



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

Not Another New Year Post!



By Mathew A. Pinson, Georgia United Methodist Foundation President and CEO

How many posts have you read about New Year's resolutions, plans for 2023, or projections and prognostications about the coming year? Too many, I expect.

When I was growing up, my father and grandfather would say, "If you are on time, you are late!" I believe we arrived in 2023 precisely on time. So, let's think beyond 2023 for a few minutes.

The best leaders I know do not live in the present—they live years, even decades, into the future. These leaders know how to balance competing interests. They know how to cast a hopeful, inspiring, and lasting vision. And they understand how to focus themselves and their teams on what matters most. Above all, these leaders understand what their priority is and how to remain focused on the priority!

It is essential to understand that the word priority once meant something other than what it does today. In Greg McKeown's best-selling book, "Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less" (Crown Business, New York, 2014), he explains the surprising history of the word priority and how its meaning has shifted over time. McKeown notes:

"The word priority came into the English language in the 1400s. It was singular. It meant the very first or prior thing. It stayed singular for the next five hundred years. Only in the 1900s did we pluralize the term and start talking about priorities. Illogically, we reasoned that by changing the word we could bend reality. Somehow, we would now be able to have multiple "first" things. People and companies routinely try to do just that. One leader told me of this experience in a company that talked of "Pri-1, Pri-2, Pri-3, Pri-4, and Pri-5." This gave the impression of many things being the priority but actually meant nothing was."

Church and nonprofit leaders understand what it means to balance competing demands—demands that become tasks—tasks that become competing priorities. At times, this balancing act can be paralyzing. I find that it is most important to name the purpose and

mission of the organization as the priority. When leaders follow this practice, they are better able to give full attention to the action plans that drive the organization forward. Although this concept may not seem like a big deal, it is!

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Family Endowment Blesses North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries in Need



The Rev. Dr. D. B. (Dee) Shelnett Jr. and Mrs. Kandy Jackson Shelnett pray this endowment will enable others to experience the joy of a relationship with Christ and serve Him in the world.



North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries campers pose in front of Cane Creek Falls, located on Glisson Camp & Retreat Center grounds.

The Rev. Dr. D. B. (Dee) Shelnett Jr. and Mrs. Kandy Jackson Shelnett recently established the Shelnett Family Campership Endowment with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to bless campers at North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries (NGCRM).

North Georgia Methodists may have first become familiar with NGCRM through their experience at Camp Glisson. The Rev. Fred Glisson, a Methodist minister, was so instrumental in establishing the “Methodist Assembly” near Cane Creek Falls in Dahlonega in the 1920s and 1930s that the youth camp was renamed to honor him.

Today, NGCRM offers a variety of camp and retreat ministry opportunities for members of the North Georgia Conference and beyond. Programs and sites now include the Experiential Leadership Institute, Grow Day Camps, Shoreline Camps, and Glisson Camp & Retreat Center.

While much has changed over the last 90+ years, one thing remains the same: NGCRM plays a transformational role in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the camping experience. The Foundation is grateful for NGCRM’s ministry and the ongoing partnership, including loans, institutional investments, and endowments.

The Foundation is also grateful to the Shelnetts for their generosity in establishing this endowment. In this Q&A, Dr. Shelnett shares the generational impact NGCRM has had on his family and the difference they hope to make in the lives of youth who attend camp.

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Loan Enables North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries to Acquire Adjacent Land



North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries loan closing was attended by, from left to right, Jim Pope, Georgia United Methodist Foundation senior advisor to the president and director of lending, C. Russell Davis, NGCRM executive director, Mathew A. Pinson, Foundation president and CEO, and David Belle Isle, partner of Hipes & Belle Isle, LLC.

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Loan Program, funded through investments in the Certificate Program, is designed to assist Methodist churches and organizations throughout Georgia.

In 2022, 10 acres of land adjacent to Camp Glisson, a program of North Georgia Camp & Retreat Ministries (NGCRM), became available for purchase. It had been the desire of leadership for many years to acquire the land if it were offered for sale. However, it was essential to place the property under contract before it was listed. The Foundation expedited the loan process and closing, and NGCRM successfully acquired the land.

Certificate Investments with a Missional Impact



Your investment in the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Certificate Program enables churches and nonprofits to expand their missional impact in their community while being better stewards of the resources entrusted to them by God.

