

FORWARD

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IN DALLAS

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Catalyst 2024 Kick-off in Dallas, Texas

The Foundation for Evangelism (FFE) team began the month of October in the Dallas area, launching its five-year visioning project - Catalyst 2024. The purpose of this and future gatherings is to hold formative conversations with influencers, local church leaders, donors and friends. More than that, the project brought together a broader group of Wesleyan-tradition pastors and laity to talk about what the church needs to effectively do "Wesleyan evangelism."

To begin the conversation, the FFE team, donors, and partners welcomed Rev. Dr. Michael Waters of Joy Tabernacle-Agape Temple A.M.E. Church for a Friday evening dinner. Dr. Waters shared with the group how, through his time working in the local church and being involved with social justice initiatives, he views Wesleyan Evangelism as not only being concerned with spiritual liberation, but also physical liberation. He reminded the group that Jesus often found himself in the midst of an oppressed people, and that they had a tendency to follow Him when they were freed of their physical limitations. He went on to say that when the church connects with the oppressed, people are freed and lives transformed.



Dr. Waters' experience has taught him that it is only when young people see how their connection with the church impacts the community and world around them that they become fully engaged. He cautioned against overcommitment to piety to the exclusion of social justice, noting that he has found those dedicated to social justice tend to be spiritually disciplined. He also urged that one encounter with a hurting person has an exponential impact on the disciple and the church. Christ's Church must reconnect to ministry beyond the walls.

The following Saturday morning, a group of clergy and laity from the Dallas area gathered for a time of learning and listening. Rev. Dr. Heather Lear, Teaching and Research Fellow for the FFE, led the group of participants from Perkins Theological Seminary, North Texas Conference of the UMC, United Methodist and A.M.E. Churches in exploratory exercises around evangelism. Concluding the day, participants were invited to share ideas, resources, and questions specific to their ministry of evangelism. They led the conversation to help the FFE better determine areas where it could have the greatest impact.

Participants in the Dallas Catalyst Conversation (right and below right); Kay Schecht (2017 Distinguished Evangelist) speaks with Rev. Dr. Michael Waters (below).



If we talk about living out the Gospel ... Jesus often found Himself in the midst of the oppressed. As He liberated them, they had a tendency to follow Him. When the church connects with the oppressed, they are helping to free people - physically and spiritually.

Rev. Dr. Michael Waters
Joy Tabernacle - Agape Temple AME Church



Catalyst 2024 – Find out how you can be a part of this formative initiative at FoundationforEvangelism.org/catalyst2024.

From the President - *What is Your WHY?*



I read the book *Start With Why* by Simon Sinek a few years ago. In it the author makes a great point that, "Very few organizations know WHY they do what they do." I can proudly say that The Foundation for Evangelism is clear about our "Why."

The Foundation for Evangelism exists to promote, encourage, and provide resources for Wesleyan evangelism, inviting all people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

We pursue our purpose today just as we have for the last 70 years and we will continue that course. No change. No compromise. HOW we do this has and will change as we look for the most impactful ways to prepare disciples who share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The gospel message is for all to hear! And as Richard Heitzenrater has observed, "When holiness is your goal, you do evangelism differently."

John Wesley taught us that internalizing the practices of Christ and sharing His story is the life-long purpose of every disciple. Today, the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism, supported by the Foundation, do just that through leading-edge research and training for impacting churches and leaders in the Wesleyan tradition.

As a catalyst organization, we ensure that the resources, financial and human, given to our care are used to their fullest for this purpose. The pages of this FORWARD contain the stories of the fruit of that ministry. I hope that they will excite you as much as they have me.

I also include an invitation to you. We need you to join The Foundation for Evangelism in this work.

- We need ambassadors to share culture-changing resources for Wesleyan evangelism with their laity and pastors.
- We need those led to support through their prayers and gifts to do so generously so that we can live into God's purpose for us as a Foundation.
- And we need thoughtful input through participation in our Catalyst Conversations which we will update you on in the coming year.

Use the response envelope enclosed or email us at grants@foundationforevangelism.org if you want to be a part of infusing evangelism into every aspect of the life of the Church.

Jesus is our WHY. We are about creating and equipping disciples so changed by their relationship that they cannot stop themselves from serving as Christ served, or sharing "Why Jesus" in all aspects of their lives. That is how The Foundation for Evangelism is a Catalyst.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jane Boatwright Wood
President

The E. Stanley Jones Professors - Then and Now

Q: How have you changed your approach to teaching evangelism since you began?



since 1993

Dr. Achim Hartner - Reutlingen School of Theology, Germany

A: I started out seeing [evangelism] as one theological discipline among others (segmented approach). More and more it has become the over-all perspective for Practical Theology (perspective viewing approach).... In almost every case, a course in theology of evangelism helps students to clarify their own faith history and journey, theological understanding of central Christian truths and practices.... In some cases, teaching evangelism in class turns out to be evangelism itself.



since 1998

Dr. Bryan Stone - Boston University School of Theology

A: First, the question of religious pluralism looms much larger than it did before.... Second... the *Finding Faith Today* [research] project has shaped the way I think about evangelism, introduce students to evangelism, and apprentice them into evangelism research. Lastly, while my approach to evangelism remains focused on contextual analysis (it is absolutely central to my pedagogy), secularization and post-Christendom realities more thoroughly shape that context than it did 20 years ago... I still love teaching evangelism!



since 2004

Dr. F. Douglas Powe - Wesley Theological Seminary

A: My current teaching focuses more on teaching students the importance of making connections and teaching them how to do so. I think a part of the shift for me has been it is not enough to just teach why evangelism is not a bad thing, but the future of the church depends on us making connections with unchurched people. It is not being a salesperson, but a willingness to share why the Good News of Jesus is transforming.



since 2015

Dr. Jeff Conklin-Miller - Duke Divinity School

A: The most significant shift in my own pedagogy pertains to my expectation that our students will likely serve in contexts of ministry beyond the congregation. Thus, while forming capacities for leading evangelistic mission in congregations, I also have made pedagogical shifts to form [the] imagination necessary in the development of new ecclesial communities, church plants, Fresh Expressions, and other forms of Christian social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Harry Denman Fellowships - Impact Update

The Harry Denman Fellowships, named for the FFE's founder, encourage and equip individuals who have been called to teach evangelism in Wesleyan-tradition schools of theology or institutions of higher education. There are currently two active Denman Fellows.

