

Dedicated to Serving You!



United Methodist Foundation
of NEW ENGLAND

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR & THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The year 2019 was significant for the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

The Foundation served more than 330 churches and ended the year with over \$117 million in ministry assets under our care. In this report, you will find descriptions of some of the ways in which we partnered with churches and the conference in mission.

In July, Foundation President, Jim Mentzer, retired after 8 years of leadership and we are extraordinarily thankful for his service. While the Foundation received new leadership and board members, the commitment to our mission of serving New England churches and the conference remains stronger than ever. In 2019, we began building on the strong stance of the Foundation in the areas of leadership, donor development and positioning the Foundation for the future of the church.



John

Although there are significant uncertainties around the future of the United Methodist denomination and its churches, the Foundation is an independent entity with its own tax-exempt status. We are committed to serving all New England churches with our complete scope of ministries and services, including our highly competitive management of church endowments, investments, and our grants and loan programs.

Our Leadership Development program, funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, has completed the first of five years with two cohorts of excellent pastors in place. We look forward, with great anticipation, to adding additional cohorts of full-time elders and licensed local pastors as they grow their leadership capacity and develop a community of best practices.

As we continue in 2020, it is impossible to ignore two important challenges that began this year: the COVID-19 pandemic and the vital awakening of the anti-racism movement in the United States. The Foundation has been, and continues to be, an integral part of providing assistance to churches and congregations during the time of quarantine and is actively participating in the movement to racial equality.

We thank you for entrusting us with your investments and we are honored to be your ministry partner in bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

United in ministry,

John Regier / Chair, Board of Directors

Ted Crass / Foundation President



Ted

FOUNDATION SERVICES

For Churches & Agencies

- **Socially Responsible Investment Management Services** - *Reflect core United Methodist values and grow assets*
- **Grants** - *Fund & support creative, vital, and impactful ministries*
- **Planned Giving** - *Workshops/seminars/printed materials that promote estate planning/wills/life income gifts and other charitable vehicles to help cultivate major gifts*
- **Stewardship Education & Resources** - *Emphasize a year-round, joyful approach to the faithful management of financial resources*
- **Capital Campaign Services** - *Faith-based, comprehensive and proven approach to maximize your success*
- **Lower Cost Loans** - *Fund building and capital needs projects*

For Clergy

- **INNOVATE. INTEGRATE. ELEVATE** - *Pastoral Leadership Development Program*
- **Financial & Life Planning Workshops** - *Clergy Taxes & Compensation / Financial & Estate Planning / Retirement Planning*
- **Personal Planning Consultations** - *Foundation staff help clergy & spouses better manage their financial resources*
- **Pastoral Financial Resources** - *Stewardship coaching / guest preaching / Faith & Money Blog / Educational materials to support & enhance pastoral ministry*

For Donors

- **Financial & Stewardship Education** - *Gift Legacy / Faith & Money Blog and user friendly online resources that inspire and encourage you to embrace a spiritual way of living and giving*
- **Trustee Services** - *Professional management for charitable trusts and gifts*
- **Will & Estate Planning** - *Family endowments to benefit churches & charities with a full range of life income arrangements*
- **Gift Planning Consults** - *Private & confidential gift planning advice*

2019 LILLY ENDOWMENT UPDATE



“Everyone should participate if given the opportunity.”

(Note: this article is written almost entirely from words and thoughts shared by Innovate, Integrate, Elevate (IIE) pastoral leadership development cohort participants)

“Here is an opportunity that is rare. To sit down and trust a colleague or more.”

In the first full year, two IIE cohorts gathered at locations across New England to discuss contextual ministry challenges. They sought not a quick fix but how to identify, explore, and adapt to the quick pace of pastoral leadership in this time. Each cohort gathering felt like a retreat and oasis. It gave a place for pastors to talk not only about the craziness of their ministry but also the dreams they have, knowing they are safe and getting truthful feedback and ideas. They learned how important it is to have a group with which to process, hear themselves better and to affirm they have something to share from their ministry experience.



COHORT I

The ideas explored are applicable to the church today and were led by conversation partners from across the nation. They included racial reconciliation, resilience in ministry, funding faith communities beyond the offering plate, and how to minister in a liminal (waiting) space. There has been a good balance with an outside voice stirring the pot and the group exploring how it applies to the New England ministry context. Many noted that they were able to apply what they heard and learned.