HIGHEST RATES IN 10 YEARS*

1-Year = 3.00%

2-Year = 4.00%

3-Year = 3.75%

4-Year = 3.50%

**Rates as of January 2023. All rates are subject to change without notice. Please contact the Foundation at 770-449-6726 for current rates. Georgia United Methodist churches, nonprofits, individuals, and families must invest a minimum of \$5,000. Certificates are not insured by the FDIC or any other*

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Bishop Dease's Journey to North Georgia: 'Where He Leads, I Will Follow'



Bishop Robin Dease began serving as the bishop of the North Georgia Annual Conference and as an ex-officio member of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Board of Trustees on January 1, 2023. The following article is written by Sybil Davidson, North Georgia Conference communicator. Photo provided by Matt Brodie.

Bishop Robin Dease's assignment to the North Georgia Annual Conference was a full-circle moment. It was right here in North Georgia that she first fell in love with The United Methodist Church.

Brooklyn, NY to Atlanta

Though Bishop Dease had 12 brothers and sisters, in many ways she has always been set apart.

"I was the only one in my family to go to college," she shared. "My parents were from South Carolina and moved to New York for job opportunities. When they retired and decided to move back, I was entering my last year in high school. I was encouraged by my school to apply to college."

She followed that advice and moved to Atlanta to attend Bauder Fashion College.

"I lived here with my sister those two years," she said, "And that's how I got involved in The United Methodist Church."

Her sister and brother-in-law were attending Kelley Chapel UMC in Decatur, so she joined them.

"I loved being there," Bishop Dease remembered. "I loved the order of worship and The Apostles Creed. I embrace structure, and I fell in love with that style of worship."

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Suzanne Jones Named New Conference Director of Administration



The South Georgia Conference of The UMC recently shared this important news regarding Suzanne Jones. She began serving as conference treasurer and as an ex-officio member of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Board of Trustees on January 1, 2023.

The South Georgia Conference Council on Finance & Administration is pleased to announce the new Director of Administration and Treasurer for the South Georgia Annual Conference. Mrs. Suzanne Jones will begin her service to the conference on January 1, 2023.

Jones is currently the Director of Administration and Treasurer for the Alabama-West Florida Conference. She will continue working for Alabama-West Florida while also giving financial leadership to the South Georgia Conference as part of a contractual agreement.

The Rev. Dr. Shane Green, chair of South Georgia's Conference Council on Finance & Administration, is excited about the possibilities of contracting with Alabama-West Florida.

"Suzanne is very competent and already familiar with the finances of an annual conference and what operational measures are needed," said Dr. Green. "She is well respected by those in Alabama-West Florida because of her work effectiveness and non-anxious spirit, which will be welcomed by South Georgia."

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UMHEF Scholarship Applications Are Now Open



The Georgia United Methodist Foundation partners with donors, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, and churches to offer scholarships to Georgia Methodist students who attend United Methodist colleges, universities, and seminaries. Since 2011, the Foundation has awarded over 900 United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarships totaling nearly \$800,000.

UMHEF [applications are NOW OPEN](#) for scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year. UMHEF needs your help getting this life-changing financial aid into the hands of more Methodist students.

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A Reassuring Word From the Foundation



In this brief [video](#), Georgia United Methodist Foundation President and CEO Mathew A. Pinson and Regional Vice President Dr. Rick Lanford reassure our partners about the Foundation's ability to serve the entire Methodist family of Georgia.

PLAY VIDEO

You Are Invited to Sign-up Today!



The Georgia United Methodist Foundation is adding to the digital resources offered through gumf.org. We are enhancing our monthly e-newsletters and weekly planned giving e-newsletters and adding additional resources to the website. Digital publishing provides greater flexibility, allows us to connect with our readers instantly, and enables the Foundation to maximize resources in support of our purpose and mission. Please know that we will continue printing and mailing our *Annual Report* and select *Faith & Money* newsletters during the year. Below you will find five reasons why you should sign up to receive the Foundation's digital resources. **Sign-up is easy. Visit www.gumf.org/stay-connected, e-mail info@gumf.org, or call 770-449-6726.**

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2. Receive the latest news and trusted resources on investments and the U.S. and global financial markets.
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You are invited to sign-up today!

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Our Purpose is Your Mission!



The Georgia United Methodist Foundation's purpose is to partner with congregations, nonprofits, individuals, and families in direct support of the ministries and mission of the church. In this way, we are a ministry partner as we seek to live out our mission to provide faith-based financial solutions for investing, lending, training, and planned giving. To learn more, please contact our team at 770-449-6726, 478-256-7130 (South Georgia), or info@gumf.org, visit gumf.org, or watch "Our Purpose is Your Mission" video [here](#).

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