

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



METHODIST FOUNDATION
OF MISSISSIPPI

Equip, Educate, Invest

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A CHALLENGING YEAR

DR. JOSEPH BAILEY, III,
MFM BOARD PRESIDENT

2022 has proven to be a challenging year, both for the greater United Methodist Church and for the Methodist Foundation as well. The pandemic has hopefully wound down to a manageable level, however financial challenges remain as well as organizational struggles throughout our denomination.

Throughout all of this, the Methodist Foundation of Mississippi has remained resilient and strong. The economic challenges of 2022 were met, and the Foundation remains healthy and capable of providing safe and profitable services for all of Mississippi Methodism. The funds of our depositing churches are managed with care and expertise that is second to none.



The dedication of the Foundation Board Members and the Foundation staff to the financial health and safety of our churches has been and continues to be commendable. The dedication and effort they have invested in the Foundation continues to ensure a safe haven for the financial needs of Mississippi Methodism.

Although my term as Board President began with a sorrowful circumstance, I have enjoyed working with the staff and board. It's been a year of renewal and transformation. We recognize there will be challenges ahead, but we stand ready to soldier on and continue the journey.

Director's Corner

Rev. John Branning

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can.*

-John Wesley



As a lifelong Methodist, I have heard the "John Wesley's Rule" quoted repeatedly by fellow Methodists. It seems in nature to be such a simple teaching, yet it is so radically opposite to our cultural belief system. Culture tells us to care about only ourselves, but faith teaches us to care for others. Not everything we hold in our hand at this moment was meant for us to keep; it was meant to be shared so that others would see that a follower of Jesus is genuinely different, even with our understanding of ownership.

In this season of change and as new expressions of our Methodist movement are formed, we desire to continue encouraging and creating a culture

of generosity throughout Mississippi Methodism. The Foundation is positioned to serve all expressions of the Methodist family as we journey together in the future. We work diligently to ensure maximum returns on your investments so that your church or organization will have multiple streams of income to ensure that the mission of Christ is fulfilled.

What opportunities will unveil themselves may not have been revealed to you yet, but when it does, your Foundation is prepared to assist in developing a firm financial plan to fulfill it. Partnering together, we will share the good news of Jesus with all of the world! Let us continue to journey together as followers of the way.

Every Journey Starts with a Step

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Lead Pastor Central UMC Jackson

As the newly appointed pastor at Central U.M.C. in historic downtown Jackson, MS, I discerned many challenges that I needed to meet head on in order to create and continue a vital and effective ministry. One of those challenges was Stewardship. The church had not engaged in a stewardship campaign since before Covid. There had been many members who had died, but not many new members who had joined. As a result, giving was down slightly. I knew we needed to come up with a vital stewardship push in order to create an effective life of generosity among our members.

I contacted Rev. John Branning at the Methodist Foundation to ask for directions and assistance in developing a stewardship campaign for Central. My finance chair, stewardship co-chairs, SPRC chair and I met with Rev. Branning for suggestions. He recommended we develop a narrative budget, offer stewardship education opportunities, sermon series, and Bible studies on stewardship and provide resources for the members to learn and live into generosity. Rev. Branning not only gave us recommendations but also informed us that his staff would help to create the narrative budget for us at no charge.

The narrative budget was the most important piece for stewardship because it provided financial transparency, along with showing members the exact ministries they were supporting financially. The budget narrative provided visuals, charts, definitions and mission/ministry paradigms for the members to visually see the church's financial needs and ministries we could celebrate. I found out that members (cont)



were more likely to give when they know and can see where their financial contributions are going.

We were able to launch Generosity emphasis month in January 2023. This comprised of a sermon series on Generosity, weekly small group studies on Generosity, and sharing the narrative budget, for which our members were very appreciative. As a result, our congregational giving has increased approximately 10%, which is amazing. There are members that have not given in years that now give regularly. This percent is not the end all goal, but gives us a beginning in order to increase our overall generosity. Our saying is "Taking small steps forward are better than no steps at all." We would like to thank all the staff at the Methodist Foundation of Mississippi for taking the time to meet, discuss and discern with my team, as well as, developing a narrative budget and providing other resources to help us be better stewards of the things God has entrusted to us.

