

# THE FOUNDATION LEDGER

*A Newsletter of The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.*  
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*Summer, 2026*

## **“CONNECTION”**

Cords, Conferencing, and Christ. What do these three have in common? Each of them plays important roles in connecting and holding onto things that we value. They can get away from us if we lose the connection.

When I think of cords to hang on, I think of my dogs. I have never had a dog who could be safely off leash. I have always feared my dogs slipping out of their collar and leash. As an adult, I have had 4 golden retrievers and a husky mix that adopted us. They and our connections were priceless to me. Like my dogs on the loose, we can walk aimlessly around, lost in the world without firmly yoked with the Master.

Conferencing is an important tool in connection. As Methodists, we know a little bit about conferencing. John Wesley considers conferencing “a means of grace”, an intentional act empowered by God, to connect us in a divine way. The South Carolina Annual Conference will meet in June to conduct the annual business of the Annual Conference. More importantly, we intentionally gather to connect with people whom we have not seen in a year and connect with people we saw last week. These are priceless connections, whether it is with our Institutional Members like Epworth’s Children Home and Spartanburg Methodist College, or our Methodist agencies like Campus Ministry and UMVIM, or personal connections like former classmates, former church members, and current members of the Conference Body.

Playing the most important role in connection is Christ, responsible for the prevenient grace in creating us to be in relationship with one another, responsible for the justifying grace in remaining connected even in our brokenness, and responsible for the sanctifying grace that continues to nurture and strengthen our connection with the people and the ministries of the South Carolina Conference. Christ connected with His disciples, Zacchaeus, the blind, the lame and so many others, who left everything to follow Him. They valued the connection above all others. Lastly Christ’s death on the cross forever connects us with Christ and one another.

Cords, Conferencing, and Christ are essential gifts from God that connect us to the most valued things in our lives. I humbly thank God for our Foundation, including our Institutional Members, our Agency Members, our Donors, and our colleagues in ministry. These connections are present in every gracious gift and every gracious giver we encounter at the Foundation.

Let’s not slip from the leash (yoke) of Christ. Let’s not slip out of conferencing with one another, and finally, let’s not take for granted the grace-filled opportunity to connect with Christ. Connect with the thankful, giving, spirit-filled hearts Christ gives us. Christ, His Cross, and our connection to them are priceless. In Christ, there is no slipping away. I hope to see you at Annual Conference!

The Reverend Robert M. Vincent, President

*Institutional Members of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.*

*Wofford College      Columbia College      Claflin University      Epworth Children’s Home*  
*Spartanburg Methodist College      Wesley Commons      The United Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee*

## CONTRIBUTIONS, HONOR GIFTS, AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Foundation expresses its appreciation to the contributors listed here whose gifts to the Foundation were received during the period **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025**

**\*Denotes In Honor Of**

**\*\*Denotes In Memory Of**

**The General Endowment Fund** is the Foundation's basic fund for the support of its ministry and its seven Institutional Members. The net income of the General Endowment Fund benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

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**The South Carolina Conference Ministers Endowment Fund** is a special "named endowment" of the Foundation's

General Endowment Fund created to honor the Ministerial Members of the South Carolina Conference and its predecessor Conferences. Net income benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

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**The W. Harry Chandler Memorial Endowment Fund** is a special named endowment of the Foundation's General Endowment Fund which honors the memory of the Foundation's first Executive Director, the Reverend Dr. W. Harry Chandler (1917-1984). Net income benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

**\*\*The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. W. Harry Chandler**

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

**The Administrative Endowment Fund** supports the ministry of the Foundation. The Fund's income is applied to the annual "operating expenses" of the Foundation.

**\*The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling**

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**The Cook Scholarship Endowment Fund** honors members of the Cook Family who have served in the Methodist Ministry across several generations. Income provides scholarship awards to persons preparing for full-time Christian Ministry.

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**The Glory To God Fund** assists persons in need of food, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities of life through Union UMC, Irmo, in keeping with a ministry to the "least of these".

Mrs. Jean S. Jeter, Irmo

**The Henrietta Rosson Morton Scholarship Fund** was created in 2014 by the Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr. to provide annual scholarships for deserving students attending Columbia College.

