



## Do Not Be Afraid!

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

Earlier this year, I wrote a short piece on why I believe that loyalty, good common sense, and passion are the three most important traits for a person to embody in their professional and personal life. To remain focused on these three important concepts, I find it essential to remember that fear is the worst form of distraction. Fear causes us to cease being loyal. Fear makes us walk away from good common sense, and fear stands in the way of our ability to live into our God-inspired passions.

During Advent—a season of holy waiting—I am trying my best to remember that fear is dangerous. God recognizes this truth, which is why I believe that God first sends the angels each and every time God breaks into the world. The angels always proclaim, “Do not be afraid!”

I love hearing the children read these lines from the second chapter of Luke:



<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  
<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

As we prepare for Christmas, I invite you to walk away from fear and encourage others to do the same. Walk away from fear and walk toward the life we are called to live together in the joy of Christ, the Messiah, the Lord!

Know that we at the Georgia United Methodist Foundation give thanks to God for each of you and for the ways we elevate and advance the mission of the church together.

May HOPE, JOY, PEACE, and LOVE be yours this holy season and always!

## 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.



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## Year-End Giving Strategies

The Advent season marks the beginning of the church year and ushers in the close of the calendar year. As we anticipate the birth of Christ, this is a time to thoughtfully consider the ways you financially support the church and ministries that are close to your heart.

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**Giving with the Foundation**

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation delivers advanced faith-based planned giving solutions that elevate the mission of and ministry of your United Methodist church or agency.

**Who We Are**

- Leading financial partner to Georgia-based United Methodist churches, agencies, districts, conferences, and individuals
- \$100,000 net for-profit agency of The United Methodist Church
- Our mission is to provide faith-based financial solutions for investing, trading, timing, and planned giving.
- Total assets entrusted to our care: \$228.3 million\*
- 19th largest United Methodist Foundation in the U.S.
- Dedicated team of nine professionals

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The Foundation gives thanks to God and to you for the 600+ relationships we have with faithfulness across the State of Georgia.

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The Foundation impacts lives through our ministries. We fund scholarships and grants and have awarded 613 scholarships totaling \$728,700 since 2011.

**Aligned Missions**  
The Foundation helps sustain ministry through our investments, support to the mission of the UMC, and fulfill ministry with a more secure financial future.

\*As of June 30, 2022

## Gifting Securities to Your Church

Giving 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 taxes to the donor. The tax code is very generous toward this form of giving. This strategy also results in a more significant gift to the church.

[Read More](#)



**Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas!**



**Front, left to right: Diana Durie, Misty Kush, Louise Hintze, Carol Johnston, and Lori Tucker. Back, left to right: Mathew A. Pinson, Russell Jones, Dr. Rick Lanford, and Jim Pope.**

As we journey toward Christmas day and the arrival of Christ anew in the world, we wanted you to be aware of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's holiday office hours.

The Foundation's offices will be closed from 11 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14 for our annual Christmas luncheon.

The Foundation's offices will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in honor of the Christmas holiday.

In observance of New Year's Day, the Foundation's offices will close at noon on Thursday, December 29 and remain closed on Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2. Our offices will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!



**Contact Our Team**

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