Do you need assistance creating a Narrative Budget to kick off a stewardship Campaign? Call us at 601-948-8845 or email john@methodistfm.org or jennifer@methodistfm.org for more information.

MFM Scholarships: Honoring Our Father Through Education

Mrs. Kelly Riley, MFM Scholarship Committee Chair



"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."

- Proverbs 4:13 (NIV)

The Bible contains at least 40 verses that refer to education, teaching, training, or the importance of wisdom. The Methodist Foundation of Mississippi honors God and prepares future leaders of our conference by providing college and seminary scholarships to eligible applicants each year to support recipients' educational studies.

The Foundation awarded 144 college scholarships totaling nearly \$175,000 this spring. Since 2010, we have awarded 1,269 scholarships totaling just shy of \$915,000, with the average award ranging from a low of \$298 in 2010 to a high of \$1,215 this spring. Eligible students must be Mississippi residents and active in a Methodist congregation or a Wesley Foundation in Mississippi. Non-seminary graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to receive up to four scholarship awards. Awards are sent directly to recipients' institutions and pay for various expenses, including tuition, room/board, books, and institutional fees.

Seminary scholarship applicants must be certified candidates for Ordained Ministry through the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Seminary students are eligible for a total of three seminary scholarships in addition to four undergraduate college scholarships. The Foundation awarded two seminary scholarships totaling \$20,585 this spring. Since 2010, we have awarded 162 seminary scholarships totaling almost \$277,000, with the average award ranging from a low of \$804 in 2011 to a high of \$10,292 this spring.

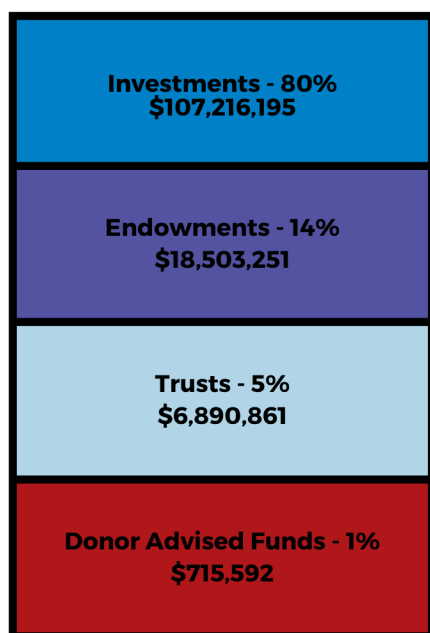
The Methodist Foundation of Mississippi's scholarship process opens each January with applications due April 1. In addition to announcing the scholarship opportunity in conference communications, information is also shared throughout the year on our website. Awards are traditionally announced in May.

Award amounts vary from year to year based on the number of eligible applicants, as well as the amount of funds available. Foundation scholarships are funded via our operating budget, investment returns, and donations specified for either college or seminary scholarships. Individuals have established scholarships through planned giving and several families have established scholarships to honor or memorialize loved ones. Families may set eligibility requirements for recipients such as recipients must be a member of a certain congregation or pursuing studies for a certain profession.

Visit www.methodistfm.org to learn more or to donate to this worthy investment in our future!

Foundation Financial Summary

Assets Under Management Over \$133 million



Short Term Fund 3.75%

Long Term Fund Allocation

Equities	35%
Opportunistic	4%
Hedge	32%
Fixed Income	24%
Private Equity	2%
Cash	3%
Total	100%

<u>Scholarships</u>		<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Undergraduate/Graduate	139	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Seminary	8	\$184,200	\$196,185

Churches with Accounts 429

New Accounts 26

Amount of New Investments \$3,367,431

Gifts & Deposits Received in 2022 \$18,061,035

Distributions for Charitable Purposes \$23,133,610

A Final Farewell to Joe Landrum



Rev. Vickie Landrum & Board President, Dr. Joe Bailey
at the Presentation of the Dickson Award



The Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum was an important part of our story here at The Methodist Foundation. A Foundation Board Member since 2014, Joe brought a love for ministry, a calm demeanor, and a gift of gab to every meeting he attended. He served on committees attentively and enthusiastically with the goal of improving the services and ministry of the Foundation. As the 2022 Board President, Joe continued to be an essential and instrumental presence for the Foundation, meeting often with Rev. Branning and Dr. Marion. His sudden passing was a shock for everyone.

