

# **GOLDEN CROSS SENIOR MINISTRIES**

David Kabakoff, President

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The mission of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries: "To enhance the quality of life for all seniors served by Wesley Living."

Our name has legally changed from Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation of Memphis, Inc. to GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, Inc. Our new name now has copywritten protection as: GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries©.

GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries now serves the needs of approximately 2,200 seniors served by Wesley Living in 29 affordable housing retirement communities throughout West Tennessee, Murray KY and Jonesboro, AR., 2 assisted living communities in Dyersburg and Milan, TN and seniors served by Homecare by Wesley, a personal support services agency.

**100%** of all monies donated to GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries goes directly to the benefit of the seniors served by Wesley Living. Why? Because no senior should ever have to travel life's journey alone!

GOLDEN CROSS is dependent on the donations made by members of churches in the Memphis Conference. We receive little funding outside the amazing generosity shown through offerings and responses to donation requests. Those donations then lead to senior's lives being transformed one need at a time.

There are four main initiatives undertaken by the mission of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries: The Resident Support fund provides material individual support, The Homeless Initiative provides interventions for homeless seniors moving into a Wesley Living community, Personal Support Services Scholarship provides personal care support for the most "frail" residents and the Endowment Fund that represents a "permanent" lasting gift protecting the future.

St. Peter Manor in Memphis just completed a multi-million-dollar renovation. A grand re-opening was held to celebrate the remarkable improvements made to the community, one of Wesley Living's largest. As I was walking up to the community for the festivities, a somewhat frail gentleman walked in the same direction. It was not until we drew closer, that his red and white cane became apparent. He walked with an amazingly joyful gait! Sensing my presence, he called out, "Who are you?" When it was relayed that I was with GOLDEN CROSS, he stopped in his tracks and requested a handshake that quickly became an enthusiastic request for a hug. He wanted the hug to express his deepest appreciation for all GOLDEN CROSS did for the residents of St. Peter and how he wanted to praise God for the blessings he had received.

Your support, prayers, encouragement and donations are much more than a blessing for the seniors we serve. You cause many others to thank God for the blessings your generosity allows to be created. (2 Corinthians 9:12)

Blessings,  
David

# **METHODIST LE BONHEUR HEALTHCARE**

**Michael Ugwueke, President and Chief Executive Officer**

At Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH), our mission is to collaborate with patients and their families to be the leader in providing high quality, cost-effective, patient and family-centered care. Services are provided in a manner which supports the health ministries and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church to benefit the communities we serve.

MLH continues to make a tremendous impact on the health of the Mid-South, both inside and outside of hospital walls. Leading MLH in that effort is our President and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ugwueke, who is driving the organization to new heights, clinically, financially, and faithfully. In an open letter to the community published in early 2020, Dr. Ugwueke wrote, "Founded in 1918 and guided by faith-based roots, we have become a healthcare system of 13,000 dedicated Associates and 2,500 provider partners supporting six hospitals, surgery centers, physician practices, and outpatient facilities. We are privileged to serve our most economically and socially distressed communities." Highlights from 2019 include the opening of Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital, a state of the art, 450,000 square foot facility delivering advanced transplant, cardiology, and oncology care. MLH was named among Fortune Magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For in America for the third year in a row, and MLH hospitals continue to be ranked number 1 in our area by US News & World Report. MLH erased millions of dollars of medical debt and changed policies so more than 50 percent of Memphians are now eligible for financial healthcare assistance. MLH also contributed more than 225 million dollars in community benefit in 2019.

The faith-based mission of MLH continues to be the foundation of all that we do. Leading us in that mission is Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission Integration Officer for MLH. Dr. Mosley leads the Mission Integration Division, which includes all of our clinical chaplaincy services, volunteer services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, the MLH Foundation, clinical pastoral education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health Equity, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist annual conference connections, the Office of Community Outreach, and many other initiatives and projects. Mission Integration offers guidance and direction for the integration of MLH's mission, vision, values, and guiding behaviors, especially from the perspective of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Additionally, Mission Integration ensures that the relationship with the United Methodist Church and relevant social, ethical, and pastoral teachings are understood and integrated appropriately and consistently across the entire system.

In 2019, Mission Integration saw the continued expansion of the My Sister's Keeper program, which is designed to equip and empower African-American women for healing and wholeness. Mission Integration is leading the BookNook program with a generous grant from the Urban Child Institute, using an innovative technology platform to improve literacy rates in children, and in its first full year in Memphis, BookNook reached nearly 800 children in our community, with further expansion of the program on the horizon. Our CHAMP (Changing High-risk Asthma in Memphis through Partnership) program through the Office of Community Outreach reduced pediatric asthma-related deaths and lowered Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations. We also implemented the Prevent T 2 program, a year-long Type 2 diabetes prevention program, and as a result, the department is now recognized as a National Diabetes Prevention Program Provider by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network provided free screening, referral, and navigation for mental health services, working with over 1,700 cases, over a 40% increase from 2018. Many other programs and services continue to thrive as well, all committed to our mission and to the health of our communities.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who founded our system and continue to be vital partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center.

