

## The Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation

Our mission is to encourage generosity as a way of life, foster planned giving, develop successful planned giving 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 churches by encouraging generosity through education, consulting, development, and financial services.

### Services

#### AWF Foundation Services:

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

#### AWF Development Fund Services:

- Loans (4.75% rate)
- Deposit Accounts for Individuals and Churches (1.50% rate)

\*Rates as of July 1, 2023

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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UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION | SPRING 2023

## New Church Relations Officer Joins the United Methodist Foundation



Schedule a meeting or presentation with Mark or Terri (email [foundation@alwumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwumf.org))

The United Methodist Foundation's mission is to encourage generosity, foster planned giving, develop planned giving programs, and manage investment funds of scale in order to strengthen the work of Christ's church for all.

It is our pleasure to announce that beginning April 1st, **Rev. Dr. Mark LaBranche joined the staff of the United Methodist Foundation** as our Church Relations Officer. Executive Director Terri Turner stated that **Mark's energy and experiences make him the perfect candidate for this new staff position** in order to cultivate and strengthen partnerships with donors, churches, and/or organizations.

### Mark's Experience:

Mark received his Master of Divinity at Emory University and his Doctor of Ministry at Boston University. He is an ordained elder and served as Student Pastor for the Seale-

Alexandria UMC Charge (1984-87), Associate Pastor at Pensacola FUMC (1987-91), Associate Pastor at Montgomery FUMC (1991-94), and Pastor of Saint Mark UMC, Montgomery (1994-2002).

In 2002, Mark joined the staff at Huntingdon College as College Chaplain and Director of Church

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**Rev. Mark LaBranche, Foundation Church Relations Officer**

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Jeff Outlaw\*\*

President of Foundation Board

### Henry Hooks\*\*

President of Development Fund Board

### Mark Davidson

Vice President of Foundation Board

### Steve Burch

Treasurer of Foundation Board

### Terri Turner\*\*

Executive Director of Foundation

foundation@alwfumf.org • 334-793-6820

### Howard Adams\*

### Suzanne Jones\*

### Ben Barron\*

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### Olen Kirby

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### David Graves

AWF Conference Bishop

### Debora Bishop

Baypines & Mobile District Superintendent

### Mike Pearson

Demopolis and Montgomery-Prattville

District Superintendent

### Jean Tippit

Marianna-Panama City and Pensacola District

Superintendent

### Jeff Wilson\*\*

Dothan and Montgomery-Opelika District

Superintendent

\*AWF Development Fund Board of Directors

\*\*The AWF Foundation and AWF

Development Fund Board of Directors

*If you are interested in partnering with the Foundation by joining our Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director Terri Turner at [foundation@alwfumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwfumf.org).*

## New Church Relations Officer Joins the United Methodist Foundation (cont. page 1)

Relations, and in 2009 he left as Senior Vice President to accept the role of President of Louisburg College in Louisburg, NC. In 2017, Mark was selected as 27th President of Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, TN. In June of 2021, Martin Methodist merged with the University of Tennessee, and he was named the first Chancellor of the new University of Tennessee Southern. In July of 2022, Mark stepped down as Chancellor and was named

Chancellor Emeritus and Special Assistant to the President of the University System. In July 2022, Mark and his wife Mona returned to their forever home in Pensacola and joined Saint Luke. Mark also currently serves on the boards of Bright Bridge Ministries and Embrace Florida Children.

To schedule a meeting or presentation with Mark or Terri, please email [foundation@alwfumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwfumf.org).

## Resourcing Your Church's God Inspired Vision for Ministry



**The mission of the United Methodist Foundation is to provide faith-based financial solutions that help churches live into their God-given vision, as we have done since 1979.**

The Foundation offers a number of ministries and services that are not limited by organizing language and remain open to organizations that share either current or past Wesleyan common bonds and connections with the United Methodist Church. The Foundation, a self-sustaining,

501c3, is taking steps to provide a stable and smooth transition for UMC and non-UMC churches while "doing no harm" to any group.

