

FORWARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM

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How One Planned Gift Helped In a Crisis

No one could have anticipated COVID-19's arrival or the unimaginable economic impact that followed. In the early days of the pandemic's spread, the staff and board of The Foundation for Evangelism implemented procedures to allow the Foundation to be a good steward of its resources while ensuring no disruption in grant funding.

In the midst of monitoring expenditures and modifying operations, the Foundation received word that a planned gift, initiated in 1993, had come to fruition. The donor, who took action and documented her desire to support the ministry for which she had a passion, passed away just before her 99th birthday.

These funds came when they were needed the most – at a time of unexpected economic crisis some 27 years after the donor's decision. We like to think that the donor would be pleased to know her gift immediately impacted local church leaders who will continue the legacy of equipping disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. What a way to reach into the future and be a blessing!



Photo Courtesy Redeemer Church Manvel

Grant Has Impact Decades Later

By Barby Bowser, FFE Communications

It's not often that you get to personally see the outcome of a grant given over a decade earlier.

But for one of The Foundation for Evangelism's long-time board members, Dr. Larry Klemann, the experience was a "witness to God's presence every day." In 2008, he served on the Foundation's committee that approved a grant to Path 1, a church planting program launched by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church.

Years passed, and after settling with his family into a new community, he worked with a group at First United Methodist Church in Pearland, Texas, toward planting a new church in a growing town nearby. Pastor David Goran was the pastor selected to lead the new congregation, Redeemer Church. He and his wife had served as missionaries in the Ukraine, and after returning to the US, he took part in the Path 1 program that the Foundation had a hand in jumpstarting!

In a recent interview with Pastor David Goran, he shared that he and his wife, Shannon, served as campus ministers and missionaries in a Ukrainian city of over one million. That experience helped them learn to build the trust and relationships necessary to begin a new church. In fact, in the days before Redeemer Church launched, David says they hosted about 100 people at their home. Starting with a launch team of about 30 people, it took six months of intentional connection and building relationships. By the time Redeemer launched, 70% of the people who connected to the church through the launch team were people who were not connected to the parent church before.

David credits the Path1 "Bootcamp" training with helping build a network of those who had "done it before." "[Bootcamp] gave me a picture of what I needed to see to help it be successful and made it tangible. I suddenly knew what I was aiming for."

When asked what the Foundation or others might do to help new church starts succeed, he suggested, "See who is doing this well and succeeding – who is planted, running, connecting... and help facilitate learning relationships. It is extremely helpful to have people not directly invested in what you're doing to lend an objective ear, give thoughts, and be a sounding board." He also noted that the church hasn't always held evangelism up as a necessary part of success in planting a new church, and that it needs to emphasize that more. "You can't church plant without it... You have to make it happen in good ways."

Read David's full story at www.FoundationforEvangelism.org/grant-impact-stories.

2019 Annual Report

From the President

The State of the Foundation in 2019



Jane Boatwright Wood
President

As I write this, you and I join the world in a shared experience of uncertainty. Still, we can choose to experience joy as the Holy Spirit flows into the world through our churches! I am so thankful for congregations, regardless of size, that find innovative ways to stay home/stay safe while living vibrant, faith-powered lives modeled through new forms of worship and relational, spiritual assurance. I celebrate the ongoing ministry of Denman Evangelism Award recipients who continue to serve in creative ways among the children whose worlds were upended by closed

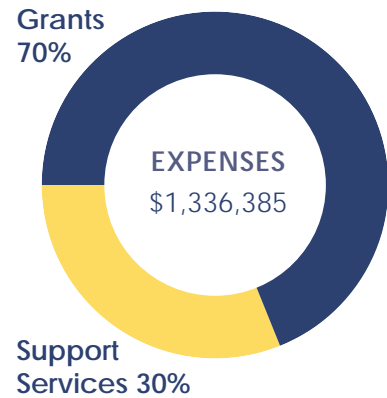
schools or with homeless, food-insecure or lonely folks in their communities. A vibrant Christian certainty fuels this work – that in all circumstances disciples are to model and share the Gospel story by inviting all people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

I find hope in knowing that thousands of ministry leaders spearheading these efforts first worked with a Foundation for Evangelism funded professor. Professors who equip disciples and leaders so transformed by their faith that they serve as Christ served and share Why Jesus in all aspects of their lives.

It is difficult to stay the course required to change long-range outcomes, much less remain passionate. But passion and perseverance are necessary for the development of Generative Gospel Leadership for the church.

