

The Alabama - West Florida United Methodist Foundation (ALWFUMF)

Our mission is to encourage generosity as a way of life, foster planned giving, develop successful endowment programs, and manage funds in order to strengthen the work of Christ's church. Our AWF Development Fund also supports church growth by providing loan services for building, renovating, or purchasing property.

Our purpose is to help individuals and the church by encouraging generosity through education, consulting, development, and financial services.

Services

AWF Development Fund Services:

- Loans (3.5% rate)
- Deposit Accounts for individuals and churches (1.0% rate)

Foundation Services:

- Generosity Development/ Workshops
- Consulting
- Fund Administration
- Investment Services
- Church Planned Giving Programs
- Digital and Printable Resources
- Marketing Resources
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Monthly Eblasts

UNITED METHODIST
**DEVELOPMENT
FUND**

ALABAMA • WEST FLORIDA

Generosity Matters

"Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." Luke 6:38 (MSG)

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God-sized Dreams for San Pedro Mission



DS Darren McClellan congratulates San Pedro Mission leadership

One of the most awe-inspiring things we get to witness at the **UM Foundation** is God working through individuals and churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

Within the Baypines District, San Pedro Mission is one such community of believers that brings us such great joy to watch. **This congregation is on fire for God and spreading the good news of Christ to the Hispanic community in Baldwin County.** Under the leadership of Rev. Enrique Escobar, they have continually grown in both faith and membership at their three meeting places in Foley, Gulf Shores, and Loxley UMC but did not have a permanent location until late 2017.

As the San Pedro Mission has grown, the importance of having a permanent location has grown as well. After talking with Darren McClellan (Baypines District Superintendent) and Terri Turner (UM Foundation and Development Fund Ex-

ecutive Director), the church decided to apply for a land purchase loan from the **AWF Conference Development Fund**. Loans through the UM Development Fund have low-interest rates, no closing costs, and can fund up to \$1 million for new church construction, purchasing property, and major renovation projects. Once the loan was approved, San Pedro Mission began their search for property in Baldwin County.

San Pedro Mission initially fell in love with a plot of land in Summerdale, AL. Fortunately Adam Metcalfe, a real estate broker who volunteered his services to the project, discovered the plot was on wetlands and advised against the property because of potential building concerns. While reviewing the original property, Metcalfe felt lead to look at an adjacent property that was free of wetlands. It did have a different type of problem, though; it wasn't for sale. **Continued on page 4**



Rev. Escobar helps assemble the new sign

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A Will Isn't the Only Way to Plan Your Estate



When it comes to financial stewardship, having a plan in place for your estate is incredibly important. God has blessed us with many accumulated gifts over a lifetime. Your plan for these gifts is a great way to show others what you value: family, church, charities, people, and organizations that have made an impact in your life.

In most cases if you die without a will or living trust, your property and assets are distributed by the state. The state does so by appointing an estate administrator (also called an “executor”), selecting guardians for children, posting bonds, etc. Estate laws were created with good intentions but often cost a lot more in fees to your beneficiaries, will rarely distribute your assets in the same manner that you would, and don’t account for any special family circumstances.

Creating an estate plan ensures you have total control of your assets and where they will go. **The most popu-**

lar estate planning method is a will, but it is not the only option. A revocable living trust is very similar to a will in that it allows you to determine your wishes after death concerning your heirs, charities, and other beneficiaries. There are some unique differences, however, that make a living trust worth looking at as an alternative to a will.

When you create a living trust, you choose a trustee and a successor trustee. Trustee positions are generally filled by you, and your spouse if applicable, to allow full control of your property (selling, investing, exchanging, etc.). The successor trustee can be your child, individual you trust, or bank/financial institution that deals with trusts such as the **Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation**. If trustee(s) can no longer manage the property, or if both are deceased, the successor trustee will step in to manage the property and disburse the assets.

With a living trust, during life you choose what assets to put in the trust (such as real estate, bank accounts, investments, etc.) and you can change the trust at any time by adding/removing property or even completely dissolving the trust.

Everyone needs an estate plan. Whether it is a living trust or a will, take the time to sit down with your financial advisor and an attorney to figure out which option is right for you.