We are grateful for the time we had Joe Landrum as our president. The MFM Board honored Joe with a posthumous nomination into the Dickson Order, believing beyond a doubt he met the criteria by serving his church and leading people to Christ. He expressed his faith in a sermon he posted online during the COVID pandemic by saying, "Stay the course. Remain safe. Care for yourselves. Care for others. Hold fast to your faith. God is in control!" Thank you Joe, for sharing your journey with us.



2022 Was a Year of Transformation

A CHANGE IN COURSE

We said farewell to another member of our Foundation family in 2022. Mrs. Mary Lee Reid officially retired after Annual Conference 2022.

Mary Lee joined the Foundation family in April of 2014. She jumped into her role as Associate Director/CFO and hit the ground running. She began learning software, internal processes and most importantly she began meeting and developing relationships with churches and donors alike. Her outgoing nature, ability to truly listen and hear, and impressive knowledge of Methodism and money were a winning combination. Foundation assets showed an increase from 2014 to 2021.

Many churches and donors have sent Mary Lee their best wishes for a happy retirement. And she's certainly enjoying it! Mary Lee knew she wouldn't really be resting in her retirement. There is so much she wants to do! So, the very first week of her retirement was spent on a trip to the beach with the youth of her church. And she hasn't stopped going yet. She and her husband John have been spending their time traveling, often camping. Thank you for your service, Mary Lee. We know you are enjoying your next adventure!



Memorials and Honorariums

Pearl River UMC/Cemetery Endowment

in memory of
Judy Speaks Sullivan

Given by
Elbert Hilliard

Rev. Bernard Crump Family Scholarship Fund

in memory of
Rev. Bernard Crump

Given by
Alveria Crump
Alwanya Crump & Wayne Thomas

Dickson Order Endowment

in memory of
Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum

Given by
The Methodist Foundation of
Mississippi Board

in honor of
Rev. Jim Genesse

Given by
Ed & Joanne Jones

The Willard and Jedidah Jones Endowment

in memory of
Jedidah and Willard Jones

Given by
Brenda J. Anding
Barbara & Robert Smith

in honor of
Rev. Larry White

Given by
Henry & Tena Jones

The Scholarship Endowment for Madison United Methodist Men

in memory of
John Richards
Frank Wilson

Given by
Elbert Hilliard

Allie Jackson Scholarship Endowment

in honor of
Rev. Dr. Embra K. Jackson

Given by
Mr. & Mrs. David Stotts

The Methodist Foundation of MS College Scholarship Endowment

in memory of
Mr. Jim Nippes

Given by
John & Mary Lee Reed

in memory of
Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum

Given by
The Methodist Foundation of
Mississippi Board

The Rev. Phillip W. Heidelberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment

in memory of
Rev. Dr. Phillip Heidelberg

Given by
Mrs. Sherrill Heidelberg
Patrick Phillips

Walter Steven Ridgway Award Endowment

in honor of
Rev. Mike & Lisa Hicks

Given by
The Eric Sanford Donor Advised Fund

The Methodist Foundation of MS President's Endowment for Ministerial Scholarships

in memory of
Rev. Billy Owen
Mrs. Rosemary McIntosh
Rev. Hugh Holder Cummings
Mr. Ralph Reeves
Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum

Given by
Rev. Mike & Lisa Hicks

in honor of
Mr. Jesse Ross

Given by
The Methodist Foundation of
Mississippi Board

in memory of
Rev. John Bowie

Given by
Rev. John & Traci Branning

in memory of
Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum

Given by
Janice Arrington
John & Mary Lee Reed

The Willard & Louise Leggett Endowment Fund for Disabled Ministers & Their Families

in memory of
Rev. Billy Owen
Rev. W. D. Pigott
Rev. Dr. Joe Landrum

Given by
Rev. John & Traci Branning



METHODIST FOUNDATION
OF MISSISSIPPI

Do you have questions about what the Methodist Foundation of Mississippi can do for you? Call 601-948-8845, email or come by 581 Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland to see John, Todd, or Michelle.

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