

The FOUNDATION for  
EVANGELISM A *Catalyst* to equip disciples

# fast FORWARD

Newsletter



*photo by Terri Farmer*

## **Sunday Supper Fuels Conversation, Community**

Grant Impact - Equipping the Local Church

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For 131 years Patton United Methodist Church has been a constant in the small mountain town of Franklin, NC. This summer, they received a 2022 Equipping the Local Church Grant for an initiative to invite people in their community for a meal and scripture-based conversation. As far as their pastor, Rev. Evan Hill, knows, there are no other places in Franklin that offer a free meal in this kind of setting.

On a recent visit, the Foundation staff were welcomed into this growing community gathering that is feeding bellies and hearts. As scripture is read, attendees eat and discuss. Not quite a Bible Study or church dinner, it's something more.

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## The Christmas Conference

Our Wesleyan Heritage Began with the Laity

The Christmas Conference began December 24, 1784, at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland. With the absence of Anglican preachers to deliver the sacraments, lay preachers kept the societies going with meetings and love feasts, but they needed ordained clergy.

**It is so important that the Laity remember, they are not the audience. THEY ARE THE CHURCH!**

Twelve lay preachers were elected and ordained as elders (clergy). The conference also made a host of other decisions necessary for the formation of the new denomination. As they were then, the laity are a vital part of the life of the church!

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## Grant Recipient Panel Speaks to FFE Trustees

A panel of three grant recipients from the 2022 Equipping the Local Church Grant Cycle spent the morning with the Foundation's board of trustees and honorary trustee council at their hybrid in-person and online board meeting. During the hour-long panel discussion, grant recipients shared a little about their personal stories as well as the story of their ministry and how the Foundation's grant – and partnership – have helped their faith communities share the Good News with their neighbors.

**"For us (Magnolia Avenue UMC) the need was so obvious. We had to feed them before we could build relationships. It's messy work, but we start by sharing the gospel and giving them a meal. The grant money has been an investment of hope in this community, and it's good. Thank you"**

-Pastor Tim Jackson-

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photo courtesy Duke Divinity School

## Grant Supports Training for Ministry at the Border

The [Hispanic House of Studies](#) at Duke Divinity School received a Raising Up Gospel Leaders “Innovation Grant” this year to support the work of Prof. Alma Tinoco Ruiz. A Harry Denman Fellow (another grant initiative of the Foundation), Ruiz brings her experience as pastor and scholar to the table. Her work includes helping those engaged in ministry with Hispanic/Latinx communities to live out their faith as welcoming Christian leaders and fulfill the call to invite all people into relationship with Jesus as part of a nurturing faith community. A recent cohort organized by Prof. Ruiz and her colleagues focuses on training leaders for ministry at the U.S.-Mexico border and in other places where Hispanic/Latinx communities exist. The Foundation welcomed the grant partnership with Duke Divinity School for this expanded approach to evangelistic ministry training.

[Read the Story](#)

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### Hear From Our Trustees

*"I believe in what the Foundation is doing to help Christian disciples share their faith and work together as the Body of Christ. I have seen and experienced first-hand how the Foundation is a catalyst that brings together gospel leaders, lay persons, and congregations so that they can be and do so much more*

*than they could on their own."*

Dan Henry  
Foundation Trustee Since 2017

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### **An Impactful Gift That Could Decrease Your Taxes**

Making a gift to our organization with an appreciated asset such as securities offers the following advantages:

- You can give more this year, without impacting your cash flow
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Giftting appreciated securities in place of cash is a smart philanthropic and tax-wise alternative. For more information on the benefits of gifting appreciated securities, give me a call today:

**W. Scott Rawles**

[wsrawles@foundationforevangelism.org](mailto:wsrawles@foundationforevangelism.org)

(404) 398-4884 (direct)

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## Your Year-End Gift Makes Next Year's Grants Happen!

When you give a gift at the end of the year, you are helping us plan for the grants we can support next year! You may also consider [talking to our philanthropy team](#) about an estate gift that can ensure grants are available for decades to come. No matter what kind of gift or the amount, your gift is appreciated and will support the work of Christians passionate about sharing Jesus!

**Give Your Gift Securely  
Online**

or mail your gift to:  
**The Foundation for Evangelism**  
P.O. Box 985  
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

*Gifts + Grants = Transformed Lives*

## Cryptocurrency Donations



We're excited to share that we now accept over 100 different cryptocurrencies through [The Giving Block](#)! Right now, they will match any crypto gifts made until they reach \$1 million!

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*The* FOUNDATION *for*  
**EVANGELISM**

*A catalyst to equip disciples  
to share the Good News of Jesus Christ*

The Grant Impact Stories in this issue are just a sample of the updates we receive. Visit our website to read more, or follow us on social media.

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