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr., Greenwood

**The J. Lawrence and Margaret F. McCleskey Scholarship Fund** provides scholarships to candidates for ministry from South Carolina attending United Methodist theological schools with awards in equal amounts sent to Africa University to assist students in its School of Theology.

**\*Mrs. Pegilie Walter**

Bishop & Mrs. J. Lawrence McCleskey, Asheville, NC

**\*\*The Rev. Dr. Ted H. Walter**

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**The J. W. Ridgeway Endowment Fund** was established in December, 2016, to benefit the maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the Jordan and Oak Grove Churches in Clarendon County.

Mr. J. W. Ridgeway, N. Charleston

**The James E. and Betty W. Alewine Scholarship Fund** was created in 2016 by Fred and Mae Weathers of Summerville, SC, to honor the Alewines and to provide scholarship assistance for persons preparing for Ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church.

**\*\*The Rev. James E. Alewine**

Ms. Vickie T. Harvey, Spartanburg

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**The Justin Guild Stillinger Memorial Scholarship Fund** provides scholarships to students attending Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina with plans to continue their education at Clemson University.

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Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

**\*\*Mr. Justin Guild Stillinger**

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry A. Stillinger, Columbia

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

**The Kenneth L. Keaton Family Trust** provides support for the needs and upkeep of Ebenezer United Methodist Church and its cemetery.

The Kenneth L. Keaton Family Trust, Anderson

**The L. Jonathan and Felecia B. Holston Endowment Fund** was created at the Foundation by Bishop and Mrs. Holston to benefit charitable interests associated with their church service, specifically Gammon Theological Seminary and Epworth Children's Home.

**\*Bishop & Mrs. L. Jonathan Holston**

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Roger Gramling, Irmo

The SC Conference Committee on Episcopacy

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

**The Lynchburg Cemetery Endowment Fund** provides for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Lynchburg Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Corinne V. Sade, Charleston

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

**\*Christmas & Family**

Mrs. Corinne V. Sade, Charleston

**\*Mrs. Corinne V. Sade's Birthday**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

**\*Miss Bailey Vincent**

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry A. Stillinger, Columbia

**\*Dr. Howard Vincent Jr.'s, Birthday**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

**\*The Reverend & Mrs. Robert Vincent**

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry A. Stillinger, Columbia

**\*\*Mrs. Corinne C. Vincent's Birthday**

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. Vincent, Chapin

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**The Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery Endowment Fund** provides support for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery.

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**The Roger M. Gramling Scholarship Fund For Pfeiffer University** provides scholarship assistance to Pfeiffer students with preference given to students interested in the ordained ministry of a Christian denomination.

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

**The Ross Rikard Memorial Endowment Fund** supports ministries with youth or young adults that assist young persons battling personal addictions.

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The Rev. Linda E. McDaniel, Clio

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry A. Stillinger, Columbia

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The Rev. Fred S. McDaniel, Clio

The Rev. Linda E. McDaniel, Clio

Ms. Miri Miller, Columbia

Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry A. Stillinger, Columbia

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Ms. Darlene Rikard, Ridgeway

**The South Carolina Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund** provides funding for scholarship awards to South Carolina students in United Methodist seminaries and theological schools pursuing preparation for full-time ordained ministry.

2025 SC Annual Conference Offering

**The Theodore R. Morton, Jr., Scholarship Fund** was created in 2014 by the Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr. to provide annual scholarships for deserving students attending Wofford College.

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr., Greenwood

**The Walter H. McKelvey, Sr., Endowed Scholarship Fund** provides scholarship assistance to Gammon Theological Seminary students, while honoring Dr. McKelvey.

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Sterling High School Class of 1959, Greenville

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**Board News**

The Board of Directors of The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation welcomes two new Board Members.

Representing Columbia College, we welcome Mrs. Deborah B. Durden, an attorney and former judge. In addition, we welcome the Reverend Fran Elrod to our Board, as an at-large member. Fran is the Columbia District Superintendent.

We will miss three of our Board members who died recently. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families and friends of Mrs. MaryAnn Crews, the Reverend Dr. Theodore "Ted" R. Morton, Jr., and the Reverend John Holler, Jr.

***Leave A Legacy to Change Lives***

*Extend Your Love For The Church*

*And Its Institutions*

*Beyond Your Lifetime*

*Through Gifts and Bequests To*

*The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.*