

OUR PURPOSE

To strengthen theological education in the Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church and prepare principled Christian leaders, rooted in a Wesleyan mindset of joining knowledge and vital piety.

- Theological education of local pastors and candidates for ordained ministry
- Continuing theological education of clergy
- Scholarships for theological education (on all levels including postgraduate studies)
- Development of infrastructure for theological education (literature and other resource material, libraries, networking among institutions, exchange of professors)
- Support and promotion of new promising avenues in theological education

SECOND GRANT APPROVED

The Endowment Fund will provide a sustainable, long-term source of funding for theological education, to be disbursed by the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education Fund.

At the end of 2020, the Endowment Fund decided to begin disbursements from the permanent endowment. The first grant was used for projects in 2021. A second grant will be disbursed for projects in 2022.

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL E-LEARNING NETWORK

A highlight in times of Corona

Progress continues toward networks of Methodist Theological e-Learning. The collaborative effort includes the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Perkins School of Theology, Cliff College, and the British Methodist Church. Recent highlights include:

- The launch of a Virtual Visiting Professor program with development of an international board of advisors (Perkins)
- Implementation of TheologyX as LMS software (Cliff)
- Progress in digital library resources for Methodist studies
- Online seminars on e-learning in East Africa

Each partner has graciously donated expertise and time to this exciting project, enabling new forms of blended learning, on-site and online. The Endowment Fund has the unique chance to support and strengthen this transformative work.

ENDOWMENT FUND CAMPAIGN:

We aim at a permanent endowment of \$25,000,000 that will allow disbursements of \$1,000,000 annually.

OUR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Our campaign committee has been working to generate awareness about the Endowment Fund. The committee is led by three co-chairs:

- Bishop David Bard (MI) advises on and supports outreach to bishops.
- Minnis Ridenour (VA) takes the lead on outreach to individual prospects and donors.
- Dave Johnston (NC) oversees the development of GIVING CIRCLES.

ENDOWMENT FUND CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

Funds received (as of Nov. 3, 2021): for term endowment: \$1,574; and for permanent endowment: \$132,561.

- **Term endowment:** \$440,219
- **Permanent endowment:** \$1,364,197 (+ \$260,374)

The Stead Challenge: Each gift of \$100,000 or more will unlock additional 25% funding, up to \$1,000,000, from the Stead family.

- The GIVING CIRCLE provides an opportunity to give as a group over 3-5 years in order to meet the minimum giving level to qualify.

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