

BETHEL WESLEY FOUNDATION

Rev. LaTricia Trull - Campus Minister
Student Council Board
Arlie Ard - President
Jessica Holmes - Vice President

Thank you, Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, for your support, encouragement and guidance. The 2019-2020 academic year has been a great time of growth for the Bethel Wesley Foundation and your willingness to walk beside us has played a tremendous part.

We have sought God's direction and believe that God has called us to focus our energies and efforts on doing ministry together in the city of McKenzie and wherever God may lead us.

The Bethel Wesley Foundation continues to grow as we seek ways to serve our church and community. We have engaged more this year in opportunities to be in an intentional relationship with the assisted living communities in our town. We provide regular meetings with the residents and engage with them in music ministry and fellowship.

As we look to the future we covet the prayers of the members of the Memphis Annual conference. Pray with us that we will continue to find ways to Discover, Equip, Connect and Send students in ministry to serve.

Rev. LaTricia Trull
Campus Minister

MURRAY STATE WESLEY FOUNDATION

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

CHERRY PYRON, BOARD CHAIR

Murray State Wesley continues to be a strong supportive community for all students at Murray State University. The description of the relationship students have about this place is so often “being here feels like home,” and that atmosphere truly pervades the community there.

The community is both broad enough to include and invite anyone and also intimate enough to encourage and support the bold, the timid, and those searching.

In times of corporate worship, small group Bible study, fellowship and service both in the Murray community and in broader geographic areas with Wesley youth from UTMartin, Bethel, and the University of Memphis, students are offered acceptance, challenge, opportunity, and connection, all vital elements as faithful people who continue to grow and walk in Christ’s way and live as Christ in our world.

With everyone’s academic year cut short this spring, there is certainly a feeling of incompleteness and loss, yet we are assured that the relationships nurtured, the counsel given, the grace offered at Murray State continue to strengthen and sustain especially the graduating seniors who will take the “feels like home” atmosphere with them as they move forward. And for returning students and those yet to become part of Wesley, we hold great hope and love as we see what great things God will do among and because of MSU Wesley.

MEMPHIS WESLEY FOUNDATION

Morgan Stafford, Executive Director

Eliza Ford, Graduate Intern & Student Leadership Coordinator

Karen Udovich, Board of Directors Chair

The mission of the Memphis Wesley Foundation is to be a diverse and inclusive faith community welcoming all students. Our vision is to be a student movement developing spiritual leaders in Memphis and beyond. Our five core values are diversity, generosity, inclusivity, integrity, and positivity. This report will briefly describe how the ministries of Memphis Wesley align with the four areas of focus of the Memphis Conference.

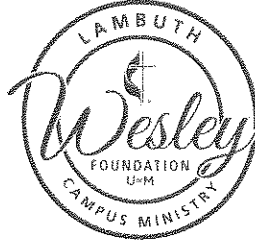
Wesley at Memphis is *investing in more college students and young adults*. 40 students are now engaged in the weekly ministries of Wesley. With the covenant discipleship framework as our guide, our students lead ministries in the areas of compassion, devotion, justice, and worship. Our student leadership team focused on growing wide, increasing the number of students in our ministries by nearly 50%, while also growing deep, expanding opportunities for students to engage their faith. Relationships are at the center of our student-led ministry.

Our students *engage the mission field* in Memphis and beyond. Within the walls of our facility, Wesley partnered with Project Transformation and Refugee Empowerment Program. Our students served with outreach ministries of several local churches in the Metro District. We were proud to become the first campus ministry to become a partner organization with MICAH, Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope, a coalition working for social change in three focus areas of economic equity, education equity, and immigration equity.

Memphis Wesley is *creating transforming leaders* each day. Twelve students have participated in our student leadership intern program over the past two school years, particularly through our expanded student leadership team. We hired our first graduate intern, with plans to hire a second soon. In addition to leading our four ministry teams, our student leadership interns also serve in key roles with facilities, finance and administration.

As the Memphis Conference seeks *to grow fruitful and faithful churches*, Memphis Wesley continues to strengthen our partner church network. Our board of directors has more churches represented at the table. Through our Tuesday community nights this school year, 24 churches have partnered with Wesley to provide dinner and hospitality to our students along with guest speakers. Two of our student leaders preached their first sermons this year, and more students are now serving on staff in local churches. We intentionally partner with local churches and extension ministries at each level of our ministry.

