



### 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

### NETWORKING

The collaborative effort for a network of Methodist theological e-learning includes the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Perkins School of Theology, Cliff College, and the British Methodist Church. 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 networks of Methodist Theological e-learning.

### COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON CENTRAL CONFERENCE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND (CCTEF)

For the year 2023, the Commission on CCTEF has again shown its willingness to contribute to the permanent endowment with \$160,000.

### THIRD DISBURSEMENT APPROVED

The Endowment Fund Board has approved its third disbursement from the permanent endowment for 2023 for projects on new avenues of theological education.

The Endowment Fund will provide a sustainable, long-term source of funding for theological education, to be disbursed by CCTEF.

### SPECIAL FUND FOR PROFESSORS IN METHODISM

The initial purposes of the CCTEF and the Endowment Fund, do not include salaries. There is great need to strengthen the teaching of Methodism in UMC theological schools outside the US, and the Endowment Fund Board received approval from the Council of Bishops in 2023 to receive gifts for a Professors in Methodism fund with the goal of \$10,000,000.

We aim at a permanent endowment of \$25,000,000 and an additional special fund for professors in Methodism of \$10,000,000, each with beginning of disbursements as soon as the first one million is collected.

### CHAIRPERSON OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD:

Bishop Patrick Streiff, Central and Southern Europe (ret.)

### CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (US)

Our campaign committee has been working to generate awareness and support for endowing theological education. 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 PROGRESS

Fund balances (as of Oct 16, 2023):

- Term endowment: \$346,651
- Permanent endowment: \$1,421,033

Gifts and pledges: \$3,994,119

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

- GIVING CIRCLES provide an opportunity to give as a group over 3-5 years in order to reach \$100,000 and unlock an additional 25% from the Stead family.

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