Pros of Living Trusts

- Can be changed at any time before death (including adding/removing property from the trust and completely dissolving the trust)
- An estate plan that takes care of your family and fulfills your wishes
- More private than a will by avoiding probate (a process used to verify the validity of a will)
- Determine whether you want property and assets to completely pass to beneficiaries right at your death, or if it should be given out over a period of time
- Has the ability to be used as a power of attorney (an appointed person who manages your affairs if you are unable to do so)
- After the trust is funded with the minimum amount it can be funded with as little or as much property as desired; a trust can even wait until your death when a will directs property into it
- No need to see a lawyer if there are changes in assets/property

Cons of Living Trusts

- Higher cost. This varies but can run up to a couple thousand dollars
- If it is challenged or needs court approval from a beneficiary, the trust will go to probate (making it public record and removing the initial privacy)
- More complicated than a will and requires an attorney to make sure it is set up correctly

This article is based on “10 Things You Should Know About Living Trusts” by AARP and should not be taken as legal advice. An attorney knows tax law and best practices for setting up a living trust that will best benefit you and your beneficiaries. https://www.aarp.org/money/estate-planning/info-09-2010/ten_things_you_should_know_about_living_trusts.html

Alabama - West Florida United Methodist Foundation Ministries

CHURCH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMS

Planned Giving programs help facilitate planned gifts and endowments in the church. We offer a step-by-step service designed to encourage and support future financial needs of the church.

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Our investment services are uniquely created for managing church and agency funds. The Foundation staff assists in developing a custom investment plan for each participating organization or donor.

GENEROSITY DEVELOPMENT/WORKSHOPS

We offer generosity development through educational programs that foster a better understanding of giving and stewardship as both an act of worship and discipleship.

FUND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

We provide trust fund accounting, regular disbursements, and all other fiduciary administration. This information is reported to you on easy to read statements.

Leave a Legacy of Generosity



Have you considered including the church in your estate planning? It's one of the most important gifts you can give that can make an impact on God's Kingdom here on earth.

If you have already included your church in your estate plans, let them know! Your church will want the chance to thank you for your generous gift.

Donate Appreciated Stock



A donation of appreciated stock/securities could potentially give you some tax advantages.

As long as you have held your stock for at least one year, this type of gift will qualify as a charitable donation. Because the gift is donated as securities, and not cashed out, you will not pay capital gains taxes.

Please contact Terri Turner at 334-793-6820 or foundation@alwfumf.org to talk about including your church in your estate planning and to talk about gifts of appreciated stock.

5 Ways to Give with the New Tax Laws

Remember, if you itemize you will be able to receive a charitable tax deduction.

1. Charitable IRA Rollover – Donors over age 70 1/2 can make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 through a Charitable IRA Rollover. These gifts are directly transferred to the charity and avoid income tax upon withdrawal and count towards meeting the required minimum distribution.

2. Appreciated Securities – Rather than selling securities and donating the cash to a charity, a donor can give appreciated stock/securities

and avoid paying capital gains taxes.

3. Large Charitable Gifts – There are greater tax savings when you are able to itemize. If you are close to the itemization deduction threshold, consider making larger gifts to charity.

4. Include Charitable Gifts in Estate Plans – A bequest to a charity is a great way to give to others, through your will, after death. Doing this allows you to both use the asset during your lifetime then donate it later.

5. Retirement Plan Gifts – Giving all or part of retirement plan assets will avoid the associated income tax. This type of donation allows you to make a greater gift to charity and leave your heirs other gifts that will not be accompanied by income taxes.



Join our email list for more resources to help your church win!
Email foundation@alwfumf.org or scan the QR code on the right.



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Printable Newsletter

Be sure to display our newsletter in your church to promote generosity and watch your email for a printable version. To sign up for our digital newsletter, please email foundation@alwfumf.org

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God-sized Dreams for San Pedro Mission *(continued from page 1)*

Not deterred by this, Metcalfe was able to track down and meet with the owner. Afterward he set up a meeting between himself, the owner of the plot of land, and the leadership of the San Pedro Mission project. Upon hearing God's vision for the land, the owner's heart was moved, and he agreed to sell the land to them.

The vision of San Pedro Mission is to be a servant to the Hispanic community in Baldwin County. They plan to achieve this goal by creating programs and activities that focus on meeting the community's spiritual, evangelistic, social, family, recreational, and educational needs. Specific changes coming soon also include a church name change, to more accurately reflect their mission field, and the launch of new services on the freshly acquired land.

This is a "God-sized dream" says McClellan "I believe that (San Pedro Mission's) passion toward a just and deliberate ministry with a growing Hispanic population is not only relevant, but a requirement of the gospel."

There have been a few challenges through the growing process, but McClellan notes "Rev. Escobar has remained undaunted in his hope and leadership of this congregation."



San Pedro Mission congregation on their new property

The whole Baypines District came together to support the San Pedro Mission through love offerings and other donations, and, while there is still a long road ahead, the San Pedro Mission continues to finance their new church by faithfully putting on monthly fundraisers of their own as well.

If your church is interested in a loan through the **UM Development Fund**, email us at foundation@alwfumf.org or call 334-793-6820. You can find more information at www.alwfumf.org/loans.