
Rev. Jeff Taylor and Kim Matthews  
6:00 p.m. Dinner with Plenary by Rev. Claudine Leary

### Wednesday, September 19

- 9:00 a.m. Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving: Moving from Ideas to Action Today - Bonnie Marden  
11:00 a.m. Dismissal



*Images from top: Rev. David Bell, Bonnie Marden, Rev. Claudine Leary, and Kirsty Jenkinson*

## Registration and Accommodations

We are grateful to offer this high caliber Academy at an affordable cost to attendees. Over 90% of the cost is provided by The Foundation and through a generous grant from the United Methodist Church Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.

Deadline for registration is **August 3, 2018**. To register for the event online, go to [www.umfwv.org/academy](http://www.umfwv.org/academy). To register by mail, complete the form below and mail it with your registration check to UMFV, P.O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338. Checks can be made out to United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. ☺

### Registration Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity

#### Attendee Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you clergy \_\_\_\_\_ or a lay person \_\_\_\_\_?

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(include street address, city, state, and zip code)

Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church offices \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration:

Cost covers room at Stonewall Resort for two nights, meals, and cost of Academy.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 - Double room with a roommate.

Indicate roommate preference \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$190 - Single room with no roommate

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 - Commuter rate covers meals and conference but no room

**Emergency Contact Information** - provide name and phone number of person to be contacted if you experience an emergency during the Conference

\_\_\_\_\_

**Special needs during Conference:** Please list dietary or accessibility requirements so that we can serve you.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Changes in Tax Law Create New Opportunities for Charitable Giving

In December 2017, President Trump signed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, the largest tax reform legislation in over thirty years. Early commentators opined the new law might have negative consequences for charitable giving.

Some stated, incorrectly, that the tax deduction for charitable giving has been eliminated. In fact, the most direct change related to charitable giving in the new law is a positive one: the legislation increases the ceiling on cash gifts to public charities, such as the United Methodist Foundation, from 50% of adjusted gross income to, starting in 2018, 60% of adjusted gross income.

The change that some suggest will have a negative effect on charitable giving is the new, higher, standard deduction, which reduce tax incentives for charitable giving. The new law doubles the standard deduction to \$24,000 for married individuals filing a joint return and to \$12,000 for individuals. We find that most of our donors give out of a deep sense of gratitude and thanksgiving, and not to reduce their tax liability, so we do not expect the new tax law to have much of an impact on giving to The Foundation.

On the other hand, there are still many opportunities to receive tax benefits for charitable gifts under the new tax law

**Charitable IRA Distributions.** An individual age 70½ or older can make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 annually from an IRA to public charities

such as The Foundation. The donor does not report the distribution as income and does not claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. Avoiding the tax on an otherwise taxable distribution is equivalent to a charitable deduction. Tax-free distributions are for outright (direct) gifts only – not life-income gifts.

To accomplish a charitable IRA rollover, the administrator of the traditional or Roth IRA must distribute the amount directly to The Foundation. We will provide the substantiation required by the IRS: a timely written acknowledgment that we have received the IRA distribution and that no goods or services were given in connection to the gift.

**Lifetime Income Gifts.** Gifts that provide an income stream to the donor such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities, should be considered.

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# Do Well and Do Good

## Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a gift where the donor transfers property (usually cash) to The Foundation in exchange for The Foundation's promise to pay a lifetime annuity to the donor. At the death of the donor, the charitable remainder benefits the church(es) or other ministries or agencies selected by the donor. The annuity rate is based solely on the donor's age at the time of the gift. The Foundation uses rates established by The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA).

ACGA meets biennially to, among other things, establish the rates for gift annuities. As a member of ACGA, The Foundation participates in the meetings and agrees not to provide gift annuities with rates that exceed ACGA's recommended rates.

At its meeting in Seattle in April, attended by Foundation Vice President Kim Matthews, the ACGA recommended increasing the rates for one-life and two-life gift annuities for the first time in six years. The new rates are effective for gift annuities created beginning July 1, 2018. The rates are based on the age of the donor(s) at the time of the gift. See the Chart below for examples of the new rates.

