

Focus on the Foundation

Winter 2003
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A Report of the United Methodist Foundation to the Wisconsin Annual Conference

Church Mortgage Loan Program Celebrates Year of Success

The Foundation loan program has completed a very successful first year. To date, we have recorded eleven loans for a total of \$4,080,266. Churches that have refinanced their mortgage loans with the Foundation have reduced their interest rates by as much as 2.05%. In total, these churches are saving over \$60,000 in annual interest payments!

We are also in the process of servicing two construction loans. It has been exciting to watch these projects develop and share in the vision of the congregations.

We continue to see an increase in the number of churches that are investing in the Loan Pooled Fund. These investments fund our mortgage loans. We invite you to participate in this mission opportunity to invest in your fellow churches of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

We encourage you to consider the Foundation's loan program for refinancing your current mortgage loan, or for your future needs. Our loan process is designed for churches, and offers low interest rates and flexible terms.

Our goal is to help **you** save money! Please call the Foundation office, toll free, 1-888-903-9863 and visit our website, www.wumf.org for updated information on our interest rates.

2003 Scholarship & Grant Recipients Announced

The following scholarships are granted each year from scholarship endowment funds established through generous gifts from individuals and families. Scholarship recipients are selected based upon leadership and involvement in church, school, and community life.

Seminarian Scholarships

Trudy Yang and George Kafer were awarded \$500 scholarships from the foundation's Seminarian Scholarship Fund:



Trudy Yang

Trudy is a member of the Hmong Christian Community UMC in Milwaukee and a student at Alverno College. In the future she hopes to do mission work, teaching English to children. She is involved as a member of the Metro South UMW mission team and teaches Sunday School when needed.



George Kafer

George is a junior at UW-Green Bay who is still praying about where he will go to seminary next year. He served as the Director of Christian Education at the UMC in Marinette for two years. Currently he is a peer minister at the campus, and a youth leader at First UMC in Green Bay. George is a member of the Oconto Falls UMC.

Note—Scholarships continued on page 4.

Are your children and grandchildren protected by a will and estate planning?

Did you know that 7 out of 10 competent adults do NOT have a current and valid will in place at the time of their death?

If you don't have a will, one of the critical issues that will be decided by the courts – not you – is the guardianship of minor children. You can draft a simple will that nominates the guardian of your choice.

If you don't have a will, your estate will be distributed according to state law – and not in accordance with your wishes.

A will gives you the ability to pass along special items to particular individuals. It also allows you to remember friends and relatives in addition to your immediate family. And, by including the church in your will you make a final, ultimate faith statement to your children and grandchildren.

Have you taken the time to write a will? If not, consider making that one of your gifts to your family this Christmas.

For a copy of our brochures, “Answering Your Legal Questions About Wills and Estate Planning,” “Giving Through Your Will” and “How to Make a Will that Works” call 1-888-903-9863 or email us at wumf@wumf.org.



Don't leave your children holding just presents and empty wrapping paper this Christmas! Give them the security of knowing you've cared for their future as well. Draw up a will today!

Photo of William Ebnert, nephew of Rev. Jean Ebnert Nicholas.

Opportunities abound for “Year-End gifts”

Have you considered giving an extra special gift to the church this Christmas? As you “make your lists and check them twice,” how will you give thanks to God for the ultimate gift we celebrate in the birth of Jesus?

The wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What will we offer Jesus this year? Consider a special gift of your time or talents. Or how about a special treasure – cash or a gift of stock?

We invite you to consider a special year-end gift to your church to help meet your connectional giving goal through our apportionments. This gift is one that will literally spread the love of Christ throughout the world.

Or consider a special year-end gift to support a building project or a new program ministry in your congregation. Year-end gifts are in addition to our regular tithes and offerings.

If you'd also like to make a gift to a permanent fund that keeps on giving through a particular ministry, we can help. The suggestions we offer include:

Red Bird Mission Scholarship Fund

Helping the promising Red Bird graduates

Minister's Insurance Memorial Fund

A gift which says we remember

Seminarian Scholarships

A gift supporting pastors-to-be

Grants Fund For Creative Ministries

Providing seed money for new and creative ministries

Bishop's Relief Fund

A gift allowing the Bishop to reach out to special causes and needs

Samaritan Grant Fund

Helping People and Places in Wisconsin

Permanent Administration Fund

A gift that provides stewardship training

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is one of the strongest voices of stewardship education in Wisconsin today. We go "anywhere-anytime" to meet with lay individuals, church groups and church-related institutions. Earnings from this permanent fund increasingly give us the freedom to continue a very special ministry to Wisconsin United Methodists.

Your Own Special Interest

If you'd like to choose a specific congregation or another project or mission within the life of the United Methodist Church, just tell us your wishes. We will send you a receipt and forward your gift to the designated recipient!

Please call us for more information on year end gift-giving options.

And, have a blessed Christmas!

Fast Fact...

The Foundation allows flexible options in gift-giving, personalized to individual donor requests.

