



# Legacy News



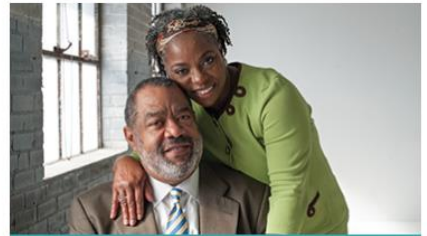
United Methodist  
Foundation *of West Ohio*



Gift Annuity



Donor Advised Fund



Endowment Gift

## FOUNDATION UPDATES

### Pastors Experience Life-Changing Trip Thanks to Endowment

In early November, nine WOC ordained elders who are currently working on their Doctor of Ministry at MTSO joined Foundation Executive Director Susan Black on a trip of a lifetime. The group followed in the footsteps of Paul on a ten day trip in Turkey. The trip was a benefit of the Alford-Cantlin Fellowship the students receive from the Alford-Cantlin Endowment at UMFWO.



By air and bus, the group traveled all over the western and central parts of Turkey, stopping at the sites of all seven churches mentioned in Paul's Revelations, as well as Nicaea where the Nicene Creed was developed. From the oldest church in Christendom for a thousand years, to underground churches in cave systems in Cappadocia, to the ruins of Ephesus, to religious sites of the Christian remnant in Istanbul, the group experienced more than they

could have hoped or imagined.

"This trip will continue to inform the faith and witness of these pastors for years to come," said Ms. Black. "We are so blessed to have the Alford-Cantlin Endowment to allow for this type of educational opportunity for a group of seasoned pastors at this point in their ministries. I can't wait to see how this continues to unfold in their lives and those they serve in West Ohio."



A new cohort of the Alford-Cantlin Fellows will be forming in January of 2026. Please contact Susan Black at [sblack@wocumc.org](mailto:sblack@wocumc.org) at the Foundation or Rev. April Casperson at MTSO at [acasperson@mtso.edu](mailto:acasperson@mtso.edu) for more information. Ordained elders in a full-time appointment in the West Ohio Conference who are seeking their DMin at MTSO are encouraged to apply.

## FOUNDATION RESOURCES

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## Foundation to Offer Two Academies in 2026

Clergy and lay people in East and West Ohio are invited to register for two academies being offered by the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio in 2026. Both clergy and lay people are welcome to attend. Registration is required.

### Church Stewardship Academy

This four-part series is intended for church leaders involved in stewardship activities in the local church. Improve your understanding of stewardship basics and take your efforts to the next level with these engaging educational opportunities. Sessions will be held quarterly via Zoom at noon on January 14, April 8, July 8, and Oct. 14. Sessions will be recorded and registered participants will receive a link to the recordings. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

### Church Investment and Legacy Academy

This four-part series is intended for church leaders involved in investment and legacy giving activities in the local church. Improve your understanding of planned giving basics and take your investment knowledge to the next level with these engaging educational opportunities. Sessions will be held quarterly via Zoom at noon on Feb. 25, May 20, Aug. 19, and Nov. 18. Sessions will be recorded and registered participants will receive a link to the recordings. More information and registration can be found [here](#).