

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION**  
**FOR THE TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE**  
The Reverend Dr. Philip Jamieson, President

“...and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:21-25)

One of the things I like best about the work of the foundation and Development Fund is its future orientation. At the center of our work is investing money today for use in the future. We are helping churches and individuals plan today for future good work through wise investing. When I put on my theologian’s cap, to talk about our work, hope becomes my primary category. The present is always a challenge, but these days seem particularly difficult. We appear to be emerging from the Covid pandemic only to see the daily horror of a war in Europe. Along with that comes the strife of denominational disharmony and a potentially smaller annual conference. Yet, even and perhaps especially in the midst of these difficulties, the author of Hebrews encourages us to hold on to our hope. You and I are invited to look past present circumstances to the future Day of the Lord. And how best do we do that? Well, the author tells us to “provoke one another to love and good deeds.” *Provoke!* I like the sound of that! I have provoked my share of folks over the years and every once in a while, in a good way.

In 2021 we provoked one another to good works in a number of ways. First, we did so with Saving Grace groups. Approximately 45 pastors were introduced to the Saving Grace curriculum. This study of personal financial planning from a Wesleyan perspective has the potential to help many build better financial practices in order to live more generous lives.

Second, in 2021, the Development Fund gave over \$360,000 in capital improvement grants to 42 churches. Projects of various sizes were funded, strengthening local churches in their ability to perform their crucial work. Simultaneously, the Development Fund paid out over \$585,000 in interest to individuals, churches, and other ministries.

Third, the foundation distributed over \$3.9 million to various churches and other ministries. In addition, the foundation distributed approximately \$75,000 in stewardship grants and other ministry support. 2021 was an excellent year for the foundation with a net return of over 12 percent. Over the last 10 years, the foundation has averaged an 8 percent return net of all fees.

In 2022, we hope to be even more provocative! We are currently in our second round of Development Fund grants. We are working with churches and pastors in various forms of consultation regarding financial ministry. These services include capital campaign consulting, asset mapping, planned giving introductions, coaching, and financial counseling. This fall, we are planning to offer a Zoom course called Faithful Fundraising. More information will be released soon.

In conclusion, I am certain that our Lord is doing remarkable work in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference. We at the foundation and Development Fund are thankful for the role that we have been invited to play in that wonderful endeavor. Let us continue to provoke one another to stay alert to our hope and to remember always that in the words of John Wesley “the best of all is that God is with us!”