Scholarship Recipients

Three awarded scholarships from Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Fund



Clara Jinette Cubilette

As she finishes her courses at MATC in Madison, Jinette's goal is to become an urban planner. Jinette is an active member of First Hispanic UMC (Puerta La Hermosa) in Madison where she assists the church's treasurer with the bookkeeping, teaches vacation Bible school, leads youth work-service projects, and translates sermons into English and Spanish.

Jorge Mayorga III

Jorge is an active member of Iglesia Metodista Unida La Resurreccion in Lake Geneva. He serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Music Director at the church. He is a student at UW-Whitewater majoring in International Business. In addition, he volunteers at the food pantry and teaches English as a second language to adults at the church.



Irina Cubilette

Irina is studying business administration at MATC and hopes to transfer to a four-year university to complete her degree. Irina has been president of the First Hispanic UMC youth group and is a certified lay speaker. Irina sings in the church choir and uses her language skills to tutor other students.



To apply for a scholarship...

Scholarship recipients are selected based upon leadership and involvement in church, school, and community life. Persons may apply for any of these scholarships by contacting the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation office for details and/or application forms. (1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org). The deadline for applications is May 1st of each year.

Scholarship Recipients

Dueno scholarship awarded to four students



Jessie Hakes

Jessie is a sophomore at The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Jessie has been a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Church Council at the Albany UMC and is a member of the Wisconsin Delegation to the General Conference in 2004.

Vera Dueno created this scholarship in 2001 to provide annual scholarship grants to deserving United Methodist students attending a four-year college or university. This year, four scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to deserving students.

Michele Carey

Michele will graduate from UW-Eau Claire in June 2004 with a major in English Literature. A member of People's UMC in Oregon, Wis., she participates in a different mission project each summer. Michele also won an award for writing a poem commemorating the church's sesquicentennial celebration.



Katherine Woodzick

Katie is in her first year at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Her major is undeclared at this time. Katie is a member of the Monona UMC where she serves as a liturgist, provides special music for worship, uses her acting skills in drama presentations, and is a leader in the Children's Ministry programs.



Gretchen Yockers

Gretchen is a freshman at UW-Eau Claire majoring in Elementary Education. She is a member of St. Paul's UMC in Stevens Point where she serves as a nursery worker and a member of the praise group, "N'Joy". She has served as a camp counselor and has participated in several mission trips, including a VIM trip for two weeks to Puerto



Grants Update

\$87,300 in grants awarded this fall

We are pleased to report the most recent “New and Creative Ministry” Grant Awards through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. After very careful deliberation, the Foundation Grants Committee was able to award grant dollars to 34 of the 38 churches and organizations making requests:

- *Beloit, Henderson Avenue Ministry*: Revive Outreach Ministry
- *Board of Ordained Ministry*: Seminary Scholarships
- *Board of Ordained Ministry*: Three Month Educational Leave
- *Bloomington UMC*: After School Program
- *Brookfield, Trinity-Pilgrim UMC*: Rotation Workshop Sunday School
- *Crossroads United Ministries*: Training for Youth Ministry
- *Darlington UMC*: Youth Ministry
- *Denzer UMC and North Freedom UMC*: Missions Tool Box
- *Forest Junction*: Outer Limits Youth Outreach
- *Forest Junction, Zion UMC*: Puppets for Rotational Sunday School Program
- *Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary*: Town and Country Intern Program
- *Janesville, Cargill UMC*: Advertising Dance Program
- *Madison, First Hispanic UMC*: Outreach Events
- *Madison, First UMC*: Establish Lectureship in Theology
- *Manitowoc, Wesley UMC*: Training for Director of Young Adult Ministry
- *Menomonee Falls, Emmanuel UMC*: Young Adult Worship & Ministry
- *Menomonie UMC*: Training and Supplies for Sunday School Workshop Rotation Model
- *Milwaukee, Summerfield UMC*: Center for Joyful Well Being
- *Minister’s Mates Association*
- *Plover UMC*: Discipleship and Health Camp
- *Prairie Farm, Faith UMC*: Sunday School/VBS and Children’s Library
- *Racine, Christ UMC*: Christian Child Care Center
- *Rising Sun Camp*
- *Superior*: Harbor House Crisis Shelter
- *United Christian Resource Center, Sun Prairie*
- *United Methodist Children’s Services*: Nurturing Program
- *Wausau, First UMC*: Middle School Discovery Weekend Retreat
- *Whitefish Bay UMC*: Permanent Labyrinth

(grants continued on next page)

