

Murray State Wesley Foundation

Rev. April Arnold, Campus Minister, Murray State Wesley Foundation

Over the last conference year, we at the Murray State Wesley Foundation have experienced the blessing of growth in numbers. As we continue to come out of the fog of the pandemic and gain momentum with visibility on campus; we are blessed to report we have over 40 students actively connected to this ministry and expect only continued growth moving forward. Our student leadership is strong.

We have students who are stewards of our building. Their duties include opening, closing, and performing light chores. We have rejected an earthly model of President, Vice-President, and so on for a Student Council, and have instead embraced a more biblical model of the Body of Christ working together as we identify the spiritual gifts and graces of our students. With the mindset of being Christ's Ambassadors in the world, we currently have Wesley Ambassadors of Discipleship, Missions & Service, Worship, Outreach, Evangelism, and Order.

Our Wesley Ambassadors have the freedom to use and explore their gifts while leading and motivating their peers. This is a process of leadership development in applying and interviewing for these positions as well as what these students do with their positions once instated. The instating and installment of our Wesley Ambassadors is a process done in the context of worship, anointing with oil, scripture, and prayer.

We are blessed to have support from our local churches with prayer, financial donations, and the gift of time and food! It is an immense blessing as church members bring us a meal. The ties that bind us are strengthened with those who take the extra time to join us for worship. They often find themselves revived and encouraged as they find the torch of faith is indeed being passed. Church members are pleasantly surprised that these young adults are truly seeking God first and give the sacrifice of praise with joy—even beyond the official time allotted in a worship hour.

The Murray State Wesley Foundation is in a unique position to connect the local church to our students and our students back to the local church. We are blessed to report we currently have two students stepping into their call to pastoral ministry and are exploring the different avenues available to them. We give these students opportunities to begin to practice as they explore their gifts and inspire their peers.

2024 marks our 75th year of ministry at the Murray State Wesley Foundation. We are thankful for the gift this ministry has been for so many students over so many years. We pray, trust, and believe as we look to the Lord who gives us a "future and a hope." For God's glory, this ministry will live, nurture, and empower young adults who become leaders for God's Kingdom for countless years to come!