COHORT II

The cultural diversity of the group, the quality of the conversations, and the deepening relationships created a fascinating discussion about what to take away from each conversation partner and apply to their personal setting. It was a place to talk about big ideas including one presented during the 2019 NEAC clergy session pertaining to clergy’s covenant to each other.

In discussing the IIE program, it was noted that this model is a valuable one and holds great promise to encourage renewal, deepening of Spirit, and stronger connections. The Foundation actively supports the ideas and actions that come out of IIE. In doing so, IIE gives credibility to individuals who are offering change that will benefit congregations, clergy, and the overall conference.

“We are better together. We need each other. We have to have each other.”

In 2020, IIE will offer cohorts specifically for cross cultural/cross racial pastors, part-time pastors, as well as day conferences discussing various issues of ministry for all clergy.

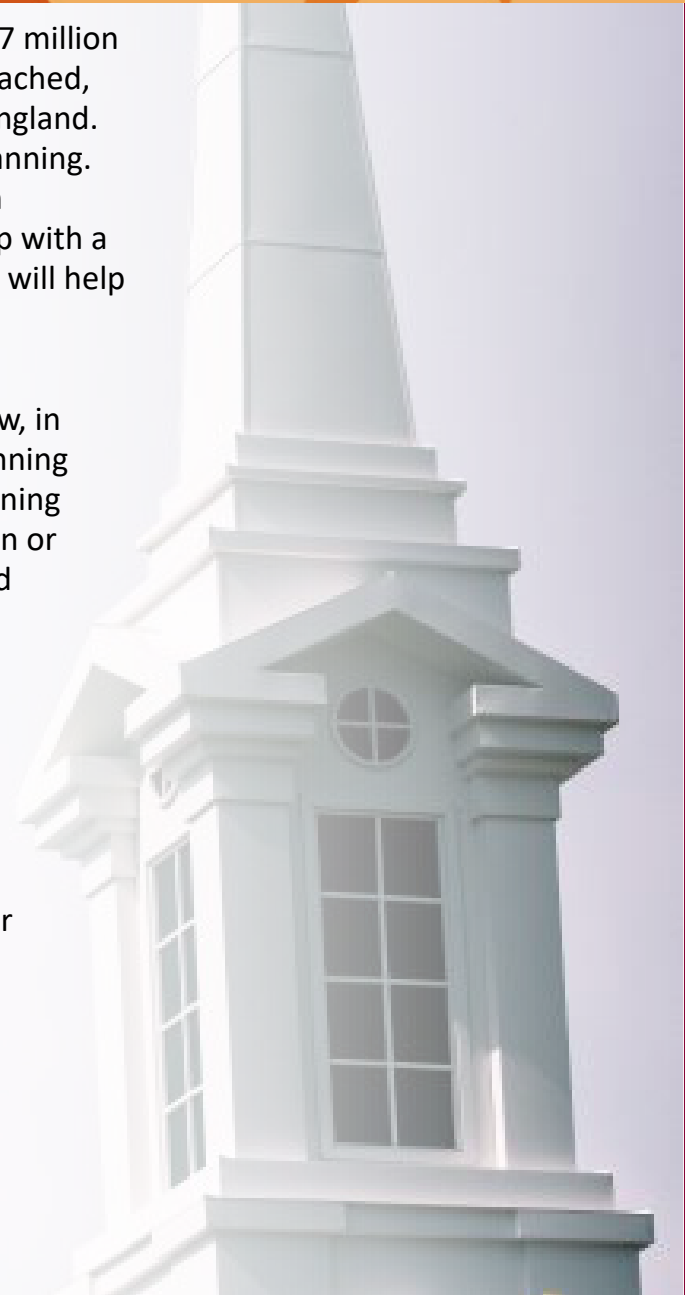
DONOR-CENTERED PHILANTHROPY

In just 29 years the Foundation has grown to a valued partner, managing over \$117 million dollars of local church endowed funds. While this is a great benchmark to have reached, we continue to look for ways to be in ministry with our partner churches in New England. With financial assets comes great responsibility and the need for discerned gift planning. The Foundation has the tools and resources to assist churches and provides a faith perspective for their members as they consider legacy gifts. Working in partnership with a local church member, who serves as a planned giving ambassador, the Foundation will help churches implement a customized strategy to promote legacy giving.