Memphis Wesley celebrates continued growth in our ministries, and we look forward to expanding our impact with your support. This fall, we plan to expand our student leadership team and reach more students at Christian Brothers University, LeMoyne-Owen College, Rhodes College, and Southwest Community College in addition to our presence at the University of Memphis. Thank you for your support of Memphis Wesley!



WESLEY FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS-LAMBUTH CAMPUS

Dr. Melinda Clarke, Director

The Wesley Foundation at the University of Memphis-Lambuth Campus is aligned with the mission, values, and vision of the United Methodist Church. The 2019-2020 academic year has been rewarding for the organization.

The ministry is in a rebuilding phase and we are pleased that our group of students has grown and become engaged in the campus ministry. In order to develop meaningful opportunities for faith development, the director invests time in creating and sustaining meaningful engagement with the students.

Wesley Foundation University of Memphis-Lambuth Campus director service focus:

- Provide Christ-centered programming
- Build a meaningful relationship with each student
- Provide strong mentoring experience for each student
- Offer engaging worship
- Create learning experiences that deepen spiritual growth
- Design reflection activities that strengthen and inform self-awareness, growth, and engagement
- Form relationships that facilitate the authentic sharing of faith
- Provide opportunities for students to develop friendships, experience fellowship, and learn stress management
- Maintain healthy relationships with campus administration and staff

These focus areas have established a theme for our work and we have enjoyed a successful year with our students. The student leaders have taken ownership of the ministry and have a sense of pride in seeing it grow and are comfortable reaching out to fellow students.

2019-2020 Programming

Weekly Programming includes fellowship over a shared meal; student-led worship and praise; scripture application; director-led study; sharing of concerns and reflection; prayer requests, and prayer time. Students have especially responded well to study of scripture and its application to real life situations and problems. Special studies have included the new programming for young adults offered by Discipleship Ministries.

We look forward to another year of following Christ together.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Melinda M. Clarke

UT MARTIN WESLEY FOUNDATION

Amanda Crice, Director

The 2019-2020 year for UTM Wesley is marked as one that has been spent looking back so that we can move forward. During the summer of 2019 in response to goals on the strategic plan we passed last year, we hired Keaton Wilson as a Strategic Planning and PR Intern. His work was to help us write and record our history and guide us in moving forward with the goals in our strategic plan. In order to write our history, Keaton spent a great deal of time finding and interviewing alumni and former directors at Wesley/Interfaith. The fruit of that work was not only a well documented history, but he also helped us to reestablish relationships and connections that had been lost with the people who have come before us.

Another new position at UTM Wesley this year was our Stewardship Chair. Kari Beth Woods, the creator and first person to hold the position, knew that we needed someone to help us with fundraising work so that our ministry could continue to be funded at a level that could sustain the consistent growth we are experiencing. The beautiful thing about the work Kari Beth has done, though, is that rather than simply focus on fundraising she has rooted her work in establishing mutual relationships with churches and community members that go beyond money. Her work has taken the connections that Keaton helped us to reestablish and plugged people into mutual roles of service, ministry and support. We are grateful for both of them.

Meanwhile, in our day to day ministry we are so proud of all the ways our ministry equips and empowers student leadership. The current model of the student council is in its fourth year and we have seen a great leap in the maturity and wisdom of our student leadership. We have had more students preach this year than ever before. One student approached me this year and asked if she could offer a new model for the way we do our weekly Bible Study. As an education major she wanted to see a model that allowed more students the opportunity to learn how to lead small group discussions. As a result of her proposal and work we have begun the most impactful small group ministry we have seen in the four years I've been there. She recruited and trained 4 students who were not already in other leadership roles. Including the group she led, we went from having one small group meeting under my leadership once a week to 5 small groups each with student leaders once a week. We continued to support student interns this year who worked in leadership roles at Wesley and in local churches throughout our district. And, at the end of this school year we have two students who have been accepted to United Methodist seminaries where they hope to continue the ministry and leadership that was established in them through their leadership roles at UTM Wesley.