### Services:

- Fund Management
- Stewardship Resources
- Endowment Development
- Planned Giving Presentations and Programs
- Liquidation of Stock Gifts to Your Church/Ministry (at no cost to you)
- Socially Screened Investment Options
- Accounting Services
- Educational Events and Workshops
- Scholarships
- Legacy Gifts Consulting and Options
- Development Fund Investing

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## Apply for a Scholarship

Apply for ministerial and lay scholarships by the **June 30 deadline!**

Learn more: [www.alwfumf.org/individuals/scholarships](http://www.alwfumf.org/individuals/scholarships)



# St. Luke UMC Utilizes Foundation Services and Events



Exterior of St. Luke UMC Enterprise

"My first experience with the Foundation came when I began to serve as Treasurer. St. Luke UMC had deposited some cash reserves in the Foundation Development Money Market Fund. While the interest we earn is currently very low, the Foundation has always processed our transactions promptly. We feel it is **a safe option for setting aside cash reserves while participating in our connection** tradition as United Methodists, and I recommend it highly."

- Bob Helms, Treasurer of St. Luke UMC, for almost 20 years.

In 2017, St. Luke also began to participate in the Foundation's Balanced Investment Fund, where they have seen overall good returns.

"The returns to our investment in this account allowed us to capture \$24,000 of market gains during August of 2021. This realized gain represented 31% of our initial investment

and was transferred to a Development Fund Money Market to be used for pending capital projects. While the fund lost value during 2022, the value of our account is still very close to our original investment. The investment committee does a good job of managing this fund in a responsible manner. The actual performance has been no worse than the S&P 500 and bond index funds during 2022. **We are confident our investments are being managed well, and we would recommend this service to others."**

Bob and St. Luke UMC have also been avid supporters of the Foundation's Game Changing Leadership events that focus on a variety of financial topics and needs within the church.

"My first experience with the current Game Changing Leadership series of workshops began in early 2020. Under the most capable leadership of our Pastor, Dr. Olivia Poole, **St. Luke UMC has become more intentional in developing and implementing a Ministry Plan that incorporates the tenets of our mission statement in everything that we do.** Every webinar workshop I've participated in has been very educational. We have implemented many of the suggestions from these workshops. Congratulations to Terri Turner and Chris Stovall of Generis for a job well done."

To learn more about the Foundation and how we can serve your church, contact Terri Turner at 334-793-6820 or [foundation@alwfumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwfumf.org).



St. Luke UMC Vacation Bible School



*Join our email list for more resources to help your church!  
Email [foundation@alwfumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwfumf.org) or scan the QR code on the left.*



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## Read on the Go!

Sign up for the digital  
newsletter by emailing  
[foundation@alwfumf.org](mailto:foundation@alwfumf.org)  
or scan the QR code with a  
smartphone camera.



f i t @ALWFUMF



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## Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation

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If your church name, address, or email has changed, please  
email [andrea@alwfumf.org](mailto:andrea@alwfumf.org) to update your information!

## Resourcing Your Church's God Inspired Vision for Ministry

(continued from page 2) There are several ministry and service options that are limited, by their originating documents, to congregations, clergy, and organizations that are part of the United Methodist Church:

- **The AWF Development Fund:** Loans are currently restricted by the articles of incorporation and offering circular to provide low-cost loans to United Methodist Churches and organizations for building/capital projects. We can currently provide non-UMC churches with alternative loan options.
- **Individual Endowments and Planned Gifts:** The Foundation manages funds for both UMC and non-UMC churches and donors. These trust and reserve

fund monies are disbursed and used to support churches and ministries based on the initial documentation of each account and the intent/wishes of the donor or church.

- **Board of Directors:** The Foundation's board has always aimed to have representation from all districts, small and large churches, members with a variety of skill sets from investing to marketing, and is currently working to include representation of non-UMC churches. We gain perspective on the needs of all of our churches by hearing from different voices and expanding and growing our services based on current and upcoming needs.

It is a blessing to share in your successes and walk alongside

you in your struggles while **providing financial vehicles and resources designed to help fund your continued ministry.** Thank you for allowing us to be part of your meetings and planning to discuss how we can do more with our collective resources to facilitate and encourage the generosity of God's gifts.



**FREE**  
Events and  
Webinars!

## Game Changing Leadership

FOUNDATION EVENTS

Learn more about upcoming  
Game Changing Leadership  
Events and Webinars at  
[www.alwfumf.org/events](http://www.alwfumf.org/events).