



Endowing United Methodist  
Theological Education  
Africa | Europe | the Philippines

Christmas blessings from your friends at the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences! We are pleased to share some highlights from this year with you, as well as an overview of our plans for 2019.

The most visible change we made this year was to our logo, which has been updated to better illustrate our purpose and clearly identify the regions of the Central Conferences.

**Forming Trusted Leaders** has always been our goal, and now is a prominent part of our logo.

The information below provides an update on our work to create a long-term source of funding for forming trusted leaders, as well as a snapshot of our plans for 2019. Thank you for your support!



**TOTAL**

The Endowment Fund has been blessed with support to date totaling

**\$3,033,334**



**GIVING CIRCLES:** The giving circle program was established to provide supporters an opportunity to give as a group in order to meet the minimum giving level of \$100,000 to qualify for the Stead Challenge. Through the Challenge, gifts of \$100,000 or more unlock funding from the Stead family.

**COMMISSION SUPPORT:** The Commission on Central Conference Theological Education has been a vital source of support for the Endowment Fund, providing funding each year since 2014. The Commission recently approved an award of up to \$247,000 for 2019.

**ANNUAL AND CENTRAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:** Support from conferences continued throughout the year, including awareness events in Central and Southern Europe, Iowa, Michigan and North Carolina.

**VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT**

The Endowment Fund would not be possible without the support of volunteers including Board and Campaign Committee members representing each U.S. jurisdiction and each major region of the Central Conferences. We are currently re-shaping – and accepting nominations for – our Campaign Committee to include sub-committees for each major area of our work: **U.S. Episcopal Areas, Central Conference Episcopal Areas, Major Gifts** and **Giving Circles**. Please help us by nominating folks to the Campaign Committee by emailing Kim Nemire at: [knemire@averillsolutions.com](mailto:knemire@averillsolutions.com).



**FORMING TRUSTED LEADERS**

While the endowment is being established, we work with partners to provide examples of what it means to form trusted leaders. To that end, we were thrilled to celebrate the first ever ordination of a pastor in Romania. Because of the work of the Methodist E-Academy in Europe, Rares Calugar was ordained in March of this year and now serves the first United Methodist Church, and the surrounding community, in Cluj, Romania. Since its inception, the Methodist E-Academy has graduated 39 trusted leaders who are now serving as pastors and district superintendents around Europe.



Our strategy for 2019 has two phases. The first phase will focus on populating the newly structured **CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** and training new members. During the second phase, we will work with volunteers, bishops and other conference leaders to secure **MAJOR GIFTS** and set up **GIVING CIRCLES** in annual and central conferences around the globe.

You may support our work in 2019 by nominating individuals to the Campaign Committee, encouraging your conference to get involved, connecting us with folks who have an interest in making a pledge, and initiating giving circles. As always, we are here to support you in any way you may wish to participate. We look with hope toward 2019, and look forward to sharing more good news at this time next year. **THANK YOU** for your continued prayers and support!