"In response to the love of God, our mission is dedicated to providing excellent housing and services which enhance the quality of living for elderly persons and their families"

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## **WESLEY LIVING / WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES / WESLEY MISSION**

Jim Nasso, Chief Executive Officer

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**Wesley Housing Corporation of Memphis, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Living, Wesley Senior Ministries, Inc. and Wesley at Graceland, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Mission** is essentially about people—elderly residents and at-home clients, staff, pastors, executives and boards of directors—all necessary to the mission of enhancing the lives of older generations. Please visit our website at [www.wesleyliving.com](http://www.wesleyliving.com).

Since last year's Annual Conference our organization's focus has not wavered from its service oriented areas with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for the elderly. These areas are Ministry, Preservation, Staff development and the Future. Ministry is at the heart of our purpose and Pastoral care is a key to the lives of those we serve. We are finding more and more residents wanting one-on-one care requiring more dedication to this and what is sometimes a very specialized service. Every community continues to be served by a United Methodist pastor located in close proximity. This would not be possible without the ongoing cooperation of every district superintendent, active clergy and several retired clergy who remain committed to serving.

Providing affordable housing and assisted living is the largest part our ministry. The goal is to continually update the existing while expanding the services being provided. Beginning in 2020 and realizing Wesley Living's passion to serve, a separate management company engaged us to provide enhanced services to their residents. The Wellness Counselor added in 2019 has proven to be a valuable addition. And, as reported last year, the preservation and other construction efforts for St. Peter Manor in Memphis and St. Joseph Village in Dyersburg were completed. Additionally and unexpectedly, funding was secured to preserve a 26 unit community in Halls, TN named Wesley Park Meadows. The lives of every resident in these communities have been greatly enhanced.

No amount of ministry, preservation or genuine caring can be provided without compassion filled quality staff. Our efforts to provide a living wage and competitive benefits continues and great strides were achieved during the past year despite a very tight labor market. This has never been more evident or tested than during the Covid-19 crisis. Appropriate measures and social distancing were implemented and followed timely. Every day Wesley Living's **Core Values of Service, Compassion and Integrity** were on display for the benefit of our residents, clients, families and staff. Careers are to be found at Wesley Living and encourage everyone to inquire if a faith based organization is of interest for their career path.

For the tenth year Wesley Home Services provides non-medical, in-home assistance services which range from companionship to housekeeping to personal assistance. It is proving to be an incredibly rewarding way to serve our seniors when served with an employee possessing the highest moral, ethical and compassionate character.

The number of elderly needing quality, affordable housing and services continues to grow. Wesley Living is a premier provider and remains committed to solving these social issues. Wesley Living also remains committed to expanding the number of elderly served when possible.

**GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, Inc.** continues to be a strong partner providing answers to resident needs. Please see their report in the Journal.

As Reverend Dennis Neenan completes his 40<sup>th</sup> year serving our seniors I want to celebrate his service and pray for a joyful retirement in the years ahead. Thank you Dennis, your spirit filled heart will be missed.

We sincerely appreciate your prayerful support and continue to value our effectiveness in how the lives of the elderly are improved every day. Today, we re-commit ourselves to honor this connection and to live out our mission "In response to the love of God...."

# UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION FOR THE MEMPHIS AND TENNESSEE CONFERENCES

The Reverend Dr. Philip Jamieson, President

“Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:31-34) What a difference six weeks can make?! 2019 brought the best market returns during my tenure with the Foundation and Development Fund. Based on all that, I had a number of plans of expanding our ministry. And so, now this...as I write, many of us are working from home due to our concerns regarding COVID-19. Social distancing seems to be the new “normal.” We are also experiencing unprecedented volatility in the markets. One thousand point daily swings are now commonplace. These are truly anxious times. And yet...

Swiss theologian, Karl Barth has observed, “The Atonement takes precedence over all of human history.” And what that means is simply this: COVID-19 and all the associated market volatility can really only be understood in the basic Gospel truth that God is for us and not against us! Every day that we have is an opportunity to remember and live in the light of our creedal affirmation that for us and our salvation Jesus Christ came down from heaven. These are difficult times, many of our local churches are struggling. Many of us are worried about the future of our denomination and our country. But still, we are invited again to recall: Jesus reveals the full truth of God: you are loved with a love which will never end.

So then, how do we live in the truth of what Christ has accomplished? I’ll offer this: let us be shaped by the cardinal Christian virtues (faith, hope and love). First, let us trust God. He has given us *faith* so that we might remember each day, that our Lord is sufficient for all our needs. Our Lord who has been faithful in the past will also be faithful today and in the days to come. Second, let us be mindful of a promised, good future. You and I have access to a *hope* which can not be overcome by present circumstances. Through Christ, you and I already know the end of the story: the tomb is empty, Christ is risen and there is nothing that can come between us and God’s love. Finally, in the light of all that, you and I are called to *love* God and our neighbors as ourselves. So, even if we must practice social distancing, we can still offer love especially to those who are hurting and who are afraid. Who do you know today who needs help? Who do you know today who needs to either know for the first time or be reminded for the hundredth time that Jesus loves them? Are there any practical, common place ways that you can manifest that love for them?

This is not the annual report that I anticipated writing a few weeks ago. Back in February I was hoping to be able to crow about past performance, while anticipating an even brighter financial future. But today, I’m reminded of the words of the Apostle as he wrote to the Galatians: “May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Galatians 6:14) Have no doubt, regardless of good days or bad, our Lord is for you and not against you. And have no doubt, that as you trust him, all these things shall be added in the right time and in the right way to you, as well.