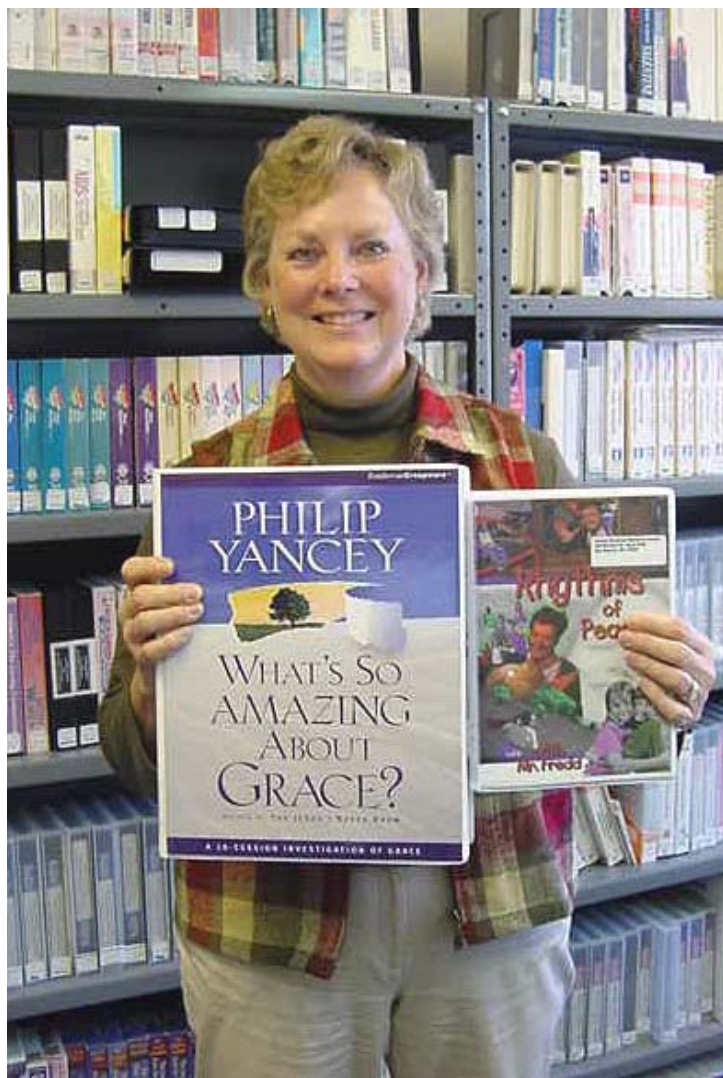
Foundation grants available for next year

- *Wisconsin Annual Conference:* Conflict Transformation Ministry
- *Wisconsin Annual Conference,* Program and Arrangements Committee
- *Wittenberg UMC 3-point charge:* Advertising, training, and music for alternative worship service
- *Wittenberg UMC 3-point charge:* Youth Ministry Program

To apply for a creative/ innovative ministry grant...

Contact the Foundation Office at 1-888-903-9863. Grants are intended to provide money for creative and worthy ministries within the church, and to provide projects and groups with seed money to help them “get off the ground.” Money for salaries and capital expenses do not qualify for these grants.

The Deadline for the next round of grants is February 1, 2004 (sorry, no exceptions!) Call 1-888-903-9863 today for your copy of the application form or download the application and grant guidelines from the foundation website, www.wumf.org



Judy Franken, Manager of the United Christian Resource Center displays two of the newer resources available: "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey – a study for adults and Rhythms of Peace" a 2-volume set of 4 lessons each on peace for elementary students .

On Giving

From the Foundation President's corner

We are in the season of Thanksgiving. It's easy to limit Thanksgiving to a day of feasting, a week of deer hunting, or the first big weekend of Christmas shopping.

Thanksgiving, however, is much more than a momentary observance ... it **should be a continuous attitude of life**. Psalm 100 points the way for us:

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the lands come into God's presence with singing — enter
his gates with thanksgiving — for the Lord is good!*

I invite each of you to use this harvest season of 2003 to launch an attitude of thanksgiving, which continues through every day of the rest of your life.

- Consider making a "Year-End Gift" to your church, a favorite mission project, or an outreach ministry. If you have appreciated stock, we can help you make a commission-free stock gift to accomplish your goals.
- Consider writing or updating your Last Will & Testament to reflect your attitude of thanksgiving. Remember to share your accumulated blessings with the world. Don't limit your generosity to next-of-kin.

- Step up toward tithing. Tithing automatically balances your life-style.
- Remember that we are all stewards and not owners. Everything that comes into our lives is a test. Attitude makes all the difference in how that blessing is used, invested, or spent.



The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation staff is ready to help you plan a strategy of thankful sharing. That's why we are here.

***Wishing you the very best during this
Thanksgiving season ~***

*Rev. William F. Helwig
Foundation President*

Clergy Tax Seminar

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation will host its annual Clergy Tax Seminar on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 204 of the Sun Prairie Conference Center. This event is open to all United Methodist Clergy. The cost is \$5, which includes lunch and a copy of the MINISTER'S GUIDE FOR 2003 INCOME TAX.

To sign up – please call 1-888-903-9863 or email our office at wumf@wumf.org.

If you cannot attend, you may also request a copy of the MINISTER'S GUIDE FOR 2003 INCOME TAX. Our office will send them to you for just \$5 each.

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