



GEORGIA
UNITED METHODIST
FOUNDATION

Faith & Money

Advanced Faith-Based Financial Solutions for Investing, Lending, Training, and Planned Giving

Safeguarding the Foundation of Wesley Woods Investments



Diane Vaughan,
Foundation of
Wesley Woods
President

Wesley Woods Senior Living envisions a world in which older adults are celebrated for the lives they have lived, the wisdom they share, and everything they

have yet to teach us.

In this Q&A, Diane Vaughan, the Foundation of Wesley Woods president, explains its mission and how the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, in partnership with Wespeth Institutional Investments, safeguards its investments.

Q: Please tell us about Wesley Woods and the Foundation of Wesley Woods.

Vaughan: Founded in 1954, Wesley Woods Senior Living provides safe, affordable residential housing and support services for older adults throughout North Georgia. It operates 10 residential communities, including five HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) communities in Atlanta, Augusta, Athens, Blairsville, Roswell, and Newnan. More than 1,800 older adults, 75% of whom will



Rev. Susan Amick, Wesley Woods Chaplain, leads a Bible Study with residents at their Wesley Woods Towers community.

need financial assistance and over 40% of which live below the poverty line, are served annually in Wesley Woods communities. The Foundation of Wesley Woods exists to support the mission of Wesley Woods Senior Living, which is to create communities of connection, well-being and promise. We achieve this by providing financial assistance for residents who have exhausted their resources, chaplains in each community who provide compassionate pastoral care, and wellness nurses and wellness programming to enable residents to live independently longer.

Q: What are the benefits of partnering with the Foundation and Wespeth Institutional Investments on the investment of the Foundation of Wesley Woods funds?

Vaughan: It's not often that you get

Topics In This Issue:

- 2 Gifting Securities to Your Church
Investment Fund Performance
Certificate Rates
- 3 Options for Year-End Giving
The Foundation Redesigns
Planned Giving Website
- 4 Thanks From UMDFS Scholar
Wonyeong Lee
Safeguarding the Foundation
of Wesley Woods Investments
Continued
- 5 Pittman Park UMC Invests Its
Reserve Fund
- 6 Headland Heights UMC Secures
Loan for Renovations
The Foundation Offers Highest
Certificate Rates in 10+ Years!

Gifting Securities to Your Church



**By Russell H. Jones, Foundation
Senior Vice President, CFO,
and Treasurer**

Gifting appreciated assets such as publicly traded stocks, mutual funds, or bonds held more than one year is a great, tax-effective way to support your church. Please reach out if you would like the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to assist you with directing appreciated securities to your church, which eliminates potential capital gains to the donor. The tax code is very generous toward this form of giving. Here are some tips to ensure your transaction goes as planned.

1. If your church has a brokerage account for this purpose, provide your broker with transfer instructions from your church.

2. If your church does not have a separate brokerage account but does have an account with the Foundation, call us for instructions to give to your broker to transfer the shares to the Foundation for your church's account. Unfortunately, brokerage houses often do not disclose the donor's name or the beneficiary when transferring stocks. Therefore, please alert the Foundation and your church in advance of ordering the transfer. Be sure to provide the stock name and number of shares.

3. Contact the Foundation at 770-449-6726 or info@gumf.org for additional information.

Churches & Nonprofits

We partner with Methodist churches and nonprofits to help advance their missions by providing faith-based financial solutions for investing, lending, training, and planned giving.

Individuals & Families

We provide individuals and families with investing and planned giving solutions to secure the church's financial future. The Foundation also partners with donors, churches, participating schools, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation to award scholarships to Georgia Methodist students who attend Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Institutional Investments

In partnership with Wespath Institutional Investments, we help churches and nonprofits manage and grow invested funds through socially responsible and sustainable investing.

Investment Funds	Quarter	1 Year	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
U.S. Equity Fund	-3.56%	19.05%	8.23%	8.18%
International Equity Fund	-6.08%	17.96%	-0.13%	2.40%
Multiple Asset Fund	-3.78%	13.05%	2.25%	4.42%
Fixed Income Fund	-2.12%	3.64%	-3.60%	0.92%
Inflation Protection Fund	-1.70%	3.56%	1.38%	2.80%

Returns as of September 30, 2023 net of fund fees. Past performance is not an indication of future results.

Certificate Investments

We offer 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-year fixed-rate certificate investments, which in turn provide funds for loans to Methodist churches and nonprofits.

