

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION FOR
THE TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE**

The Reverend Dr. Philip Jamieson, President

Dear Friends of the Tennessee/Western Kentucky Annual Conference,

It is with pleasure that I offer this brief update regarding the year of 2023 for the Foundation and Development Fund. I am very happy to say that both sides of our ministry had excellent years in 2023. As you probably already know, 2022 was a very difficult time for the markets. Our returns reflected that 2023 reversed those losses and the Foundation grew by 13.5 percent net of all fees. The Development Fund's strong year has enabled us to reopen the grant program. In the last few years, we have been blessed to share with the churches and other Annual Conference ministries nearly \$700,000 in Development Fund grants. Again, we are very thankful for your trust in us and our ability to be of service.

As perhaps you have heard, I will be leaving the Foundation after eleven years of service. I am very grateful for the hospitality you have shown me and welcoming me into the Annual Conference. I have been blessed with a wonderful staff and the good news is that they will continue to be a blessing to you. Finally, there has been a scripture rattling around my head: "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." (I Corinthians 2:1-5) Those verses are somewhat descriptive of the opportunity that I have had to serve you. Most of all, I am very thankful that this position offered me the opportunity to be of service to you and our Lord, and to (in a slightly unusual way!) share with you the good news of the Gospel.