



G U I D E L I N E S

A photograph of a church interior. Sunlight streams through tall, arched stained glass windows, creating a warm, golden glow. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings and a dark wooden pulpit in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

Higher Education & Campus Ministry

Connect with Students in Schools,
Colleges, and Campus Ministries



G U I D E L I N E S

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**Connect with Students in Schools, Colleges,
and Campus Ministries**

Division of Higher Education

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Blessed to Be a Blessing

If you are reading this Guideline, you have said yes to servant leadership in your church. You are blessed to be a blessing. What does that mean?

By virtue of our baptism by water and the Spirit, God calls all Christians to faithful discipleship, to grow to maturity in faith (see Ephesians 4). The United Methodist Church expresses that call in our shared mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or the *Discipline*, ¶120). Each local congregation and community of faith lives out that call in response to its own context—the wonderful and unique combination of God-given human and material resources with the needs of the community, within and beyond the congregation.

The work of servant leaders—your work—is to open a way for God to work through you and the resources available to you in a particular ministry area, for you are about God’s work. As stewards of the mysteries of God (see 1 Corinthians 4:1), servant leaders are entrusted with the precious and vital task of managing and using God’s gifts in the ongoing work of transformation.

In The United Methodist Church, we envision transformation occurring through a cycle of discipleship (see the *Discipline*, ¶122). With God’s help and guidance, we

- reach out and receive people into the body of Christ,
- help people relate to Christ through their unique gifts and circumstances,
- nurture and strengthen people in their relationships with God and with others,
- send transformed people out into the world to lead transformed and transforming lives,
- continue to reach out, relate, nurture, and send disciples . . .

Every ministry area and group, from finance to missions, engages in all aspects of this cycle. This Guideline will help you see how that is true for the ministry area or group you now lead. When you begin to consider all of the work you do as ministry to fulfill God’s mission through your congregation, each task, report, and conversation becomes a step toward transforming the world into the kingdom of God.

Invite Christ into the process to guide your ministry. You are doing powerful and wonderful work. Allow missteps to become learning opportunities; rejoice in success. Fill your work with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

God blesses you with gifts, skills, and experience. You are a blessing when you allow God to work through you to make disciples and transform the world. Thank you.

(Find additional help in the “Resources” section at the end of this Guideline, in *The Book of Discipline*, and through <http://www.umc.org>.)

Your Part in Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Thank you for taking on leadership in your church for higher education and campus ministry.

Elected by the charge conference for a one-year term, you are a member of the council on ministries, or the church council, and the charge conference. You are responsible for interpreting and recommending to the church council ways for implementing the church's mission in higher education and campus ministry. You work with the guidance of the pastor and the chairperson of the church council.

You are also the person on the “front line” in the important work of identifying and developing leadership for the church and for the world. You are the person in the local church who takes a large view on developing the next generation of leaders.

Everything you do—from helping make connections between students and campus ministers to encouraging students to consider attending a United Methodist-related college, to supporting the Black College Fund and Africa University—is important and makes a difference in the quality of leadership in the future.

It is essential for the future of The United Methodist Church that students are nurtured in their faith during their college years.

College is a time when students shape the dreams and visions that will influence the rest of their lives. Those years also are a time when students examine the faith and values that will support their life choices. Your ministry helps students know that the church supports them as they increase in knowledge and shape their visions.

Your Role

The responsibility to advocate for the church's ministry in higher education is not yours alone, it is shared with a team of individuals working together. You are the team leader for your congregation, and you can prayerfully gather a group of people to join you in this ministry.

In large churches, a committee may have been appointed to work with you. In small churches, you may be the only one officially designated with responsibility for higher education and campus ministry.

You are encouraged to invite people to join in the work. Parents, teachers, students, college contacts, and high school guidance counselors can be invaluable members of the team.

At first, your responsibilities may seem overwhelming. This Guideline will help you understand the scope of your work. It will also give you practical resources for doing that work.