Because of the increase in the standard deduction, a charitable gift annuity might make sense for you. You may be able to make a larger gift since you will be getting part of the gift back in annuity payments, and the size of the gift may enable you to itemize in the year of the gift. Moreover, a portion of the annuity payments are tax-free through your life expectancy. Tax-free income is equivalent to an income tax deduction.

Contact The Foundation for a detailed, no-obligation proposal to find out exactly how a charitable gift annuity would work for you. ☺

*Sample Gift Annuity Rates for a \$10,000 gift*

Age	Rate	Annuity Payment	Tax Free Portion	Value of gift for tax purposes
60	4.7%	\$470	\$282	\$3,195
70	5.6%	\$560	\$376	\$4,016
80	7.3%	\$730	\$538	\$4,936
90	9.5%	\$950	\$771	\$6,219

### *Tax Law Changes – Continued from Page 4*

A **charitable remainder trust** provides donors with two potential tax benefits. First, it provides a charitable deduction in the year of the gift for the value of the remainder interest. Second, the lifetime income receives favorable tax treatment. Contact The Foundation to find out more about charitable remainder trusts.

A **charitable gift annuity** (CGA) is another, more common, lifetime income gift. A CGA is a contract between the donor and the Foundation, where the donor transfers property (usually cash) to The Foundation, in exchange for The Foundation's promise to pay a lifetime annuity to the donor. The annuity rate is based on the donor's age at the time of the gift and never changes.

If the donor itemizes, s/he can claim a charitable deduction in the year of the gift, and the annuity payments receive favorable tax treatment through the donor's life expectancy. The American Council on Gift Annuities has recently raised the rates of charitable gift annuities for single-life and two-life gift annuities. See the above article for more information.

Our mission is to help match the needs of donors like you with the needs of the church or ministry you want to support. We can review your circumstances, and, in consultation with your attorneys or other advisers, help you make the right gift that fits your needs. Contact us to learn more. ☺

# Reaching out Through Grants

Each year, the Grants Committee of The Foundation's Board of Trustees reviews applications and awards grants to help fund innovative programs that address acute needs in communities. At its April 12 meeting, the Foundation awarded grants totaling \$37,000 for the following:

- \$6,000 to Spring Heights Retreat Center in Spencer, to help increase its visibility in its community.
- \$12,500 to The House of the Carpenter, Inc. in Wheeling to help with construction costs of its new Youth Center. The Youth Center will provide a safe place for neighborhood youth and their families.
- \$5,000 to the West Virginia Council of Churches to help establish and support six Community Reentry Councils for ex-offenders across the state. These Councils address reentry and other community issues.
- \$1,000 to Elizabeth Memorial United Methodist Church of Charleston, to help pay for an upcoming event at the Church. The National Federation of the Blind, West Virginia, will be training young persons in the areas of reading braille, independent living skills, getting around obstacles and self-reliance skills.
- \$12,500 to Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, a Mission Project of the West Virginia Annual Conference in Millcreek, WV, to update an antiquated heating system. The new system is needed to increase safety and to reduce heating costs, increasing funds available for serving the needs of the community.

The next deadline for applications to be considered by The Foundation's Grants Committee is August 15. ∞



*Ground Breaking for New Youth Center at the House of the Carpenter*



## Foundation Officers and Board Members

David B. Ellwood  
*Chairperson*

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball  
*Honorary Chairperson*

