Annual Report 2023

Investing in Transformation

GEORGIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

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GROW Day Camps

NGCRM's offsite day camp and leadership programs help bring the impact of camp ministry directly to local churches and their surrounding communities.

Investing in Transformation

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are the beloved children of God. By the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we become who we are called to be: those who love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves. Methodists understand that the impact of God's love is the ongoing transformation of our lives, but not our lives alone. We also are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The purpose of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation is to further the missions of Methodist churches, individuals, families, and non-profit organizations. Our commitment to faithful stewardship is unwavering, and we support your mission by providing socially responsible and customized financial solutions that align with Christian principles.

Throughout 2023 you gave generously, invested wisely, and answered God's call to faithfulness. In a time of uncertainty in the economy, the political environment, world events, and even the church, the Foundation and our partners stayed focused on supporting life-transforming ministries. Our annual report celebrates many of those ministries throughout the state of Georgia. As you read this report, we hope you are as inspired as we are!

We are grateful for the faithfulness of pastors and laity in 2023. Thank you for the opportunities to work together as partners last year and as we move forward in hope and faith. We always have been and will continue to be the beloved children of God. Together, we will answer the call to ministries of discipleship and transformation.

Ruth A. Knox
Board Chair
Vice Chair Retired
Wesleyan College, Thomson

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
President and CEO

Meet Our Team

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
President and CEO

Dr. Laudis H. "Rick" Lanford
Regional Vice President

Russell H. Jones
Senior Vice President/CFO/Treasurer

Carol Johnston
Associate Vice President and Controller

Lori Tucker
Loan Administrator

Louise Hintze
Administrative Assistant

Our Board of Trustees

Ruth A. Knox
Board Chair
Vice Chair Retired, Wesleyan College, Thomson

The Rev. Doreen Smalls
Vice Chair
The South Georgia Conference,
Southwest District

Charles L. Bachman Jr.
Gregory, Doyle Calhoun & Rogers, LLC,
Marietta

The Rev. J. Robert Beckum
SOMA Foundation, Columbus

C. Bert Bennett
Draffin & Tucker, LLP, Albany

The Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Cruz
The North Georgia Conference,
Central East District Superintendent

Brittney Haynes
Guardian Life, Atlanta

Katherine H. Dennis
Immediate Past Chair
Community Foundation of Central Georgia,
Macon

Lauren G. Isom
Griner-Isom Financial Strategies, Columbus

The Rev. Dr. Millie L. Kim
Second Avenue UMC, Rome

J. Russell Lipford Jr.
CLH CPAs, LLC, Warner Robins

The Rev. Dr. William Bert Neal III
The North Georgia Conference,
Retired Elder, Jonesboro

Georgia G. Slagle
Howard, Moore & McDuffie, .C., Macon

Calvin R. Stamps
Bretwood Capital Partners, Atlanta

Cater C. Thompson
Jones Cork, LLP, Macon

Katrina Hansen Voegtlin
Robert W. Woodruff Foundation,
Atlanta

William A. Vogel
Montag & Caldwell, Atlanta

The Rev. Karen Elaine Webster Parks
St. James UMC, Alpharetta

The Rev. Elaine Wilder
Level Creek UMC, Suwanee

The Rev. Will Zant
Haygood Memorial UMC, Atlanta

> ***Dalton FUMC is grateful for a long-time, fruitful relationship with the Foundation.***
>
> -Sparky Kelehear · Chairperson
> DFUMC Endowment Committee