As chair of the ministry team on higher education and campus ministry, your work is wide-ranging. Recruit others in your church to assist you with the following responsibilities:

- Advocate within the congregation the importance of the mission of the church's work in higher education.
- Work with the congregation to identify and develop strong future leaders for the church and the world
- Keep the church council aware of higher education and campus ministry concerns
- Promote local church support for higher education and campus ministry programs with your annual conference and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
- Interpret and promote the Black College Fund and the Hispanic, Asian, and Native American (HANA) educational ministries
- Recruit students for United Methodist-related colleges and encourage students to participate in the United Methodist campus ministry units with other private and public colleges
- Plan your church's ministry to, and with, college and university students, staff, faculty, and administrators
- Encourage local support of United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and campus ministries in your annual conference
- Help link students with United Methodist-supported campus ministries and with the United Methodist Student Movement
- Promote the United Methodist Student Loans and Scholarships programs through the observance of United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday offerings
- Alert the pastor, parents, and students in your congregation to the availability of loans and scholarships for United Methodist students through the Office of Loans and Scholarships of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, your annual conference, and your local church

Many resources for your work are listed in this Guideline. They include information about the history of United Methodism, our educational ministries, interpretation of higher education and campus ministry programs, a sample calendar of program ideas, and printed, video, Internet, and personal resources.

One resource that will be especially valuable is *Interpreter* magazine. This is the church's program journal for local church leaders. Five free print editions and unlimited free digital editions can be sent to each church. Additional subscriptions are available. Order from United Methodist Communications, PO Box 310, 810 Twelfth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37202-0320; website: www.interpretermagazine.org. You may access *Interpreter* magazine articles online at their website.

Resources and information regarding United Methodist higher education ministries can be found online at www.gbhem.org. From there, you can go to specific pages about higher education issues, institutions, resources, and campus ministries.

The staff of the Division of Higher Education is available to answer questions and discuss issues. Contact the Division of Higher Education at PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007; (615) 340-7402; scu@gbhem.org. A directory of information available online can be found in the Resources section (see page 20).

How Do You Get Started?

One place to begin understanding your congregation's ministry in higher education is to recognize each local church's responsibility for "planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, and witness for persons and families within and without the congregation" (§242, *Book of Discipline*). Within and beyond your congregation, there are individuals who work and serve on college campuses, and are engaged in higher education. You and your church have the opportunity to develop creative ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness with and for these people.

A strong program in higher education and campus ministry in your church must have the understanding and support of key persons. It is important to consult with your pastor and the chair of the church council. In a small church, one person may well be able to manage this ministry area. In middle-sized churches, task forces can help plan and promote special events. In large churches, a standing commission might be in order. Even in large churches, special events for students who are home from college may call for subcommittees or task forces.

The way you organize your work will affect all that you do. As you read this Guideline, make notes to help you choose the best approach for accomplishing your tasks. Most important, think prayerfully about the best way to minister to persons in higher education, then put your plans and ideas to work. Here are some ways to begin:

- Request resources. The Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry provides many resources and information at www.gbhem.org. In addition, you can search the database for information about United Methodist-related higher education institutions and ministries for students on campuses through www.gbhem.org/findyourplace.
- **Identify your constituents.** High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors are potential candidates for United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and campus ministries. Get to know high school counselors who assist students in their college planning. Students now enrolled in both undergraduate and the graduate levels are important constituents. Identify any college administrators, faculty, staff members, and trustees who are related to your church. College chaplains and campus ministers are valuable sources of information. Remember, too, that commuter students in your congregation are also candidates.
- **Connect with your annual conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.** Each annual conference has a board, or equivalent structure, to provide

for the connectional relationships between the Division of Higher Education, higher education institutions within the conference, and local churches. Find out about existing programs and how your church can be involved in supporting higher education initiatives.

- **Investigate the history of your church's support** for the United Methodist-related schools, colleges, or universities in your annual conference and for the apportioned educational funds of the Black College Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, and Africa University. Share this with your church's leaders and find ways to increase your church's giving.
- **Talk with others in the congregation about ministry in higher education.** Listen to their concerns for students, staff, and faculty at colleges. What are their ideas for making your local church's ministry in higher education an important and creative part of the lives of those who are studying, teaching, or working at colleges and universities? Perhaps there are people in your local church who would covenant to pray regularly for this ministry, asking God to lead your church to be involved in ministry in higher education in new ways.

To get started immediately, go to the chapter on Higher Education, Campus Ministry, and Your Local Church (page 18). Read through the suggestions, choose one or two that appeal to you, and get started.

Our Church's Call to Be Involved in Higher Education

The United Methodist Church has a historic and impressive history in higher learning. As early as the mid-1700s, John Wesley and his Methodist friends began founding schools and tutoring children and others who otherwise were denied the opportunity to develop their God-given talents. It is this concern for people that often brings United Methodists into ministry in higher education.

