

Focus on the Foundation

Summer 2003

Volume 5, Issue 2

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

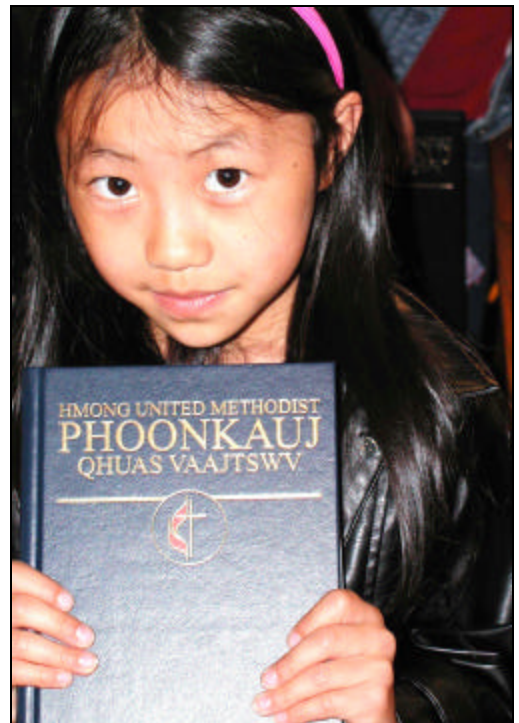
Your gifts in action... Hmong Congregation grateful for gift

More than 200 people attended the April 26 celebration, where the United Methodist Hymnal, translated in Hmong, was unveiled at the Hmong Christian Community United Methodist Church in Milwaukee.

This new hymnal contains 374 hymns, including Hmong translations of traditional and contemporary songs familiar to many United Methodists, as well as songs from the Hmong culture. It is bound and published in a style similar to that of the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal.

The celebration featured the voices of a Hmong choir, speakers from the General Board of Discipleship, Wisconsin Annual Conference, Hmong Hymnal Committee, hospitality from the Hmong Christian Community United Methodist Church, and representatives from other Annual Conferences.

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is proud to have co-sponsored the development of this new hymnal through a grant for \$7,784.



New Mortgage Loan Options Available for Churches

This is an exciting time for the Foundation's Loan Program and for the churches that have refinanced their mortgage loans with us. To date, the Foundation has recorded four loans for a total of \$1,470,000. The churches that refinanced loans are Suamico UMC, Madison: Asbury UMC, New Berlin: Our Lord's UMC, and Waukesha: Salem UMC.

In aggregate, the four churches reduced their annual loan payments by \$42,800. This savings is now available to the churches for use in their programs and missions. We currently have other loans in process and have received several applications. Without question, the loan program is a success!

We anticipate more interest in the future as we continue to offer low interest rates, flexible loan plans, low closing costs, and a simplified application and approval process.

We are also seeing an increase in the number of churches investing funds in the "Loan Pooled Fund." This fund is structured to pay a higher return than the "Fixed Income Fund."

Churches with funds invested at the Foundation may move part or all of their funds to the Loan Fund. With more dollars invested in the Loan Fund, we will be able to make more loans and pay a higher return to our investors.

Churches investing funds in the Loan Fund are helping other churches by making those funds available for mortgage loans. It is good stewardship of church resources. We invite you to participate.

For more information about refinancing your church mortgage, call our toll-free number 1-888-903-9863.

Qualify for a Low-Interest Mortgage Loan

How Can our Church Qualify for a Low-Interest Mortgage Loan?

Any Wisconsin Annual Conference United Methodist Congregation can apply for a first mortgage loan.

To qualify for a mortgage, the congregation must complete a thorough application and underwriting process. In general, the church must:

- Pass the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Cash Flow Model; indicating the church is able to service this new mortgage debt without jeopardizing the ongoing ministry and mission of the church
- Paid their Conference Apportionments in full for at least the last three complete calendar years
- Received approval of the building project by the District Committee on Church Location and Building
- Have signed letters of approval from the District Superintendent and the Church Pastor

Can a church refinance an existing mortgage with a new mortgage at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation?

Yes, however, the church will need to complete the application and underwriting process similar to all other applicants.

Is there an application fee?

There is a \$250 application fee. Aside from closing costs, there are no other fees for securing a first mortgage loan from the Foundation.