Ex-Officio

Bishop Robin Dease
Resident Bishop,
North Georgia Area

Allison Berg
Treasurer and
Chief Financial Office
The North Georgia Conference

Bishop David Graves
Resident Bishop,
South Georgia Area

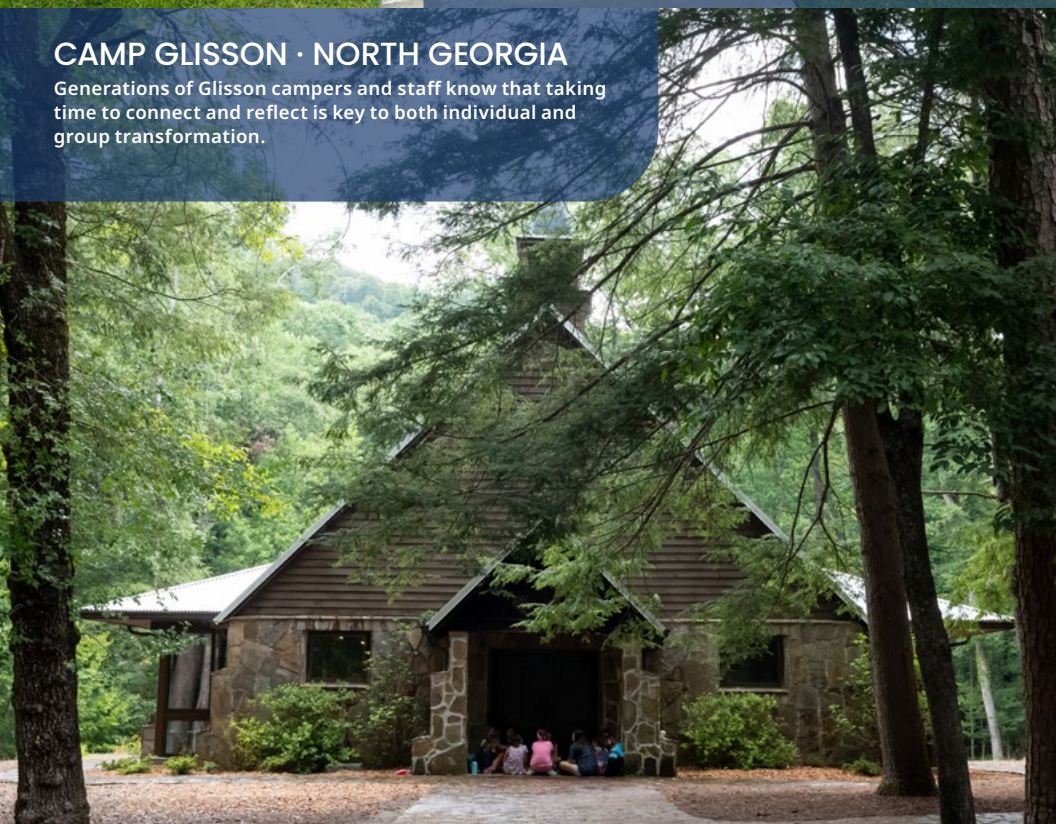
Suzanne Jones
Director of Administrative Services
and Treasurer
The South Georgia Conference

CAMP CONNECT · SOUTH GEORGIA

In 2023, Camp Connect served nearly 600 children and youth. Campers, no matter the age, have a spiritual place to consider some of the most important issues of life.

CAMP GLISSON · NORTH GEORGIA

Generations of Glisson campers and staff know that taking time to connect and reflect is key to both individual and group transformation.



2023 Year in Review

Assets Under Management: **$234.7 million***

Fifth largest United Methodist Foundation in the U.S.

Investment Accounts: **580 total accounts** including 36 accounts over $1 million*

Administering **$42.7 million in outstanding certificates** that fund loans to Methodist-related entities*

Managing $34.5 million in outstanding net loans to Methodist-related entities*

Supporting Family Philanthropy: **Managed $29.2 million in planned gifts**, including donor-advised funds, endowments, charitable gift annuities, and trusts*

Funding $36,000 in scholarships for Georgia United Methodist higher education students*

Awarding over 930 scholarships totaling over $830,000 since 2011*

Supporting educational and development activities, including training for endowments, legacy ministries, wills clinics, cemetery associations, and financial literacy.

*As of December 31, 2023

INVESTMENTS

William A. Vogel
Investment Committee Chair

From Our Investment Chair

Our investment clients continue to have great confidence in their partnership with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. Together, we meet our goal of being good stewards of the financial resources God has entrusted to us while witnessing Christian values through socially responsible investment practices. Our strong relationship with Wespath ensures trustworthy investments adding to the value we offer to clients. Wespath's US Equity Fund finished the year with a strong 11% gain in the fourth quarter, providing a 23% gain for the year. The International Equity Fund, also with a strong fourth quarter advance, rose 13%. The Fixed Income Fund rose 8%, and the Inflation Protection Fund 5%, about the same as the Short Term Investment Fund. The Multiple Asset Fund (MAF) produced a 14% gain in 2023.

The US economy remains stronger this year than was anticipated at the end of 2023. As a result, continued progress on reducing inflation toward the Fed's 2% target has slowed and pushed out expectations for near-term interest rate reductions. Fixed income returns for this year remain negative but better earnings have boosted equity returns.