The United Methodist Church today continues a 250-year tradition of ministry in education. John Wesley began the Holy Club and the Methodist Society with a student at Kings College, Oxford University. The Methodist movement itself was born on a college campus. Wesley was a tireless reader, writer, translator, and book and pamphlet publisher. He founded Kingswood School, the first Methodist educational institution in England, in 1748.

When The Methodist Church began in the United States in 1784, one of its first acts was the creation of Cokesbury College. Members of The Evangelical and United Brethren traditions were equally zealous educators, as the presence of Otterbein and Albright Colleges testifies.

People of the Methodist tradition were challenged to bring educational opportunity to the frontier; as a result, the people established approximately 1,200 schools across the North American continent. In 1913, the first Wesley Foundation was founded on the campus of the University of Illinois.

Today, the family of United Methodist-related institutions includes 10 major research universities, 13 seminaries, 82 liberal arts colleges, three two-year colleges, one professional medical school, and 10 college preparatory schools. These are spread across the United States. The interactive map at <http://www.gbhem.org/education/scu/map> will help you locate them. Additionally, there are more than 436 campus ministries located on public and private college and university campuses across the country.

Our involvement in higher education reflects the social concerns of The United Methodist Church. Several institutions were founded especially for women. In 1836, Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, was the first college in the world chartered to grant baccalaureate degrees to women. Others were founded for African Americans. By 1867, two years after the Civil War ended, 59 institutions had been founded to educate freed slaves. These institutions were founded during a time when it was neither popular nor widely expected that women and African Americans should have educational opportunities.

There are now three colleges for women and 11 historically Black colleges related to The United Methodist Church. As the largest network of Protestant institutions in the nation, United Methodist higher education provides greater access to more students than other denominations. A total of 122 schools currently in the United Methodist family gives United Methodism the highest Protestant presence in higher education in the nation. The strong variety of institutions contributes significantly to student access, equity, and democracy in higher education in the United States.

Our church is involved in higher education—education for the common good—challenging faithful people to develop faithful minds for faithful life in the world.

Commitments and Common Themes of United Methodists in Higher Education

Campus and Collegiate Ministry

Campus ministry represents, in many ways, the “church beyond itself.” (See *Campus Ministry: The Church Beyond Itself* by Donald G. Shockley, former staff at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; the Resources list begins on page 20).

When the church reaches outside itself, it fulfills its mission to be involved fully in the life of the world. Ministry on campus is work that makes an impact on the present-day lives of those on campus as well as on the future health of the church. Campus ministry is vital to both the church and the world.

United Methodist ministry with students is diverse. It takes many forms and offers many different programs. It is versatile, reaching a variety of student populations; and it is vital, reaching people who might not otherwise be touched by the church.

United Methodists sponsor campus ministry in at least four ways.

- **Wesley Foundations and Fellowships:** These are United Methodist campus ministry centers that help some publicly supported and independent college campuses
- **Ecumenical units:** These show support together with other denominations on public and private campuses
- **College and university chaplains:** These people engage in ministry with the entire campus at United Methodist-related institutions
- **Local congregations:** These people extend their ministries to embrace nearby colleges. As a result of these varied expressions of ministries with students, you may more often hear and use the term “collegiate ministries” to be inclusive of all these groups.

What happens in collegiate ministry may look similar to what happens in other ministries: worship, Bible study, service projects, counseling, classes, and community events. Much time is spent with students in groups and one-on-one for spiritual development. However, as student populations become older and their needs change, the ministry with and to them also changes. Groups for singles, childcare facilities, and fellowship groups for international students are some additional facets of collegiate ministries.

Collegiate ministry focuses on students, but it also has a broader campus focus. Faculty, staff, and administrators are the most stable parts of the college population. Often, working with and through them, collegiate ministry is able to reach many more people.

Through their work and friendship with college personnel, campus ministers are able to draw people into unique programs: teachers of engineering can help to rehabilitate low-income housing, medical educators can work with those in our country and in other countries who cannot afford health care, and law students and faculty can lend their services to persons who cannot afford legal counsel.

From student movements to faculty study, from prayer breakfasts to social service, from personal counseling to global concerns, campus ministry embodies the church's mission in the world.

United Methodist Student Movement (UMSM)

Christian students have a long history of leadership in The United Methodist Church, spanning many generations.

The first Methodist Student Movement (MSM) was established in St. Louis in 1937; its last conference was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1965. In the intervening years, MSM students engaged in service that profoundly changed the students themselves as well as countless others. Many have become recognized leaders in the church and society.