What are the interest rates?

The rates for a five-year fixed rate loan have ranged from 5.125% to 5.75% since the beginning of the Mortgage Loan program in August 2002. One and three-year rates are lower.

Does a church have to participate in the Investment Funds of the Foundation to qualify for a loan?

No, however, when more churches are applying for mortgages than there are funds available, applications will be prioritized as follows:

Considered first: Churches participating in the Investment Funds of the Wisconsin UM Foundation who are investing all or part of their funds in the Loan Pooled Fund.

Considered next: Churches participating in the Investment Funds of the Wisconsin UM Foundation, but who are not investing in the Loan Pooled Fund.

Considered next: Wisconsin Conference UM churches that do not participate in the Wisconsin UM Foundation Investment services.

What happens if a church begins to experience difficulty in keeping current on its mortgage payments?

The Foundation will continually monitor the performance of all outstanding mortgages. If we notice that a church is beginning to experience difficulties in their repayment, our staff will provide stewardship assistance and guidance to help the church regain sound stewardship patterns. Unlike a commercial lender, the Foundation's primary goal is to help a church grow in ministry and maximize its available resources. We expect every church to successfully repay their church loan.

Your church may be eligible for a first mortgage loan from the Foundation's Loan Pool Fund.

Low interest rates are available now.

Charitable Gifts Don't Happen by Accident

The 1998 report of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation to the Annual Conference stated that 20 United Methodists had established Charitable Gift Annuities totaling \$342,704. Today, 45 individuals or couples have established Charitable Gift Annuities totaling \$1,421,893.

Churches that will receive Charitable Gift Annuities through the benevolence of their members include:

Barron: First UMC
Clintonville UMC
Fond du Lac: Salem UMC
Madison: Bashford UMC
Madison: Divine Savior UMC
Mercer UMC
Monroe UMC
Neenah: Faith UMC
Neenah: First UMC
New Berlin: Bethel Hill UMC
Oshkosh: Algoma Blvd UMC
Sheboygan: St. Luke UMC
Portage UMC

In addition to this list, there are another nine churches that will receive Charitable Gift Annuities. (The donors of these gifts requested that the church not be informed of the gift annuity until the time of their death.)

There are also a number of institutions and United Methodist Missions and Ministries listed as beneficiaries of current Charitable Gift Annuities. These include: Africa University, Bishop's Relief Fund, Board of Global Ministries, Evergreen Foundation, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Minister's Insurance Memorial Fund, Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund, Pine Lake Endowment Fund, Schmitt Woodland Hills, Sheboygan Retirement Center, UMCOR, United Methodist World Hunger Programs, WUMF Grants Fund, and the WUMF Unrestricted Fund.

For more information on current annuity rates and how you can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity through the Foundation, please call us at

1-888-903-9863 or email us at wumf@wumf.org



***Charitable gifts
help make dreams
come true.***

Left—A Hmong family uses new United Methodist hymnals translated in Hmong at a church in Milwaukee. The hymnals were a gift from the foundation.

How can I establish a Charitable Gift Annuity?

Call our office at 1-888-903-9863 for information on hosting a **Charitable Gift Seminar** at your church.

Many United Methodists have one or more of the following characteristics in common:

- They love their church.
- They want to include their church in their estate planning.
- They want or need retirement income.
- They have appreciated stock or real estate that is not providing attractive current income.
- They have savings and are currently receiving lower interest earnings.

The Foundation offers United Methodists a number of ways to make charitable gifts that say “thank you” for the blessings we have received. You can make a gift now, receive “lifetime payments,” and also enjoy

the benefit of capital-gains tax reductions and charitable deductions.

Charitable Gift Seminars are conducted by Foundation staff members at no charge to your church or organization. We do ask that someone from the church host the seminar and personally invite members to attend.

See current charitable gift annuity rates on the chart below. Note—The rates will go down slightly on July 1, 2003.

“Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way to give a lasting legacy to your church,” said Bill Helwig, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation.

“The current annuity rates are a terrific opportunity for congregation members to leave something special. We are happy to help them understand the process and can share this through a charitable gift seminar.”

What are the current Charitable Gift Annuity Rates?