Partnership with Dalton First UMC

"Dalton First United Methodist Church has entrusted the Foundation with 21 separate endowments, of which at least 3 could be considered mission-oriented. The endowment committee has looked to the Foundation for faithful advice and guidance with all of our endowments for years. DFUMC is committed to maintaining our relationship with the Foundation."

- Sparky Kelehear, Chairperson, DFUMC Endowment Committee

Joe Halwax, Wespath
Wespath Institutional Investments
Managing Director, Institutional
Investment Services

Wespath Investments

"Wespath is proud to partner with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation since 2010. In operation since 1908, Wespath and its subsidiaries manage over $27 billion in assets (including $5 billion for more than 140 institutional, faith-based clients). Together, we can offer Georgia Methodists local support from the foundation, backed by investment professionals focused on the mission, and investing aligned with shared Wesleyan values. This partnership presents a sophisticated, comprehensive investment solution to support churches as good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to them by God."

Partnership with New Thomson UMC

This partnership ensures that New Thomson's financial future is in capable hands.
- Dr. Sargent Nelson · Pastor · New Thomson UMC

"New Thomson UMC embodies the essence of United Methodist values in a modern context. The value of our partnership with GUMF is not just financial; it represents a mutual commitment to nurturing the spirit of community and service that lies at the heart of the United Methodist tradition. Furthermore, this partnership ensures that New Thomson's financial future is in capable hands. With a disciplined investment approach focused on delivering long-term, competitive performance, GUMF empowers New Thomson to fulfill our mission with confidence and stability. This long-term perspective ensures that resources are effectively managed, allowing New Thomson to focus on what truly matters - serving its congregation and community with compassion and purpose and providing potential members with the assurance that their contributions will have a lasting impact."

- Dr. Sargent Nelson · Pastor

LOANS

From Our Loan Chair

Rev. Dr. William Bert Neal III
Loan Committee Chair

"The Foundation's Loan Program continues to assist churches and nonprofit entities utilize financial resources in support of their strategies to reinvest in their mission and visions for ministry. The Foundation has been instrumental in assisting churches refinance existing loans in order to better manage their assets. Unlike commercial lenders, the Foundation has a unique appreciation for church operations, budgeting, program development and long-term planning."

Cedar Grove UMC

In 2023, Cedar Grove UMC received a loan for renovations of their property as part of its 195th Anniversary Celebration. Pastor Singleton reflects, "We have witnessed the transformative power of hope as we walk alongside each other in times joy and sorrow, supporting and encouraging one another with compassion and grace." The Foundation celebrates Cedar Grove's ministry which has served its community for almost two centuries.

- Rev. Anthony Singleton · Pastor

Park Avenue GMC

"As senior pastor of Park Avenue Church, I want to express our gratitude to the Georgia United Methodist Foundation for helping finance our new youth building and worship center. Not only was the loan rate very competitive, but the whole process was quick and easy every step of the way. Because of their help with this project, we will be able to reach even more people for the Kingdom of God. We cannot say enough good about our friends at the Foundation."

- Rev. Jimmy Towson · Pastor

CERTIFICATES

Highly Competitive Rates

I feel proud that our invested funds are helping other churches and nonprofits fulfill their mission.

-Cameron T. Bishop · President and CEO
Wesley Glen Ministries

Wesley Glen Ministries

Cameron T. Bishop · President and CEO

Wesley Glen Ministries is a Christian organization that offers residential and day programming to enrich and empower the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The ministry obtained a loan from the Foundation to purchase a former district superintendent's parsonage in 2011 and convert it into a new home for residents. One resident, Jim, says, "I like my house at Wesley Glen. I enjoy walking club, arts and crafts, and writing with my pen pal."

Funding for loans like this one come from investments in the Foundation's Certificate Program. Nine years later, Wesley Glen joined other Methodist churches, nonprofits, individuals, and families by investing in the Foundation's Certificate Program. This investment practice continues today under the leadership of President and CEO Cameron T. Bishop, who joined the Wesley Glen team in 2022.

SOUTH GEORGIA MINISTRIES

Baxley First UMC

Baxley First UMC is the recipient of the ongoing Rutland gift towards its building fund, meaning other monies received by the church support life-transforming ministries.