In 1987, a national student conference was held, again in St. Louis. Following the success of that conference, through 2011, national leadership training events known as Student Forums were held each year. In 1996, during a Student Forum at Oklahoma City University, The United Methodist Student Movement (UMSM) was created. The UMSM is a network of college students that extends across the United States, bridges ethnic and cultural boundaries, and reaches out across the globe.

UMSM is open to all college students who are connected to The United Methodist Church through church, campus ministry, or college university affiliation and who are interested in growing together in discipleship and leadership for the sake of the church and the world.

In many areas, students come together regularly through statewide, annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and regional gatherings of UMSM. Each annual conference has an adviser, usually a campus minister or college chaplain. The movement is supported by staff of the Campus Ministry Section of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Beginning in 2012, a new event, called NEXT, became the biennial leadership development and student conference of UMSM. All college students are encouraged to attend. Through creative speakers, dynamic worship, and affinity-group discussions, NEXT events challenge and inspire students to consider and plan the next faithful steps for their vocations, their communities, the church, and the world. The biennial meeting of NEXT is held in November of even-numbered years.

The United Methodist Student Movement website (www.umsm.org) provides more information about the organization, including information about upcoming conferences such as NEXT; a directory of UMSM advisers; a directory of United Methodist-related

campus ministry programs; and the UMSM online community where students can share comments and discuss current issues.

Black College Fund

During slavery, it was against the law to teach slaves to read and write. Therefore, when the Civil War ended in 1865, more than four million people who had been denied education were left to an unknown future.

In 1866, Bishop Davis W. Clark helped the Methodist Episcopal Church (a forerunner of The United Methodist Church) found the Freedmen's Aid Society, which was dedicated to establishing schools and colleges for freed slaves in the South. By 1867, 59 schools had been founded in 10 states.

Fifty years after its founding, the Freedmen's Aid Society had started 34 colleges, academies, and theological schools. Often begun as small schoolrooms, these institutions grew to become well-established undergraduate colleges and universities, located primarily in the South.

Eleven of these colleges continue as historically black institutions related to The United Methodist Church:

- Bennett College for Women (Greensboro, North Carolina),
- Bethune-Cookman University (Daytona Beach, Florida),
- Claflin University (Orangeburg, South Carolina),
- Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia),
- Dillard University (New Orleans, Louisiana),
- Huston-Tillotson University (Austin, Texas),
- Meharry Medical College (Nashville, Tennessee),
- Paine College (Augusta, Georgia),
- Philander Smith College (Little Rock, Arkansas),
- Rust College (Holly Springs, Mississippi), and
- Wiley College (Marshall, Texas).

These colleges and universities have produced a legacy of leadership. In 1956, Dr. Willa B. Player became the first African American woman to serve as president of a four-year liberal arts college in the United States (Bennett College in North Carolina). Claflin University, the oldest historically black college or university in South Carolina, was the first school in the state to welcome all students regardless of race or gender. Azie Taylor Morton, a graduate of Huston-Tillotson University in Texas, served as treasurer of the United States in the Carter administration. As of 2015, she was the only African American to hold this office. Meharry Medical College, founded in 1876, was the first medical school for African Americans in the United States.

Through the Black College Fund apportionment, United Methodists continue their significant and long-standing tradition of providing educational opportunities to an important segment of the U.S. population. The United Methodist Church supports the largest number of black colleges and universities of any church body in the United States.

The colleges supported by the fund provide direct access, nurture, and professional and spiritual training and guidance to a student population that, in the main, would remain underserved without them. Of the approximately 16,000 students enrolled in these colleges, 90 percent qualify for financial aid. Tuition is kept relatively low so students with low incomes may attend. These colleges are and always have been open to all.

Because of The United Methodist Church's historic commitment through the Black College Fund, educational access and academic and professional accomplishments continue to become realities for thousands of students of promise.

Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development

In countries around the world, Christian congregations are growing rapidly. In Africa, 46 percent of the population is Christian. In Latin America, the number is 34 percent. In Asia, 22 percent are Christian. Christian churches welcome more than 1.4 billion members worldwide.

Leadership development for these growing churches is the goal of the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development. By providing resources to meet the growing needs of these churches and people, we can also help guide the communities in which they are located. We have the opportunity to foster a sense of global connectedness that could allow millions of United Methodists to share their knowledge, energy, and faith. The developing worldwide network of United Methodist schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools training future leaders requires continuing nurture. Today, there are more than 700 United Methodist educational institutions in nations around the world that work with United Methodist congregations “to give the key of knowledge” to those who have very limited access to education.