In 2019, in partnership with the Conference's Council on Finance & Administration Committee, the Foundation began expanding its donor development services. Now, in addition to working with churches to promote planned gifts and providing gift planning services, the Foundation will reach out to individual donors to help them find meaning through generosity. To be clear, the Foundation is not soliciting gifts for a campaign or cause, rather it is serving individuals and families as their philanthropic advisor and resource.

As we look ahead to 2020, we will advise our donor clients, helping them make a difference through their giving in ways that matter most to them and their families. Our wholistic approach integrates both our technical expertise and shared Christian values and is unique in the not-for-profit world. Acting as a concierge, we help our clients amplify their gifts resulting in high-impact outcomes and solutions in places where they want to make a difference. Our services include researching areas of client philanthropic interests, providing donor toolkits and guides, donor education workshops, and speaking engagements – including preaching.

Our donor-centric approach is rooted in faithful generosity and helps individuals and families to ask questions such as: “what is most important to them?” and “what is the role of wealth with respect to their faith?” This is an exciting discernment process that leads to making gifts that not only make an impact but brings meaning and purpose to the individual and their families.



2019 GRANT AWARDS



Bolsters Mills UMC / Bolsters Mills ME - \$2000 / Offering a monthly food ministry, weekly free breakfasts, and a semi-annual 3-C (cookies/coffee/conversation) Clothing Giveaway.

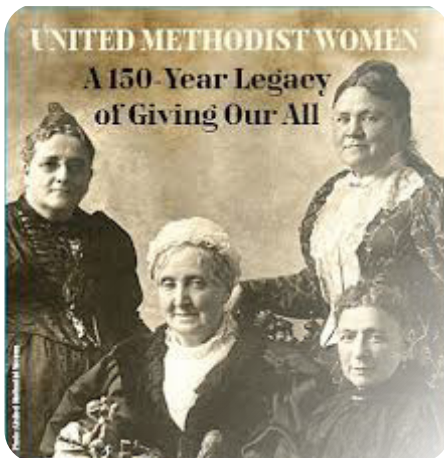
Faith UMC / Chicopee MA - \$2500 / Hunger Project - Organized by the youth group in partnership with the school & community.



Holbrook UMC / Holbrook MA - \$2650 / Providing free English as Second Language classes for neighbors who are new to the country.

Hope UMC / Belchertown MA - \$2000 Evoke / HOPE Kids funds a growing youth ministry for gathering, learning, serving, and exploring as community.

Living Faith UMC / Putnam CT - \$3000 / Messy Church / An intergenerational ministry focused on food, learning, playing, and Jesus.



New England UM Women / \$2000 / Helped provide worldwide live-streaming of UM Womens' 150th Historic Anniversary Celebration in Boston MA.

River Churches / Mid Maine - \$3760 / A moving feast of music & conversation at local parks and church yards along the Kennebec River. When possible, they join existing local festivals with fire pit, s'mores, and musicians to connect with the local community with conversation.



Sheldon Methodist Church / Sheldon VT - \$4000 / Expand existing ministries to serve neighbors with Food Pantry / Free Community Dinners / Nutrition Classes.



Rock Church Ministries / Tri-State District - \$2742 /

An expansion of Celebrate Recovery ministry located in Amesbury MA & Sandown NH.

Rutland UMC / Rutland VT - \$2457 / Comfort Zone

- Providing a nutritious breakfast at their drop-in day center that focuses on the homeless, financially challenged and lonely individuals, treating all with dignity and kindness.



St. John's UMC / Dover NH - \$2100 / God in Yoga - A new ministry bringing yoga to the marginalized in the community.



Institute for Spiritual Life and Therapy / South Shore -

\$2500 / Training and implementation of a program pertaining to advanced directives for those living in the area.

Wesley UMC / Springfield MA - \$5000 / The Sisterhood Project. A healing initiative (through

bible studies, workshops, art therapy, and personal empowerment) for women who are incarcerated, in recovery, or who have been recently released from a correctional facility.

