



**2017**  
**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**REPORT**

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The mission of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. is about sustaining the Church witness through PEOPLE / CHURCHES / and INNOVATED LEADERSHIP. The mission is the same, the vision is ever changing!

## PEOPLE

The Great Plains Association of Retired Clergy and Spouses (GPARCS) used their funds with the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation to award scholarships for seminary and course of study students. The “Pass the Torch” Scholarship has made a difference in the following students’ lives:

Asbury Theological Seminary

**Gina Tyler**  
**John Lewis**

Illiff School of Theology

**Marcee Binder**  
**Julie King**

United Theological Seminary

**Dorothy Ellsworth**  
**Stacy Ellsworth**

Saint Paul School of Theology

**Marsha Haney**  
**Alex Rossow**  
**Mary Webster**  
**Richard Webster**  
**Suzanne Werthmann**

Wesley Theological Seminary

**Mary Courtney**

Through the Partnership with the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation “Dollars For Scholars” program, the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation added \$1,000.00 dollar scholarships for these United Methodist Students so that they may further their education. The following were the 2016 Quadrupole “Dollars for Scholars” Recipients:

**Chelsea R. Berrick**, Chanute First UMC  
**Bryant C. Belden**, Mulvane UMC  
**Brookelyn E. Brown**, Arkansas City First UMC  
**Charlene R. Dick**, Zenda UMC  
**Kaitlyn G. Holler**, Protection UMC  
**Bethany R. Manny**, Hutchinson Trinity UMC  
**Brian A. Vancuren**, Conway Springs UMC  
**Rebecca H. Wendt**, Chanute First UMC

**Morgan K. Beougher**, Stockton UMC  
**Chase F. Branstetter**, Woodlawn UMC  
**Krissa D. Dearden**, Scott City First UMC  
**Frankie S. Farrant**, Meriden UMC  
**Shayla A.R. Jordan**, Aldersgate UMC  
**Brian L. Peck**, Wellington First UMC  
**Madison R. Wendt**, Chanute First UMC

The Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation will discontinue participation with the Dollars for Scholars program due to budget restraints. If you would like to donate a Dollars for Scholars program so that the Foundation may continue with this program, please contact us.

The Rev. Paul Holmes Memorial Scholarship Fund offers Great Plains clergy the opportunity to strengthen their commitment to being life-long learners through continuing education experiences. The following 2016 Rev. Paul Holmes memorial Scholarship for continuing education recipients were:

**Rev. Ashlee Alley**

**Rev. Russell Brown**

**Rev. Nicole Conard**

**Rev. Amy Lippoldt**

**Rev. Dr. Connie Wilson**

**Rev. Dr. Shelly Petz**

These clergy attended continuing education programs such as; Process Communication Training, Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator Training, Advancing Pastoral Leadership, The Upper Rooms Academy for Spiritual Formation or requested funds for spiritual formation renewal.

Finally, the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation established a number of charitable gift annuities this past year with individuals that love their United Methodist Churches and various charitable organizations. Ms. Pile and Rev. Thomas and Mrs. Phyllis Schneider are two shining examples of using Charitable Gift Annuities to increase their income at the same time planning to have their legacy live on through their local United Methodist Churches, United Methodist agencies and various charitable organizations. Not only do PEOPLE create paths that will impact ministry, our CHURCHES have paths that make a difference within our communities.

## **CHURCHES**

Pathways to impact ministry! Through the various services the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation offers to our United Methodist Churches, we have seen how our churches strive to enhance ministry so that they may be more inviting. Lee Sankey, Director of Stewardship Services was busy in 2016 with three capital campaigns for Arkansas City First UMC, Hiawatha First UMC and McPherson UMC. Also offering guidance to many churches about annual commitment programs, generosity seminars and year-round stewardship education for clergy and laity. We both have been involved with numerous churches developing the churches 3 year marketing plan on “How to Promote Legacy Giving” within their congregations. Feel free to contact your Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation to come and provide these services.

Another path that our churches have made a difference within their communities is through their church investments with the Foundation. The churches have directly influenced ministries with their funds. This past 2016 the total distributions of **\$4,942,469.00** million dollars made an impact through individual and church scholarships, grants, distributions supporting church mission trips,

distributions supporting children, youth and young adult ministries, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and ministering to those in their communities so that the United Methodist witness may continue to share God's love.

These various distributions were possible by the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation's total assets under management for 2016 of **\$48,821,137.00** million dollars. An increase of funds from the previous 2015 total assets under management of **\$46,934,708.00** million dollars. Thank you to innovated leadership of United Methodist individuals and churches that understand the importance of sustaining the churches witness within our Kansas communities.

## **INNOVATION**

Certificate of Participation Program is an innovated investment so that Kansas United Methodist individuals and churches deposit funds that will grow at the same time participate in the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation's Church Development Loan Fund that provides competitive loans to our churches. *"It is a way for United Methodists to invest their money in a way that helps other United Methodists Fulfill their mission."* – Bruce Schwyhart, Chairperson Board of Trustees, Winfield, KS. The Certificate of Participations "SPECIAL" monthly rates may be found online or call the Foundation office if you or your church would like to invest so that together we expand, renovate or improve our churches. How have you and others made it possible to share God's love with others through the Certificate of Participation program? The following examples are:

The Foundation offered our "FIRST" Nebraska United Methodist Church Loan to St. James United Methodist Church, Bellevue, NE. St. James UMC received a loan last year to purchase new Audio/Visual Equipment for their new church site. I believe no one should complain about not hearing the preaching or music within their new site.

The second example of innovated leadership is the renovation project by First United Methodist Church of El Dorado. The Foundation is a partner with First UMC El Dorado through the Church Development Loan Fund that provided funds to update and renovate the church. I was told during Annual Conference that a life-long church couple said that it has been over 60 years since the sanctuary had been renovated. After viewing the new renovations, the couple shared that they wish the church had renovated the sanctuary 20 years earlier.

The Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation Church Development Loan Fund information may be found online. Please contact your Foundation if you have any questions about the loan process. We would be happy to partner with your church!

The Board of Trustees and staff are proud to announce the creation of “PATHWAYS FOR DISCIPLESHIP” endowment funds. The goal of creating these four endowment funds is to strengthen the Foundation’s mission of supporting the ministries of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. These four endowment funds will focus on:

- (1) LEADERSHIP EDUCATION FUND,
- (2) CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAM FUND,
- (3) MINISTRY AND OUTREACH GRANT FUND AND
- (4) FOUNDATION SUSTAINING THE WITNESS FUND

These four endowment funds have been created to connect United Methodist with causes that matter. More information about all four of these funds can be found within the 2016 Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation Annual Report and online at [www.kaumf.org](http://www.kaumf.org).

This is not the same Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation! Through the dedicated leadership of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees and staff; the Foundation is committed to be relevant in an ever changing world! The Future direction of your Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation will include PEOPLE, CHURCHES and INNOVATED LEADERSHIP that will invite, influence and impact future generations so that the Kingdom of God is sustained! How are you planning to sustain the United Methodist witness for future generations?

*Alan D. Herndon*

President and CEO

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