"We, the people of Baxley First UMC, are grateful to Ms. Rutland for her gift to the church and for the Foundation's management of that gift. The money goes into our building fund. The maintenance of our property can be consuming of both time and funds. It's like receiving a gift from Ms. Rutland each and every year." **- Rev. Dr. Nita Crump · Pastor**

Confirmation Retreat

Every March, South Georgia youth and their adult leaders gather at Epworth By The Sea for the annual Confirmation Retreat to worship, learn, and play together as we celebrate our newest church leaders and their faith journey. This weekend retreat teaches confirmands about prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace as well as their United Methodist heritage in a high-energy, exciting atmosphere.

Camp Leadership Team

At Camp Connect our college-aged counselors come alongside campers, helping them navigate decisions and challenging experiences in a way that's life-giving and backed by God's Word. Our campers experience hope in Christ and acceptance from others...sometimes for the first time. This summer staff, called the Leadership Team (LT), has been in the leadership development pipeline for young adults seeking their call to ministry for close to 70 years. They join our staff because they want to make a difference, develop leadership skills, serve others, and spend their summer discerning their call to ministry.

> ***Do all the good you can,***
> ***By all the means you can,***
> ***In all the ways you can,***
> ***In all the places you can,***
> ***At all the times you can,***
> ***To all the people you can.***
>
> -John Wesley

Message from Bishop Graves

Bishop David Graves
Bishop, South Georgia Conference
United Methdist Church

"We are truly grateful for their ongoing partnership with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. Each year, we receive gifts from donors who have established Donor Advised Funds with the Foundation, and we also receive distributions from trusts that are held at the Foundation. Scholarship dollars are awarded to our young men and women so that they further their educational dreams. The Foundation has also partnered with us in establishing annuities for some of our donors, providing lifetime income for them and benefits for our ministries.

Together we are making a difference throughout South Georgia in the lives of those entrusted into our care."

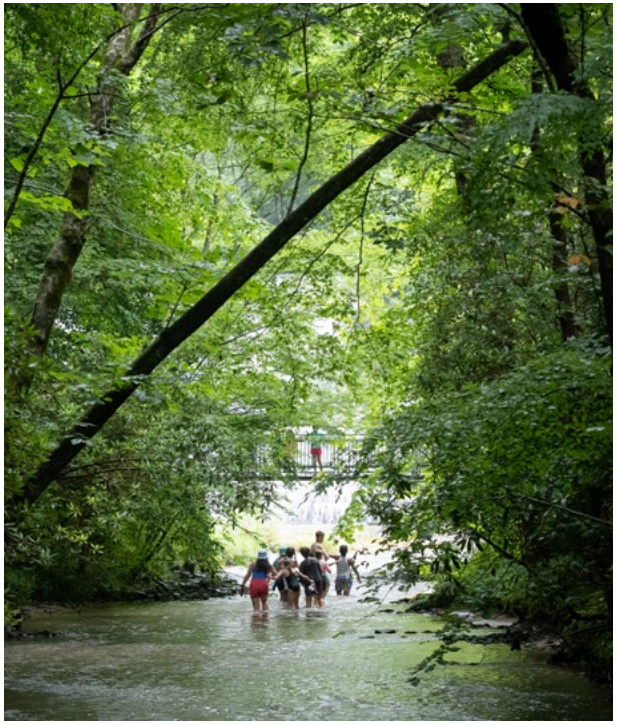
Serving our neighbors and bearing witness to Christ.

NORTH GEORGIA MINISTRIES

Message from Bishop Dease

Bishop Robin Dease
Bishop, North Georgia Conference
United Methdist Church

"Among the great gifts of our United Methodist connection is the opportunity to work with an organization whose purpose is to help your church fulfill its mission! The Georgia United Methodist Foundation's ministry with congregations and other United Methodist institutions has again and again enabled transformative ministry here in North Georgia!"



Confirmation Retreat

For generations, "living groups" – 2 counselors and up to 12 campers – have taken a creek hike together that culminates at Cane Creek Falls.

Partnership with NGCRM & Glisson

"Whether we're acting on years of careful planning or are presented suddenly with a long dreamt of strategic opportunity, the Georgia United Methodist Foundation has the resources to help us manage the assets that make ministry visions possible. That means that we are free to continue prayerfully discerning where God is acting next so that we can creatively continue to support churches and families in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

C. Russell Davis and Cameron Jones
NGCRM · Glisson Camp & Retreat Center

> ***I like exploring God's outdoors, especially catching crawdads in the creek. In the morning, I like to wake up to the sound of crickets and birds and hear the pancakes sizzle on the fire heated cooktop.***
>
> -Sebastian, Glisson Camper, Age 11

Together we transform communities.