The current rates for a Single Life Gift Annuity are in effect through June 30:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
60	6.0%	65	6.3%	70	6.7%
75	7.3%	80	8.3%	85	9.7%
87	10.0%	89	11.2%	90+	11.5%

Rates for a Joint Life Gift Annuity are slightly lower. These rates are good until June 30, 2003, and will go down slightly on July 1, 2003. Call 1-888-903-9863 today to take advantage of the current rates.

UM Foundation offers Capital Campaign Service

The goal of the Capital Fund Campaign Service of the Wisconsin UM Foundation is to provide any Wisconsin United Methodist congregation with a successful, positive, "Faith-Centered" Campaign at minimum cost!

We provide a proven process which is adapted to your church's situation.

This service involves a two-stage process. It begins with a Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study, which involves a series of 25-30 interviews with various members of the congregation. This helps us:

- Identify potential campaign leadership
- Identify potential major gifts and "pace-setting" donors
- Determine manageable goals for the campaign

- Uncover attitudes of church leadership and potential donors toward the proposed project
- Secure information concerning probable support for the campaign

This Initial stage is followed by the Preparation and Intensive Campaign Phase.

Foundation Staff provide a detailed and individualized Manual of Instruction, on-site assistance during the preparation phase, and on-site presence and leadership at key events such as worship, preaching, and visitor training, etc.

An individual fee quote will be made to each local church based upon data provided in an initial questionnaire form.

For more information about the Capital Fund Campaign Service, call us at 1-888-903-9863.

Our Witness~

Edna M. Sutton - the story of a final gift that lives on today

Edna M. Sutton died on May 27, 2003. She was the widow of Rev. Warren Sutton, an Evangelical United Brethren pastor, who died in 1965.

Edna's financial advisor first inquired about our Charitable Gift Annuity program in early 1996. Shortly afterwards, Edna established her first Charitable Gift Annuity at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation on June 10, 1996 for \$3,000 paying her an annual rate of 11%.

Following that initial gift annuity, we would periodically be contacted to establish another gift annuity for Edna. The last one was established in 1998 paying her an annual rate of 12%. Mrs. Sut-

ton, it turns out holds the current record of 6 Charitable Gift Annuities at the Foundation.

Not only did Edna receive marvelous payment rates until the time of her death, but she also named Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Center as the final beneficiary of 90% of the remainder of these annuities and 10% as a gift to the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc. which will be deposited in the gift annuities reserve fund.

Edna's final gift to Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Center will be \$11,258.56 – a marvelous final testament of faith.

Cuban United Methodist Church grows with your help

From Jan. 30 through Feb. 9, 2003, Rev. William Helwig traveled to Cuba, along with Ms. Donna Veatch and Ms. Amy Spratling. They represented the Wisconsin Annual Conference as the Cuba Methodist Church celebrated 120 years of ministry. During their time in Cuba the three visited Methodist Churches across the island.

In the far western tip of the island they visited the Methodist Church in Guane which suffered severe damage in the Fall of 2002 as two hurricanes struck the western end of Cuba. The church building which housed both the sanctuary and the pastor's family residence lost its entire roof and incurred other storm damage. Rev. Helwig presented a gift of \$1,000 to the congregation. This enabled them to begin tearing down some old walls, build new footings, and create a much larger sanctuary for the community.

The pastor's home will be constructed on the second level over the new church sanctuary and activity area. This help was made possible through a gift from the Charlotte and Thomas Zerbe Endowment Fund and

gifts from some members of the Portage United Methodist Women's group. These gifts also helped cover the cost of transporting many "Health Kit's" to the Cuban Methodist Church. These "Health Kits" have been assembled and donated by members of United Methodist Churches throughout Wisconsin.

On the eastern end of Cuba, the Wisconsin group joined with Cuban Methodists to celebrate the establishment of a newly created "Santiago-Guantanamo" District. At this celebration Rev. Helwig presented the gift of a four-wheel drive vehicle from an anonymous donor, to be used by the District Superintendent to travel throughout this hilly and mountainous region to the many small churches and house-church groups which are springing to life in the rural areas.

Today, the Cuban Methodist Church is one of the fastest growing denominations on the island. If you are interested in helping the church in Cuba please contact Rev. Helwig at the Wisconsin U.M. Foundation, phone 1-888-903-9863.