We cannot report on this year without mentioning the fact that we lost 1/4 of our school year to the COVID-19 Pandemic that has radically changed life for all of us. In the days after the University of Tennessee at Martin closed its doors on March 12 (thereby requiring that we close our doors as well), our students were full of confusion, grief, frustration and questions. In a matter of days, however, our student leaders were rallying with creative ways that we could continue to connect, worship and do meaningful ministry. The small group Bible studies we had started continued to meet online via zoom. The student preachers we had lined up for the remainder of Lent shifted their plan to deliver online. Students who were part of our praise team offered videos of them playing worship songs. Our council moved forward with meetings (doing them on zoom) and came up with creative ways to continue to check in on one another and build community. Despite the complete change in our plans, UTM Wesley kept going.

It is fortuitous for us that we have spent so much time looking back at the ways students have been engaged in ministry at UTM Wesley for almost 75 years, because now, perhaps more than ever, we know we are going to have to be creative as we move forward in the wake of this global pandemic. We know, though, that God has been faithful and God will continue to be faithful. The back of our shirts this year quoted Isaiah 43: "See I am doing a NEW THING, can you perceive it?" In August we didn't know just how true that quote would ring, but we are confident that in the midst of a lot of chaos and

uncertainty God will continue to use our efforts to cultivate Holy community and empower student leaders in whatever new thing God is doing in the world, in the church and in our humble ministry. Thanks be to God who is faithful!

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Amanda Crice, Campus Minister

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER CAMPUS MINISTRY

Rev. Jonathan C. Lewis, BCC, Chaplain and Campus Minister

At the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, the United Methodist campus ministry continues to grow and explore new opportunities. In March of 2011, Jonathan Lewis started as the campus minister there, and he continues to serve in that position. Jonathan is also Program Manager of UT and Conference Ministries with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH).

UTHSC is composed entirely of graduate schools, all of them specializing in some form of health science – from dentistry to medicine to nursing to laboratory science and much more. Jonathan relates well to UTHSC because of his own immersion in the hospital and healthcare setting, where he ministers to patients, families, and medical professionals of all kinds.

The campus ministry student group at UTHSC is called the Faith Health Collaborative (FHC). For more information and partnership opportunities, please visit the student group website at www.faithhealthcollaborative.com. FHC engages the entire UTHSC community – all colleges and programs, all students, faculty, and staff. FHC connects UTHSC to MLH, including its clinical work, its fruitful partnerships with community organizations and congregations, its local and international missions and service opportunities, and its unique educational initiatives through the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health Equity. Since being officially approved as a campus student group in 2016, FHC has recruited student vice presidents from all 6 of the colleges that make up UTHSC and also has an active membership of around 50 students.

Specific initiatives for FHC include:

Connection to United Methodist Congregations and Programs

Through FHC, students, faculty, and staff connect to Chaplain Lewis and the United Methodist Church. Relationships and partnerships with United Methodist congregations and programs are a significant goal of FHC. FHC aims to be an innovative vehicle that increases student exposure to the church and especially its health ministries.

Support and Service

Chaplain Lewis is a Board Certified Chaplain, experienced spiritual caregiver, and currently a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Counseling at Memphis Theological Seminary. Jonathan's increased exposure to UTHSC enables him to offer more support and care to the entire UTHSC community, witnessing to the love of Christ that can work through the United Methodist Church and its people, reflecting the call of the Gospel to love God and love our neighbors.

Education

In partnership with Church Health, Chaplain Lewis continues to help design and facilitate the "Serving The Underserved" certificate course. Serving The Underserved seeks to create a space for productive dialogue among health science students on the components of healthcare among underserved populations and the ways in which poverty shapes the health lives of people and communities. Each class session focuses on a topic relevant to this overall goal, featuring speakers who are leaders in the Memphis healthcare community and elsewhere. Students have the opportunity to interact and dialogue with these leaders and with each other in the effort to raise awareness, competency, and action for these issues. FHC helps to expand and develop that educational experience, aligning itself with the Wesleyan emphases on health, education, and personal formation. Serving The Underserved received about 150 applications from interested students and faculty persons in 2019. Since starting in 2010, Serving The Underserved has engaged nearly 800 students and faculty. Chaplain Lewis also implemented a Doctor of Ministry project with medical students from UTHSC, focusing on how pastoral care and counseling influence medical communication.