The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development uses United Methodism's worldwide educational network to nurture the development of leaders who will foster local and worldwide communities that are peaceful, tolerant, and value-based. The fund is a unique opportunity to invest in the global community.

For more information, visit the website at www.gbhem.org/mgef, or contact the Division of Higher Education by e-mail scu@gbhem.org.

Africa University

Africa University, located in Old Mutare, opened in March 1992 as the first private, international university in Zimbabwe. This United Methodist-related university on the African continent was established by action of the 1988 General Conference. The university opened for classes with 40 students from six African countries. Africa University currently has a full-time student enrollment of more than 1,400 from 26 African countries, and a part-time student enrollment of 774.

There are six faculties or colleges: theology, education, agriculture and natural resources, humanities and social sciences, health sciences, and management and administration. There are five postgraduate faculties: agriculture and natural resources; management

and administration; theology; health sciences; and peace, leadership, and governance. The campus consists of six academic buildings, the university chapel, the library, a health clinic, a student union building, 12 residence halls, and 16 faculty and staff houses.

Congregations and individuals across The United Methodist Church support Africa University. The university is a tangible witness to what The United Methodist Church can do to nurture global leaders and transform communities. One way your congregation can support Africa University is by paying 100 percent of the Africa University Fund apportionment. For more information about the Africa University Fund, visit www.umciving.org.

Your congregation may make a second-mile gift by investing in the Africa University Endowment Fund (World Service Special Gifts) to support academic development and provide access for students through scholarships and financial aid. For more information about the university, contact the Africa University Development Office (audevoffice@gbhem.org; 615-340-7438). Visit their website at www.support-africauniversity.org. The Africa University website is at www.africau.edu.

Office of Loans and Scholarships

The United Methodist Church Student Loan Program is the oldest and largest program of its type in America, serving students in higher education for more than a century. More than 500,000 students have realized their vocational dreams with financial assistance from The United Methodist Student Loan and Scholarship Program. The program made its first loan in 1872 to a student preparing for a lay vocation.

The loan program operates as a revolving fund. As recipients repay their loans, the money is lent to other United Methodist students. The loan fund has a remarkable repayment rate of 99.5 percent.

The United Methodist Scholarship Program provides scholarships church-wide to supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships is provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts.

To qualify for a *scholarship*, a student must be a full, active member of The United Methodist Church for at least a year before applying and be enrolled in a degree program at an accredited institution, maintaining a grade average of 2.5 or higher. To qualify for a *loan*, a student must be a full, active member of The United Methodist Church for at least one year prior to applying and must be enrolled in a degree program at an accredited institution, maintaining at least a C average.

In addition to these two types of assistance, the Office of Loans and Scholarships also administers several specialized scholarships. For information, go to www.gbhem.org. Some of these include:

- **The Gift of Hope Scholars Program** (for undergraduates who demonstrate strong leadership in The United Methodist Church)
- **Ethnic Minority Scholarship** (for undergraduates of Native American, Asian, African American, Hispanic, or Pacific Islander descent)
- **Brandenburg Scholarship** (for students 35 years of age or older)

- **The Edith Allen Scholarship** (for African American graduate or undergraduate students pursuing a degree in education, social work, medicine, or other health professions)
- **HANA Scholarship** (for students born of Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or Pacific Island parentage—either upper-level undergraduate or graduate and doctoral students)
- **The Bishop James Baker Award** (for campus ministers)
- **The Rosalie Bentzinger Scholarship** (for deacons pursuing the PhD in Christian education)
- **The Special Seminary Scholarship** (for students 30 years of age and under pursuing an MDiv degree at a United Methodist-related seminary or theological school.

Be sure to support these scholarships by observing United Methodist Student Day with an offering (*Book of Discipline*, ¶263.4). Each year, this offering is a major source of funds for loans and scholarships. Ten percent of the Student Day offering is rebated each year to annual conferences participating in the Conference Merit Award Program.

In addition, 35 percent of the World Communion Sunday (*Book of Discipline*, ¶263.3) offering supports the Ethnic Minority Scholarship Fund. A portion of the offering receipts from Native American Ministries Sunday (*Book of Discipline*, ¶263.6) provides scholarships to Native-American United Methodist students pursuing a degree at a University Senate-approved school of theology.

