

The Wesley Foundation at Fisk University
Tatayana Richardson, the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University Campus Minister

This year the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University (WFFU) moved from the district-based campus ministry model to the congregation-based ministry model. To begin the academic year, the ministry was led by our interim director Dr. Princilla Morris. In the spring semester the Ministry hired a permanent director and is now under the leadership of Ms. Tatayana Richardson. With this transition WFFU has been working over the last two semesters to understand its new role as a Clark UMC ministry and how to be in community and partnership with a new congregation, while also meeting the needs of the students on the Fisk Campus. In order to continue best serving our students, this year the WFFU leadership spent a large amount of the ministry time focusing on relationship building and understanding how the students see themselves being best served. Numerically speaking the ministry regularly served 10-12 students on a weekly basis (for reference Fisk University has a student population of between 800 to 1000 students). WFFU regular ministry practice consisted of weekly fellowship over dinner and Bible Study. The Ministry also attended a spring retreat in Buchanan, TN. Over the course of the semester the students have voiced their growing love of WFFU and enjoy seeing the ways its growing and changing over the course of this academic year.

In this year WFFU has begun to work on securing the legacy of its ministry by actively learning about and engaging in more robust fundraising efforts and campaigns. Ms. Richardson is seeking certification in Board Development and Fundraising in order to help WFFU be most successful in these efforts. Aside this, WFFU is also working on its virtual presence through various social media platforms, as part of these efforts the WFFU logo was reimagined to speak to the culture and ethic of our students and campus at large (as seen in figure 1). WFFU has also this year begun the process of reimagining its website in order to best reach and serve the communities to whom we are called.

This year WFFU moved from its previous building, into the Clark Memorial United Methodist Church space for all of its programming and in the coming months, WFFU will officially settle in what is currently the Clark Memorial parsonage. This will create a space where students can not only continue the routines of fellowship and Bible Study, but also expand the ministry to include regular corporate worship, as well as have space for studying, and free time.

From both personnel and ministry/missions perspective this has been a season of transition for the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University, in the next year we hope to lean into a sense of groundedness and growth as we aim to not only continue serving God and our students, but also to build, believe, and become in a new chapter of the Wesley at Fisk journey!