"Have an eye to God in every word you sing!" - John Wesley

GLOBAL MISSIONS

"Amidst the challenges facing the UMC today, the revenue we receive from UMF is instrumental in enabling our mission which is centered around making disciples for Jesus Christ, bringing about positive change in the world, and alleviating human suffering. The UMF stands as a beacon of hope in helping sustain the future of ministry."

Roland Fernandes
General Secretary, Global Ministries and United Methodist Committee on Relief

MISSIONARIES

Strengthening Health Networks

The United Methodist Church in Tanzania is an annual conference of the North Katanga Episcopal Area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the late 20th century, North Katanga United Methodist leaders sent missionaries to introduce the church to Tanzanians. Today, Global Ministries supports Global Missionaries and young adult missionaries. They serve in ministries of teaching; church planting; empowerment of women, children and youth; health care and increasing Christian leadership. They serve alongside Tanzanian church leaders to help them strengthen the faith and ministry of the church.

Photo: Daniel Sue, First Korean UMC

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Refugees Find Community

After fleeing her home, Vitalina, a Ukrainian refugee, began attending courses with her son to learn Romanian, the language of their host country, Moldova. By learning the local language, a door was opened for her and her children to participate in and contribute to their new community.

Through an UMCOR Church World Service partnership, 20,000 Ukrainian refugees like Vitalina were resettled in Moldova. The support they received is one of many projects made possible by United Methodists creating opportunity for refugees and relieving some of the burden on Moldova communities.

Photo: Church World Service Moldova

GLOBAL HEALTH

Strengthening Health Networks

Chicuque Rural Hospital is in a remote area where the road is deteriorating, and access is difficult. But it is also where an average of 94,000 people from four rural provinces come for health care each year. The United Methodist Church of Mozambique helps the government manage the hospital. The government supports the cost of staff, electricity and water, equipment, medicines and medical supplies as much as it can while The United Methodist Church and other donors assist with service gaps and special projects.

Photo: Elizabeth McCormick

EVANGELISM & CHURCH REVITALIZATION

New Churches Planted

The Methodist Church in Cambodia and Global Ministries collaborated to establish the first Methodist church in Mondulkiri province. The church is serving as not only a worship space, but as an outreach community center for youth and children as well. The children's ministry, taught by local Cambodian leaders, draws in many participants for Christian fellowship and good fun.

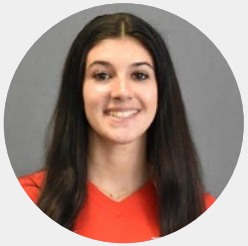
Photo: Andrew Lee

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation partners with donors, local churches, participating United Methodist-related schools, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation to award United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarships valued at up to $4,000 each year.

Abby Cuppari

Huntington College

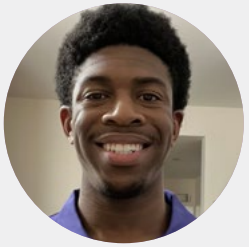


The Georgia United Methodist Foundation provided a $1,000 matching United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship in partnership with our generous donors, Peachtree City UMC, Huntingdon College, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

Degree Program · Business Administration
Anticipated Graduation · 2027
Future Plans · Go to grad school at UGA

Joshua Jones

Young Harris College



The Georgia United Methodist Foundation provided a $1,000 matching United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship in partnership with our generous donors, St. James Community Church of Alpharetta, Young Harris College, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

Degree Program · BA in Biology
Anticipated Graduation · 2025
Future Plans · I'd love to pursue job opportunities in Conservation biology, Ecology, Forestry, and environmental sciences.