Certificate Term 1-Year	Certificate Term 2-Year	Certificate Term 3-Year	Certificate Term 4-Year
Rate: 5.25%	Rate: 4.75%	Rate: 4.25%	Rate: 4.00%

Rates as of November 2023. Rates are subject to change without notice. For current rates, please call the Foundation at 770-449-6726.

Loans

We offer loans to Methodist churches and nonprofits wishing to refinance debt, build, expand, or renovate facilities for sustaining ministry. The Foundation continuously reviews market conditions to offer competitive rates. For current rates, please call the Foundation at 770-449-6726. The minimum loan amount is \$25,000.



Options for Year-End Giving



By Rev. Keith E. Lawder,
Foundation President and CEO

I love the last few months of the year. It is a time to reflect on the past, to give thanks for our blessings, and to look forward to the hope and promise of Christmas and a new year. It is a time for giving presents and a time for financial planning for the year ahead. The end of the year is an ideal time to consider some new giving strategies that benefit others and may help your tax planning. Here are several ideas from publications I have read on charitable giving.

1. Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to a charitable organization directly from your IRA.

Did you know that a cash gift made directly from your IRA eliminates the taxable income from that part of a distribution you give to a qualified beneficiary, regardless of whether or not you itemize? Your generosity may save some tax dollars if your mandatory distribution is more than you need. There are restrictions. You must be 70 ½ or older, and there is a maximum contribution amount of \$100,000.

2. Consider establishing a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).

Foundations such as ours can help you set up a DAF. A DAF allows you to make a gift to the fund in one tax year and request grants from that fund in another, which amounts to prepaid giving. This strategy can be beneficial if you know you want to make future contributions but are still determining the amount, timing, and beneficiaries. Grants from DAFs have certain restrictions. They must be directed to 501(c)(3) charities, for example. Like-

wise, there are often minimum amounts required to set up a DAF.

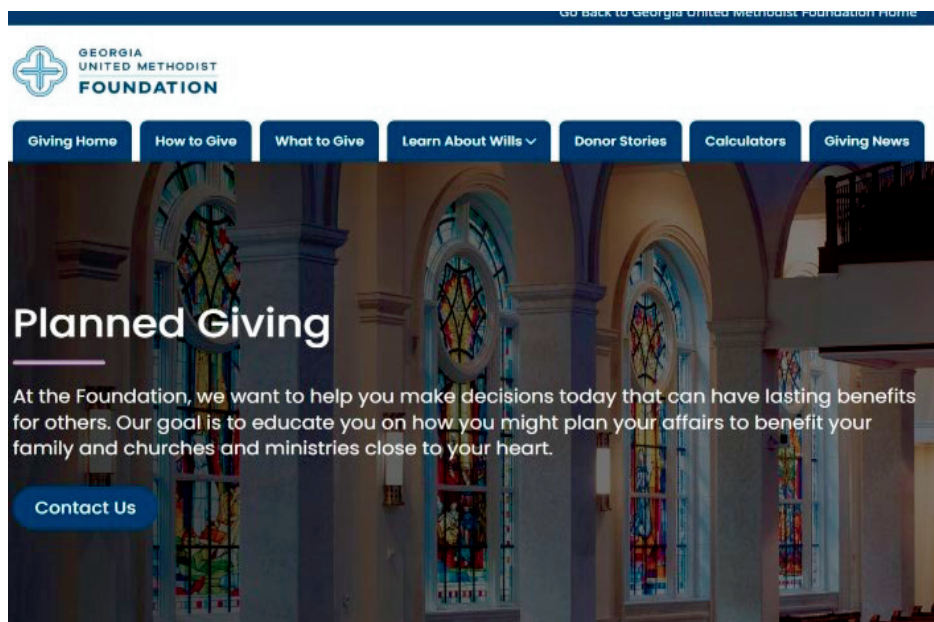
3. Donate noncash gifts, which can also benefit both the giver and the recipient.

Suppose you wish to make a gift to a favorite charity but do not have the cash on hand to make the gift now. Perhaps you hold an investment that has appreciated in value, such as land or a holding in a particular stock. If you sell the asset, you may be required to pay tax on the gain. If, however, you donate the asset, you may be able to deduct the market value as a gift this year without having to pay tax on the gain.