Rev. Alma Ruiz

Rev. Alma Ruiz is in her fourth year of the ThD. program Duke Divinity School and is working on her dissertation proposal. A provisional elder in The United Methodist Church, she is working toward ordination as an elder in full connection. As a theological educator, she hopes to contribute to the development of healthier Christian congregation by inspiring and equipping pastors and Church leaders to seek out and to serve those who often are not welcome in churches or whose presence is not acknowledged. Alma states, "Therefore, as John Wesley did, we must care for the people's holistic salvation: spirit, mind, and body."

Thanks to the Denman Fellowship, I have been able to work full time on the Th.D. program and to be part of . . . the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative at Duke Divinity School and the Duke Divinity course of study in Latin America.



Rev. Wendy Mohler-Seib



Rev. Wendy Mohler-Seib is pursuing her PhD. in youth ministry at Asbury Theological Seminary, and is the Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Young Adults at the Institute for Discipleship and Visiting Scholar at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.

In July, she was a featured workshop leader at Youth 2019 where she offered "Hearing God in a Noisy World," for youth. For youth workers she co-led the workshop "How to Help Students Explore and Discover Call." (The Foundation for Evangelism provided grant funding for the workshops.) Wendy is featured on the Youth Worker Collective Podcast (episodes 43 and 44) at youthworkercollective.com. She also co-authored and presented a paper entitled "Wesleyan Band Meetings and the Formation of College Leaders" at the 2019 Association of Youth Ministry Educators Conference.

Videos Share Insights Gained in Ministries with Young People Grant

In 2019 the three-year pilot grant - Making Disciples on the College Campus (MDCC), is complete. This grant provided funding for innovative campus-focused ministry that engages, forms and grows disciples of Jesus Christ on the college campus.

Throughout the three-year pilot, Wesley Campus Ministry at UNC-Chapel Hill, sought to find new ways to meet, engage, and involve students on campus. Their approach brought together students, interns, and faculty into a community of worship, study, and service.

Rev. Ryan Spurrier is the Campus Minister for Wesley Campus Ministry at UNC-Chapel Hill. In a video series, Ryan shared key insights from the grant period. He says that they have learned outreach isn't enough and that most students come through an invitation from a friend. The team implemented programs that allow students to delve deeper in their faith formation and move into leadership roles.

FFE President Jane Wood shares the impact the grant has had on the approach to campus ministry and the students whose lives will be forever changed.



Video Insights Online

Rev. Ryan Spurrier, Campus Minister at UNC Chapel Hill, shares the three areas of focus utilized with this grant.

FFE President, Jane Wood, shares the impact made by the MDCC grant.

Watch these videos online at FoundationForEvangelism.org/MDCC.



All in the Family

A.M.E. Zion and Church of the Nazarene representatives led the FFE Board through a panel discussion and Q&A on Wesleyan Evangelism during the 2019 Annual Trustees Meeting. Pictured above with the board are Rev. Dr. Lyle Pointer (Church of the Nazarene - front center left) and Bishop Darryl Starnes, Sr. (A.M.E. Zion Church - front center right). The panel tackled such topics as historical practices in the Wesleyan tradition, the importance of small groups, and the significance of small churches in impacting the community.



Honoring An “Endless Line of Splendor”

At The Foundation for Evangelism’s 2019 Annual Board Meeting, two outstanding trustees were honored for their service to the organization as they completed their terms. Mrs. Mary Brooke Casad served as trustee since 2007 and Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Klemann served since 2002. Both served as board chair during their respective terms.

During a dinner held in their honor, both trustees shared reflections from their time on the board. Larry shared that one of his first projects as a trustee was to help evaluate 72 grant proposals, five of which were ultimately funded. One of those was the Path One new church starts program in the United Methodist Church. Fast-forward to 2014, Larry and his family moved to Pearland, Texas, where they joined a church that was in the process of starting a new church plant. Larry was “blown away” to find out that the pastor appointed to the new church had been trained in the Path One program!

Mary Brooke shared that she saw in the FFE trustees and those before them an “endless line of splendor” that had impacted her own faith formation and that she hoped would continue impacting more lives and ministries with the Gospel message.

Mr. Jim Spears, chair of the FFE’s Governance Committee, expressed the Foundation’s thanks to both of these long-serving trustees and presented them with a plaque.

New Trustee



Gaye Nell Heck joined the Foundation board in 2018. She is a lawyer with Blalson, Bergen & Schwab in Palo Alto, California. Gaye Nell is a fifth generation Methodist (the daughter of Rev. Dr. H. Eddie and Mary Nell Fox) and a member at Los Altos United Methodist Church in Los Altos, California.



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Give the Gift of Life-Transformation

Make a tax-deductible gift in honor of a friend,
pastor, or loved one this Christmas.

*As you consider your end-of-year giving, please consider
equipping disciples like those you have read about in this issue
to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

Thank You!

FoundationForEvangelism.org/donation

or return the enclosed envelope



FFEvangelism