Austin Sever

Young Harris College

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation provided a $1,000 matching United Methodist Dollars for Scholar scholarship in partnership with our generous donors, Snellville UMC, Young Harris College, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

Degree Program · History
Anticipated Graduation · 2024
Future Plans · Graduate school or to work for local government

Madeline Mulkey Ledford

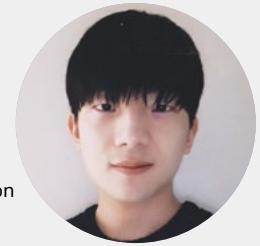
Emory University

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation provided a $1,000 matching United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship in partnership with our generous donors, Decatur First United Methodist Church, Emory University, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

Degree Program · Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
Anticipated Graduation · 2024
Future Plans · Working in Strategy and Innovation Planning at United Postal Service in Atlanta, GA

Daniel Lee

Candler School of Theology



The Georgia United Methodist Foundation provided a $1,000 matching United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship in partnership with our generous donors, The Korean Church Atlanta UMC in Duluth, Candler School of Theology, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

Degree Program · Master of Divinity (M.Div)
Anticipated Graduation · 2025
Future Plans · Ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church as an elder

Shinmyung Kim

Candler School of Theology

Shinmyung Kim received a UMDFS scholarship due to a partnership with the Foundation's donors, Decatur First UMC, Candler School of Theology and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.

Degree Program ·
Anticipated Graduation · 2024
Future Plans · I am going to apply for an internship at diverse organizations after graduation in the U.S. It will be motivation for my vocation and help me achieve my goal.

WAYS TO GIVE AND IMPACT MINISTRY

"Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can..." (from John Welsey's The Use of Money). The staff at the Foundation is here to assist you invest in transformation. Please give us a call!

Cash

HOW

Write a check.

BENEFITS

May receive an itemized deduction.*

Appreciated Stock

Held More Than One Year

HOW

Transfer stock to your church, charity, or GUMF's brokerage account.

BENEFITS

May receive an itemized deduction for full market value.*

Avoids capital gains tax.

IRA

Qualified Charitable Distribution From Your IRA

HOW

Transfer distribution directly to your church, charity, or GUMF.

BENEFITS

Avoids income tax on distribution.

Real Estate

HOW

Transfer title to your church, charity, or GUMF.

BENEFITS

Full market value of gift may receive itemized tax deduction.*

Donor-Advised Fund

HOW

Set up a fund with GUMF. Give cash/ investments, etc. to the fund.

BENEFITS

Immediate tax deduction for fair market value.

Distributions can be requested later.*

Life Insurance

HOW

Change beneficiary designation to include your church or charity for all or part of the proceeds.

BENEFITS

May be able to deduct present value of gift.*

Retirement Plan Assets

HOW

Designate your church or charity as beneficiary for all or part of the proceeds.

BENEFITS

May be able to deduct present value of gift.*

Will or Estate Plan

HOW

Leave gifts to your church or charity in your will or estate plan.

BENEFITS

May avoid estate taxes.

Charitable Gift Annuity

HOW

Donor purchases an annuity contract, which obligates GUMF to make payments for a specific period. Any remainder is given to GUMF or a designated charity.

BENEFITS

May be tax deductible. Consult an advisor.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

HOW

Donor creates a trust where a percentage of the value of the trust is distributed annually based upon the market value of the fund. Remainder is given to charity.

BENEFITS

May be tax deductible. Consult an advisor.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust

HOW

Donor sets up an annuity trust, which provides regular payments to donor/designee for a specific time. Remainder is given to charity.

BENEFITS

May be tax deductible. Consult an advisor.

Our Purpose is Your Mission.

Learn More

* The tax deductibility of gifts depends on whether the donor can itemize on their tax return. Please check with your professional advisor. The purpose of this guide is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. State laws govern wills, trusts, and charitable gifts made in contractual agreement. Advice from legal counsel should be sought while considering these types of gifts. Watch for tax revisions. Some types of gifts may not be available in Georgia. Please check with your professional advisor.