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Left: Expansion plans are completed in Camaguey, Cuba. In this picture, Pastor Ernesto Betancourt, and a volunteer architect from his congregation, review the drawings.

\$25,000 in grants awarded this year

We are pleased to report the most recent “New and Creative Ministry” Grant Awards through the Wisconsin UM Foundation. After very careful deliberation, the Foundation Grants Committee was able to award grant dollars to 17 of the 34 churches and organizations making requests:

- *Beaver Dam, Trinity UMC*: Human Video Ministry Training Grant
- *Briggsville, Trinity United Parish*: Called to Care
- *Green Bay, Peace UMC*: Hispanic Vacation Bible School
- *Lions Lie Down with Lambs*: Children as Peacemakers Retreat at Lake Lucerne
- *Lodi UMC*: Contemporary/Praise Worship Leadership Training
- *Madison Area Urban Ministry*: Study Guide Grant
- *Menomonee Falls, Emmanuel Community UMC*: Young Adult Ministry
- *Milwaukee, Bay View UMC*: Strategic Planning Grant
- *Milwaukee, Emmanuel UMC*: Children’s Outreach Ministry
- *Minocqua, Church of the Pines*: Contemporary Music Grant
- *Shalom Zone Inc.*: Community Developer Program

- *Sun Prairie, UMC Youth Council*: Speaker
- *Superior, Faith UMC*: Noah’s Ark Day Care
- *Superior, Faith UMC*: Youth Ministry Grant
- *Wisconsin Conference, ethic Local Church Committee*: Summer Developers Program
- *Wisconsin Conference*: Study Trip Grants for New Ordinands
- *Wisconsin Conference*: Commission on Archives & History

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 September 1, 2003 (sorry, no exceptions!) Call 1-888-903-9863 today for your copy of the application form.

The Cuban Connection

Left: Guane Methodist Church Pastor Herlan and his family lost the roof to their home and church when a hurricane hit Cuba earlier this year. Foundation gifts are helping them rebuild their home and church. In this photo, Pastor Herlan’s family is joined by two church friends on the right. See the full “Cuba story” on page 6.



Finding your “pockets of giving”



What can you find in your pockets?

Madison Knabe, granddaughter of Rev. Bill and Annette Helwig, finds she has many gifts to share. Consider your “pockets of giving” and what you might have to offer.

By Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas

When my son was a toddler, he had a favorite song about all the pockets on his overalls. Whenever he lost something, we always checked all five pockets on his bib overalls, and eventually we’d find the missing treasure!

As I peruse the number of church newsletters sent to our office, I notice that many congregations are facing financial difficulties or challenges of one sort or another.

In some communities a number of persons have lost their jobs or taken wage cuts; and, thus, the difficulty is a shortage of income. In other church families, there is the challenge of a building project or a new ministry that needs to be funded.

If the Sunday offerings aren’t enough to meet the ministry challenge Christ has given you, don’t give up! Keep looking!

Have you checked all the potential pockets of income? Our annual income is one “pocket.” (It may be that up-front pocket

that’s most visible.) But what about the other “pockets” we might check? Have you invited your members to check the other “pockets,” such as their non-cash assets, when considering gifts to the church?

You can invite members to make gifts of appreciated stock to your church. By processing gifts of stock through the Foundation Office, you can avoid paying any commission or selling fees. You can invite members to make a gift now by donating “obsolete” life insurance policies that might have been purchased long ago for a reason that no longer exists.

Consider inviting members to turn assets of property or stock into a Life Income Gift that benefits the donor now, and the church and other qualified non-profit charities at the time of their death.

Charitable Gift Annuities (see page 4) also provide donors a new “pocket” to consider as they make their estate plans.

We have moved in our building ...

You’ll find us on the west side of the Conference Center instead of the south end. Come on in and visit sometime, or visit us online

www.wumf.org

Our address and phone remain the same:

**Suite 305
750 Windsor Street
PO Box 620
Sun Prairie WI 53590**

**1-888-903-9863
608-837-9582**

Email: wumf@wumf.org

**Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street, Suite 305
PO Box 620
Sun Prairie WI 53590-0620**

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