Join me as we continue to pray for healing and God's active presence among us. To intercede for strength and wisdom for the leaders, frontline workers, and innovators who will help order our lives. And to celebrate our chance to provide the resources needed to support the generative gospel leaders, laity and clergy, hard at work in our congregations and in our communities.

Financials at a Glance



GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

\$924,190

SUPPORT SERVICES

\$412,095

TOTAL EXPENSES & FUNDS RELEASED

\$1,336,285

CONTRIBUTIONS

\$441,941

ENDOWED FUNDING

\$971,875

GRANTS & OTHER REVENUE

\$46,298

TOTAL FUNDING & REVENUE

\$1,460,114

From the Board Chair - Focusing on Equipping the Local Church

These are interesting times that we live in. As we neared the end of 2019, we had no idea that we would be dealing with a global pandemic. And yet, the church has remained a beacon of hope through the uncertainty and fear. As a UMC District Superintendent, I am encouraged by the people of faith bearing witness to the love and saving grace only found in Jesus Christ and the new ways in which this grace is being shared in our world.

At our meeting in 2019, the Foundation's board of trustees identified three areas of focus. We felt that one of the greatest investments we can make is to foster "Generative Gospel Leadership." In John 13:13-15 Jesus tells his disciples "You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." Jesus' example of "Generative Leadership" is witnessed in one of the greatest grant successes of the Foundation – the training of clergy and laity through the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism. A grant that was begun over 35 years ago and has continued to grow and strengthen the leadership of the church to equip disciples to share the Good News.



Rev. Allen Black
Board Chair

The board also understands that, despite their smaller size, the small to medium attendance churches are not "less than" large churches – in fact their presence is essential to the practice and invitation to the faith! They are vital parts of their communities, as we have seen throughout this global pandemic!

Similarly, the board recognizes that laity play a vital role in our churches. The Foundation was founded on this very idea, and our board remains lay-driven today. The laity can think differently and approach problems from a different position than clergy. In fact, The Wesleyan revival in England and America was not a clergy centered revival but took place in society bands and classes where laity took on essential roles.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating this focus of energy and resources to continue to strengthen the local church. Your support and prayers are the reason we exist, and I am grateful!

I pray for you to be safe, faithful and focused while we are together yet apart.

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Sponsorship Provided to Order of the FLAME

By Rev. Dr. Heather Lear, FFE Teaching and Research Fellow

As partners in the Wesleyan family who share an evangelistic mission and passion, The Foundation for Evangelism was proud to serve as a sponsor at World Methodist Evangelism's Order of the FLAME conference at the beginning of March. Just days before gatherings ceased, leaders from four Wesleyan denominations and five countries gathered at Epworth by-the-Sea in St. Simons, Georgia, for training, fellowship, and renewal. The FLAME's commitment is to connect those with a "commitment to being mission evangelists in the communities in which we serve, and by our willingness to offer ourselves as channels of God's prevenient grace to all people." The financial support offered by FFE helped make it possible for leaders in their first few years of ministry to have this experience at no cost other than their travel expenses.



Jane Wood (L) and Heather Lear (R) at Order of the FLAME

Jane and I had the privilege to build relationships with and hear stories of the realities and opportunities for these young leaders serving communities across the United States and around the world. Their passion, calling and commitment were inspirational and offered some important feedback for needed resources and training. To further equip the leaders and provide a training and synergy opportunity for clergy and laity in their congregational contexts, those attending FLAME were offered a scholarship to participate in an upcoming Evangelism for Non-Evangelists webinar series that I will co-teach with one of our E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism, Mark Teasdale. We understand how important it is for clergy and laity to learn, grow, and discern ministry together, and this scholarship will help leaders intentionally come together to develop and create an evangelistic culture across their congregations. We are excited to continue the relationships with our new friends and co-laborers in this important Kingdom work!



New Trustee for The Foundation for Evangelism

At the 2019 Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, The Foundation for Evangelism welcomed Ross Barrett as a new trustee. Ross works with BVM Capital Partners LLC, a Southeast-based venture capital firm. He lives in Shreveport, La., with his wife and daughters. They are passionate about Jesus, and are driven to introduce young people to a vital, life-transforming faith.

Thank You to Our 2019 Donors

Your gifts make a difference - we are seeing this in the lives transformed, often by a simple invitation to begin or renew a relationship with Jesus Christ and be part of a faith community. For over 71 years, The Foundation for Evangelism has helped to promote, encourage and provide resources for Wesleyan evangelism.

We are grateful to you, our donors, for helping to ensure that everyone has the chance to begin a new life and in turn offer that Good News to others. We couldn't do this work without you, and we thank God for your partnership in this ministry.

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Go to www.FoundationforEvangelism.org/catalyst-conversations.