D. Lyn Dotson  
*Vice-Chairperson*

Jeffrey A. Taylor  
*President*

Kimberly A. Matthews  
*Vice President*

Judith Raines  
*Treasurer*

Maribeth Anderson

James A. Chaney

Marc B. Chernenko

Ellis E. Conley

Cheryl Davis

Lauren A. Godwin

Joseph B. A. Hill

Scarlett E. Kellerman

Joseph Kenaston

Aliene G. Lee

James R. Malick

Albert Mays

Barbara McDowell

Chris Meighen

Gina Palmer

Michael Perkins

Bruce N. Petersen

Richard H. Sale

Deborah Shaffer

Ken K. Shanes

Edward Sisson

Elaine Stonestreet

Richard N. Toothman

James Wadsworth

Vernon Webster

Jeff Welshonce

Kristi L. Wilkerson

William H. Wilson

# New Officers and Trustees Elected

The Board of Trustees elected officers at its May 9 meeting in Vienna, West Virginia. David Ellwood, of Wheeling, West Virginia continues to serve in a two-year term as Chairperson. The Board re-elected D. Lyn Dotson, of Morgantown, West Virginia, to serve as Vice-Chairperson; Jeff Taylor to serve as President; and Kim Matthews to serve as Vice President. Judy Raines of Bluefield, WV was elected as Treasurer. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball continues to serve as the Honorary Chairperson. The Board of Trustees also elected eight new trustees:

- James Wadsworth, a layman from the Greenbrier District
- Cheryl Davis, a laywoman from the Midland South District
- Albert (Vic) Mays, a layman from the Midland South District
- Michael Perkins, a layman from the Northern District
- Gina Palmer, a laywoman from the Potomac Highlands District
- Chris Meighen, a layman from the Wesleyan District
- Jeff Welshonce, a layman from the Wesleyan District, and
- Maribeth Anderson, a laywoman from the Western District

The Board recognized the service of several retiring trustees: Anne Charnock of Charleston, Becky Keeling of Fairmont, Jeff Porter of Huntington, Earnest Watkins of Wheeling, and George Webb of Cross Lanes. ☺

*From Left: Jeff Taylor, President and Lyn Dotson, Vice Chairperson*



## Investment Performance

Investment Fund	Year to Date 3-31-18	1- Year 2017	3-Year Average 2015-2017
<b>Fund A - Fixed Income Fund</b>	<b>-0.42%</b>	<b>2.91%</b>	<b>1.20%</b>
<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>-0.86%</i>	<i>1.51%</i>	<i>0.54%</i>
<b>Fund B1 - Conservative Balanced</b>	<b>-0.23%</b>	<b>11.45%</b>	<b>5.07%</b>
<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>-1.15%</i>	<i>10.21%</i>	<i>4.92%</i>
<b>Fund B2 - Moderate Balanced</b>	<b>-0.19%</b>	<b>12.98%</b>	<b>5.95%</b>
<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>-1.24%</i>	<i>12.11%</i>	<i>5.84%</i>
<b>Fund B3 - Aggressive Balanced</b>	<b>0.15%</b>	<b>16.92%</b>	<b>7.04%</b>
<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>-1.16%</i>	<i>15.55%</i>	<i>6.83%</i>

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



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#### **Staff**

Jeff Taylor, President  
Kim Matthews, Vice President  
Susannah Carpenter, Director of Finance and Administration  
Jaye Walker, Administrative Assistant

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## Save a Tree! Plant a Tree!

As part of our continuing work to provide professional service, The Foundation now offers an online portal for account holders. Through the Account Portal, you can see the daily updated market value of your account(s), deposits, gifts, withdrawals, and distributions. When Account Statements are finalized, the system will email you a notification that the statement is ready for electronic download; you don't have to wait for postal service delivery.

Not only can you save trees by reducing the paper used for printing statements, but you can also plant a tree! In an effort to encourage good stewardship of the earth, for each account holder who changes from mailed paper statements to using the online Account Portal, The Foundation is making a donation to a non-profit organization that will plant a tree in a United States National Forest. So far, 141 accounts have been moved to the Online Account Portal – that's a lot of trees!

Account Portal credentials are available for donors who created Foundation accounts, to pastors, and to Church and Ministry officers responsible for monitoring the accounts. Multiple officers can have access. To receive credentials to access the Account Portal, email The Foundation at [info@umfwv.org](mailto:info@umfwv.org), or go to our website ([www.umfwv.org](http://www.umfwv.org)) and click the green box that says "Plant a Tree."

If you would like to continue to receive printed statements in the mail, that's fine, too! If you take no action, your Statement delivery method will continue without change. We hope you will consider the possibilities of our Account Portal and help us to save a tree and Plant a Tree! ☺