These are just a few suggestions to consider when you are thinking about year-end giving. It is always a good idea to consult your attorney or tax advisor about specifics to determine the best option for your situation and to ensure compliance with related IRS regulations. We at the Foundation would be happy to discuss these and other planned giving ideas with you.

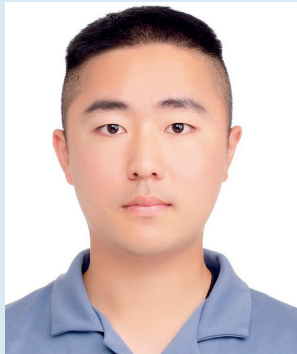
The Foundation Redesigns Planned Giving Website

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation is pleased to announce the redesign of our Planned Giving website at: gumfplannedgiving.org. Our Planned Giving resources educate you on how you might plan your affairs to benefit your family and churches and ministries close to your heart. The Foundation also offers Empower Weekly, a planned giving newsletter featuring helpful news and information. Visit gumf.org/news to sign up today.



A Word of Thanks From UMDFS Scholar Wonyeong Lee

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry empowers the next generation of Christian leaders. We partner with donors who establish scholarship endowments with the Foundation, a student's Methodist church, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF), and participating Methodist-related schools to award United Methodist Dollars for Scholars (UMDFS) scholarships that may total up to \$4,000.



**Wonyeong Lee, UMDFS Scholar
at Candler School of Theology**

Wonyeong Lee is a Master of Divinity student at Candler School of Theology who will graduate in 2025. He received matching support from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Glenn Memorial UMC in Atlanta, the UMHEF, and Candler. Wonyeong wrote the following letter expressing his appreciation and the impact the UMDFS scholarship has had in his life.

Dear Esteemed Donors,

I am writing this letter with a heart full of gratitude to convey my deepest appreciation for selecting me as a recipient of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. Your generosity has touched my life in a profound way, and I am truly honored to be chosen.

Facing financial challenges and the recent fluctuations in the exchange rate, I was apprehensive about managing my tuition expenses for this academic year. With my parents supporting me all the way from South Korea, I even contemplated taking on additional on-campus work to bridge the gap. However, receiving the scholarship offer letter completely overwhelmed me with emotions. The weight of

financial worries has been lifted, and I now have the privilege of immersing myself in my academic pursuits without any distractions.

As a dedicated student majoring in theology at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, my aspirations extend beyond the classroom. With this scholarship's invaluable support, I am not only one step closer to achieving my academic goals but also to realizing my dream of entering the field of ministry at the United Methodist Church upon graduation. Thank you again for your very important financial assistance.

With warm regards,
Wonyeong Lee
Candler School of Theology,
M.Div. '25

Safeguarding the Foundation of Wesley Woods Investments

Continued from page 1

to choose an investment partner that shares your mission, vision, and values, but that's what we have with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. The Foundation provides monthly, quarterly, and annual reports and can provide customized reports at our pleasure. This is extremely important for our organization, as it gives an extra layer of visibility to our investments.

Q: How does the Foundation help the Foundation of Wesley Woods fulfill its mission?

Vaughan: Our mission is to create communities of connection, well-being and promise. The Foundation safeguards our investments so that they may be used in future years to further our mission through both internal and external growth initiatives. The word "create" rings quite literally to what the Foundation is helping us achieve! The Foundation has also been the first sponsor in the door of our annual Heroes, Saints & Legends gala. Their vital support at the "Saint" level demonstrates

their commitment to our mission.

Q: How would you describe your experience partnering with the Foundation?

Vaughan: The entire team is professional, courteous, and extremely knowledgeable in their areas of expertise. We could not ask for a better business partner and look forward to many years of partnership.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Vaughan: It is wonderful to be in partnership with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, knowing they believe in and support our mission, and they steward our financial resources as they would their own.



Pittman Park UMC Invests Its Reserve Fund



Rev. Dr. Jonathan Smith serves as senior pastor of Pittman Park UMC in Statesboro.

Pittman Park UMC lives out its mission through community, discipleship, and worship. Over 40 groups use the church's facilities for yearly meetings. Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jonathan Smith believes that being a gathering place for their congregation and community allows the church to reach people for Jesus Christ and make a real difference in Statesboro and beyond.

Pittman Park UMC's partnership with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation dates back to 2009 when the church established the Charles Black Memorial Education Scholarship fund. Dr. Smith explains why the church entrusts its investment funds to the Foundation.