2023 FINANCIALS

From Our Finance Chair

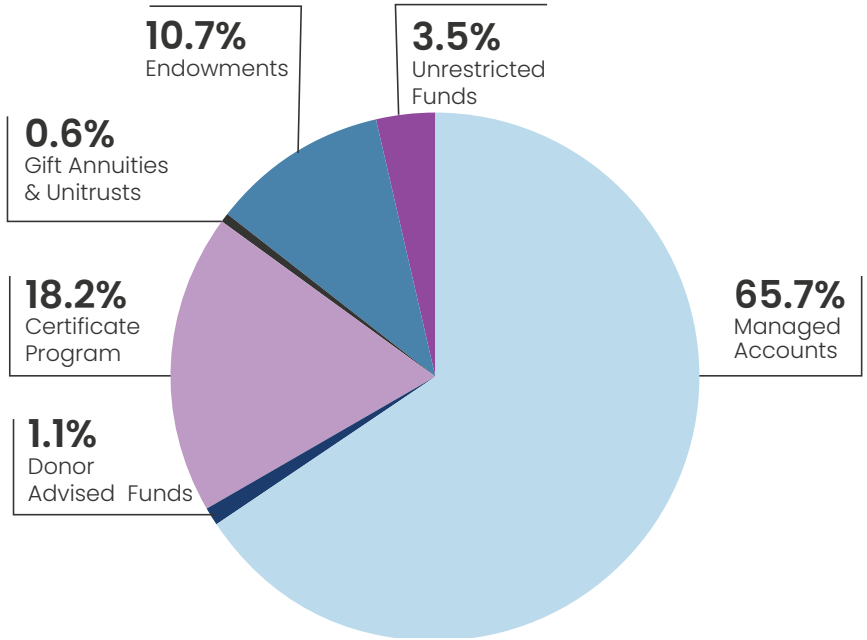
"With $234M in Kingdom-focused assets entrusted to our care, the Georgia United Methodist Foundation remains a strong financial partner to Methodist churches and Methodist affiliated-entities in Georgia. The Foundation continues to be well-positioned financially and committed to providing faith-based financial solutions for investing, lending, and planned giving to Georgians who share historic ties to the Methodist church. "

Katrina Voegtlin
Finance/Audit Committee Chair

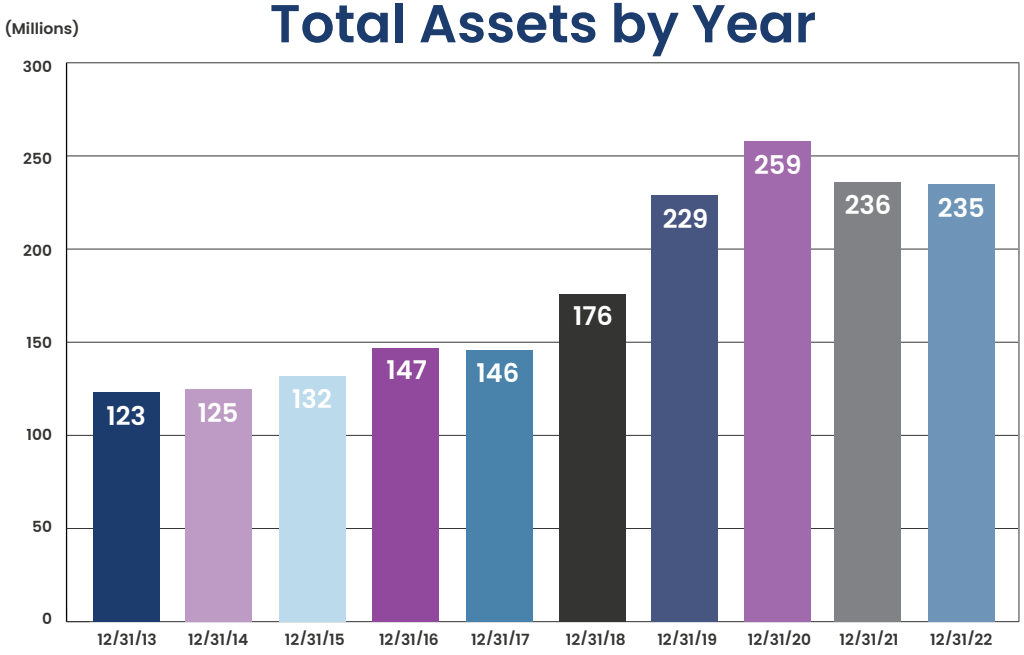
Partnership with East Cobb UMC

"Thanks to the earnings of our investments and endowment funds with of the Foundation, we were able to expand our reach and imagine new ministry possibilities. By creating original worship videos, providing fleece blankets for Helping Ukraine, new equipment for our preschool, and improvements for our new Transition House, lives are being transformed by the love of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Kristin Lee · Pastor



Total Assets by Year



GEORGIA
UNITED METHODIST
FOUNDATION

PO BOX 922087, PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA 30010-2087

As Methodists, we share a covenant, connection, and mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. God calls us to share our resources (Acts 4:32-33) and equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).