Ministry in Motion

Following our unique passion for connecting faith and finances, your Foundation has:

Processed 36 stock transfers totaling \$521,615

Processed 5 new and/or refinanced loans totaling \$1,080,000

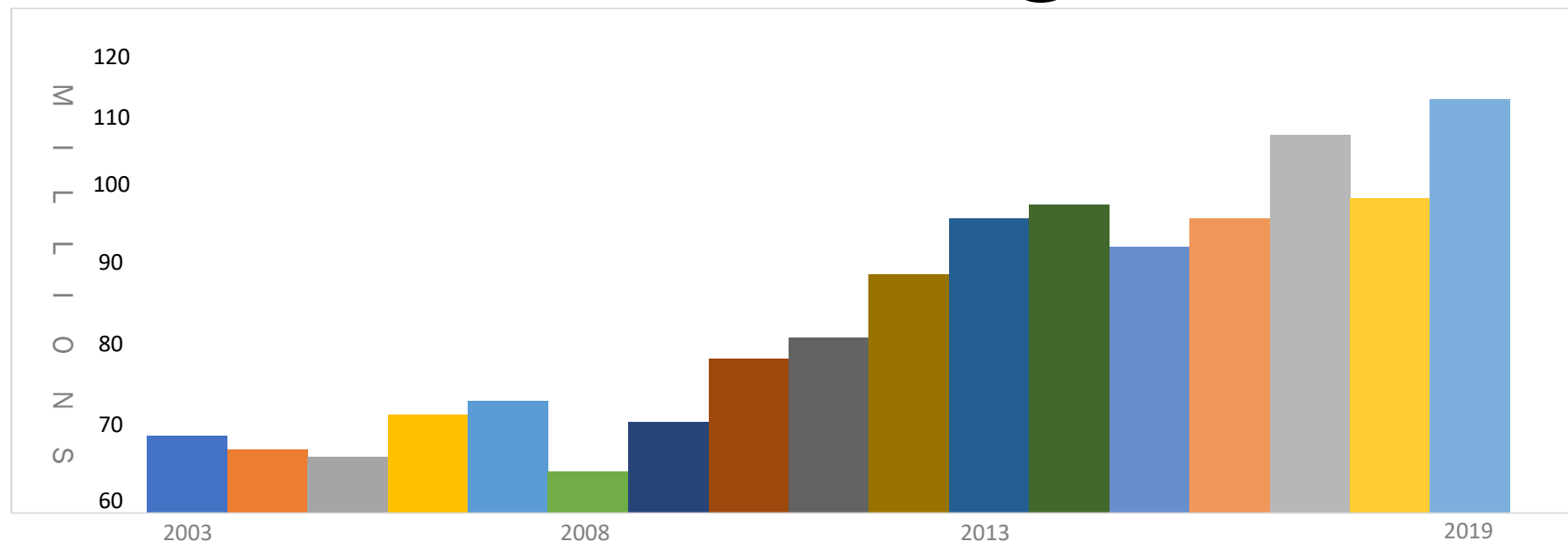
Opened 20 new accounts totaling \$1,985,696

Awarded grants in the amount of \$63,500

Distributed \$7,282,945 to local churches

Paid out \$124,315 in guaranteed payments to Gift Annuitants

Assets Under Management



FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,628,864
Investments	112,157,099
Receivables and other assets	<u>5,078,981</u>

Total Assets \$ 118,864,944

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Payables & Accrued Expenses	\$ 679,887
Obligations for Funds Managed for Others	<u>\$ 110,252,773</u>

Total Liabilities \$ 110,932,740

NET ASSETS

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$ 3,897,523
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	<u>4,034,681</u>

Total Net Assets \$ 7,932,204

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 118,864,944

These abbreviated statements do not include footnotes which contain vital information. For a complete set of audited financial statements, contact the Foundation office.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

**For the Year Ended
December 31, 2019**

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

Grants & Contributions	\$ 339,607
Investment Administration Fees	\$ 1,327,971
Realized & Unrealized (Loss) on Investments & Endowments	\$ 710,844
Interest and Dividends	147,522
Other Income	37,212
(Loss) on Split Interest Agreements	<u>(35,049)</u>

Total Revenue & Other Support \$ 2,528,107

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program	\$ 1,136,495
General & Administrative	312,774
Fundraising	<u>\$ 39,096</u>

Total Expenses \$ 1,488,365

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets 1,039,742

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 6,892,462

Net Assets, End of Year \$ 7,932,204

THE FOUNDATION'S "FOUNDATION"

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Michelle Cromwell / Plattsburgh NY

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Rev. Brigid Farrell / Norwich VT

Pastor Crystal Gardner / Randolph MA

Rev. Peter Hey / Wilmington MA

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Joan Humphrey / Dover NH

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Rev. Taesung Kang / Concord NH

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