"How we steward the resources that God has blessed us with matters. Knowing that the Foundation shares the same values and core mission gives me peace of mind about our investments," Dr. Smith said. "The Foundation has done a remarkable job with our Charles Black Scholarship corpus. We hope to have the same stability and growth for the future through the funds recently

deposited with the Foundation."

"I received a call from Roger Doty, Pittman Park UMC's finance chair, about investing some of their endowment funds with us," said Dr. Rick Lanford, Foundation regional vice president. "It makes you feel good knowing that their investment with the Foundation will help provide the necessary funding for future ministry for years to come."

Pittman Park UMC is known for its generosity. When Miss Wood and Miss Dozier passed away, they left money to Pittman Park UMC in their estates. Decades later, their legacy gifts provided the seed money for the church's first reserve fund.

Doty has served as the church's finance chair several times since 1987. With nearly 40 years in the financial services industry, he is committed to helping Pittman Park UMC achieve its financial goals while navigating unexpected challenges.

"The funds Miss Wood and Miss Dozier left have been borrowed against many times in the church's history," Doty explained. "Since we never had any re-

serves, we used their funds for that and have always paid the funds back."

In 2015, the church launched a \$1 million capital campaign to fix a leaky roof and establish a \$200,000 reserve fund. Doty was disappointed when the re-roofing expenses alone cost \$1 million.

"When I became finance chair in 2020, my goal was finally to achieve this long elusive reserve fund. That goal went away rather quickly when COVID caused us to shut the church doors in March. Like a lot of churches and organizations, I was afraid of what would happen to our community and church," Doty shared. "Amazingly, the giving held up, and expenses went down. The dedication of our congregation during this crazy time enabled us to get to the other side of the pandemic with money in the bank! Pittman Park UMC was blessed. We were able to add about \$200,000 to the reserve money that Miss Wood and Miss Dozier left us."

Despite the initial obstacles in establishing a reserve fund, the church's faith and determination paid off.

"I am thankful for the ministry of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation and how it has helped so many churches invest, finance, and grow throughout the years," Dr. Smith said. "I am proud that Pittman Park has chosen to invest its funds with the Foundation."

Doty adds, "The Foundation is the perfect place for the church's investment monies. By having a reserve fund, we can be more aggressive in building our annual budget and use all the money given this year to immediately apply towards building God's kingdom."

Headland Heights UMC Secures Loan for Renovations



Left to right: Headland Heights UMC Trustee Swain Watters, Financial Secretary April Jackson, Trustee Chair Jacquelyn Jones, and Georgia United Methodist Foundation Director of Lending Jim Pope participated in the church's recent loan closing.

Headland Heights UMC, located in East Point, has offered several ministries to assist individuals, youth, and families since its founding in the 1970s. Rev. Willie Greene serves as the church's pastor.

This family of faith owns three parcels consisting of approximately 10 acres, with the largest tract being the church buildings' location, including the sanctuary,



GEORGIA
UNITED METHODIST
FOUNDATION

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARIETTA, GA
PERMIT #215

PO Box 922087
Peachtree Corners, GA 30010-2087
770-449-6726 • 877-220-5664
gumf.org • info@gumf.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

fellowship hall, and education building.

Headland Heights UMC recently secured a construction loan from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation for renovations and repairs to the education building. Some of the projects include reroofing, painting, new flooring, and bathroom renovations. Once the remodeling is complete, the loan will be converted to a permanent mortgage.

The Foundation Offers Highest Certificate Rates in 10+ Years!

Certificate Terms & Rates

1-Year = 5.25%

2-Year = 4.75%

3-Year = 4.25%

4-Year = 4.00%

Rates as of November 2023. All rates are subject to change without notice. Please call the Foundation at 770-449-6726 for current rates.

Your investment in the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Certificate Program enables Methodist churches and nonprofits to expand their missional impact in their community while being better stewards of the resources entrusted to them by God. Take advantage today of the highest certificate rates offered by the Foundation in 10+ years.

Rates as of November 2023. Georgia Methodist churches, nonprofits, individuals, and families with historical ties to the Methodist Church are eligible to invest. A minimum investment of \$5,000 per certificate is required. All rates are subject to change without notice. Please contact the Foundation at 770-449-6726 for current rates. Certificates are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency and are not obligations of or guaranteed by a bank. This ad constitutes neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy the securities described. Offers are made only after receiving and reviewing an Offering Circular.