



## Grantee Spotlight: Holston Conference and Holston Foundation Partner for Clergy Financial Well-Being

The Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative (Initiative) announces a new funding partnership with the Holston Annual Conference and the Holston Foundation focused on strengthening clergy financial well-being and financial leadership. The Board of Ordained Ministry and the United Methodist Foundation also joined this collaboration that will organize *Saving Grace* clergy cohorts, educate future clergy in the residency in ministry (RIM) program and offer educational webinars to clergy. We look forward to sharing updates about this exciting work!

The Initiative also recently issued grants to help create educational, financial-focused programs that leverage *Saving Grace*. The grant recipients are the Tennessee Annual Conference, the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences, the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, and the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation.

[\*Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being\*](#) is a six-week, faith-based money management curriculum for congregational or clergy groups. There is a clergy-specific version of the workbook that contains additional content. The program promotes Wesleyan values, examines personal relationships with money and offers tools to improve one's financial life.

## Western Pennsylvania Pastor Endorses *Saving Grace*

Hear the [firsthand financial well-being journey](#) of Rev. Jeff Vanderhoff, of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. Rev.



Vanderhoff now offers *Saving Grace* classes in his area.



## Three Debt Refinancing Program Funds Awarded

We are pleased to announce that the Initiative is awarding planning funds to three recipients—the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation, the Missouri United Methodist Foundation and the West Virginia Annual Conference—to develop clergy debt refinancing programs in their annual conferences. Each organization will receive \$10,000.

Wespath has also created a long-term, no-interest loan opportunity, which will match \$1 of funding for every \$2 the program provides, to fund new debt refinancing programs for United Methodist clergy. A limited amount of matching funds (up to \$250,000) are available on a first-come basis for annual conferences and foundations.

For more details, contact Ross Lundstrom at [rlundstrom@wespath.org](mailto:rlundstrom@wespath.org) or 847-866-4224.



## Save the Date! Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship Gathering Will Bring Scholars and Funders Together

On October 27, 2021, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, together with the Initiative, will host an online gathering of Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship partners who helped fund the scholarships.

Participants will hear a progress update on the unique scholar/funder partnership, the impact of these scholarships and the continuing needs of future United Methodist clergy. Since 2017, there have been 717 scholarship recipients, including 92 for the 2021-2022 academic year. Information about the event will be shared in the fall.

## Resource Partners Across the Connection



**New Book:** Our colleagues at Wesley Theological Seminary published “[4 Steps to Launch a Ministry of Financial Literacy](#),” a reminder about the importance of establishing a clergy financial literacy program. The article is an excerpt from a new book entitled *Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finances* by Lovett H. Weems Jr. and Ann A. Michel of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

**Online Classes:**

- [Generous Church Leadership](#) is an online curriculum designed to help clergy develop their understanding of, and confidence communicating about, local church generosity and finances, including articulating the components of life as a growing authentic disciple of Jesus Christ. This multiagency resource is hosted by Discipleship Ministries and is available online for individuals, or as a customizable program for your conference. Discounted rates are available.
- Registration is open for Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary’s 2021 Connectional Learning course, [Financial Leadership Series for Churches](#).
- Beginning August 31, 2021, Duke Divinity School’s Rev. Dr. Thad Austin is hosting a six-week course, titled [Exploring a Theology of Money from a Wesleyan Perspective](#), for students looking to learn personal and professional tools for ministry.



## Educational Opportunity: “Delivered to You” for Active Clergy Coming in November

In November, Wespath will once again host “Delivered to You,” an online event open to all active UM clergy members. More information about dates, times, cost and registration will be [available soon](#).

### UMC Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative

For more information about this initiative and clergy financial well-being resources, visit: <https://www.wespath.org/for-plan-sponsors/UMC-clergy-financial-well-being>

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Successfully expanding financial literacy depends on strategic collaboration.  
We look forward to working with you in 2021.

Connected in Christian Service,

Dale Jones, *Wespath Project Director*  
David Bell, *Project Chair*

Bonnie Marden, *Project Manager*  
Lisa Greenwood, *NAUMF Executive Director*

**A collaborative project led by Wespath Benefits and Investments, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Discipleship Ministries and National Association of United Methodist Foundations funded by a Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant through their Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.**



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If you do not wish to receive future editions of the Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative newsletter, please e-mail [clergyfinance@wespath.org](mailto:clergyfinance@wespath.org).