Students can apply for a loan or scholarship by contacting the Office of Loans and Scholarships, (PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203; 615-340-7346 for loans; or 615-340-7344 for scholarships; www.gbhem.org). Persons who wish to endow a scholarship or loan in memory of a loved one may contact the Office of Loans and Scholarships at 615-340-7341. Learn more about Special Sunday celebrations and offerings at <http://www.umcsgiving.org/how-we-give#sundays>.

United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

Founded in 1965, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) is dedicated to helping students achieve their dreams. UMHEF provides scholarship aid for United Methodist students attending the 122 United Methodist-related institutions. Its vision is to make it economically possible for any qualified United Methodist student to be educated at a United Methodist-related college or university. UMHEF programs include:

- **United Methodist Dollars for Scholars.** The Foundation provides a \$1,000 matching scholarship for churches that raise and provide \$1,000 on behalf of student congregational members enrolled or planning to enroll in a United Methodist-related college, university, or seminary. In addition, there are **Triple Your Dollars** and **Quadruple Your Dollars** programs.
- **United Methodist Leadership Scholars.** Sponsored by United Methodist churches in the southeast and many United Methodist-related colleges and universities; designed to encourage active United Methodist students to attend a United Methodist-related college by offering up to \$3,000 in scholarship funds.

- **The September 11th Memorial Fund.** Designed to provide assistance for surviving victims and dependents of victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

In addition, there is the “Named Scholarships” program that allows annual conferences, local churches, and other groups or individuals to establish a scholarship in honor or memory of a person. These gifts help young minds in the church acquire tools for a promising future, and make value-centered education accessible to all students. For information about making a gift to the Foundation, please visit the website at www.umhef.org. To speak with someone about making a gift, call (800) 811-8110.

For more information, contact the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (PO Box 340005, Nashville, TN 37203-0005; 800-811-8110; www.umhef.org).

Higher Education, Campus Ministry, and Your Local Church

There are countless ways your local church can have a vital and exciting ministry in higher education. In order to make this happen, be sure to keep the church council aware of the concerns of colleges, universities, and campus ministries. Interpret this ministry by personalizing it. As you describe programs, institutions, and causes, cite persons in your own congregation who have been affected by them.

Some members of your congregation may work for or be graduates of United Methodist-related schools and colleges, serve on their boards, or be members of the board of directors of a campus ministry. Identify members of your district or annual conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. Pay attention to the students in your congregation, some of whom worship with you and others who attend school away from home. Listen to these people. Share their stories with the congregation and invite them to talk with others. They may have ideas for programs as well as helpful information to share with you and your local church.

What You Can Do

Here are some tangible ways to engage higher education and collegiate ministry:

1. As high school students begin to think about college, promote and visit United Methodist-related higher education institutions and campus ministries (www.gbhem.org/findyourplace), and provide information about United Methodist scholarships that are available from the local church, annual conference and general church (www.gbhem.org/loansandscholarships).
2. When students prepare to leave for college, share their names with the campus minister or chaplain at the school where they are enrolling (www.gbhem.org/findyourplace).
3. While students are away at college, keep in touch. Add them to the mailing or email list for the church newsletter, pray for them regularly, send cards and care packages for semester final exams, and welcome them home at winter and summer breaks.
4. Host special gatherings over Christmas break for returning students, invite students to participate in spring break mission experiences, and offer Bible studies and fellowship opportunities through the summer for those who are home.
5. Regularly educate your church about The United Methodist Church's work in higher education through your church's bulletin board or website, in worship time announcements, and in Sunday school classes. Provide information about the

Black College Fund (www.gbhem.org/bcf), Africa University (www.africau.edu), and special offerings (www.umcgiving.org) such as United Methodist Student Day (November) and Native American Ministries Sunday (April).

6. If a United Methodist-related institution or campus ministry is nearby, invite students, faculty, staff, and collegiate ministers to participate in worship, lead or participate in special seminars, or utilize gifts of teaching, music, drama, or speaking in the church. Plan a recognition service and reception for all who are engaged in the ministry of higher education.
7. Support local collegiate ministries with prayers, financial support, notes of encouragement, and gifts of meals or service.
8. Offer extraordinary hospitality to students. Provide a warm welcome, free meals, and pastoral care to students who are visiting for the first time or who begin to attend regularly. Help students connect with mentors and families in the church.
9. Use social media and campus fliers to publicize worship times and events for students. Publicize items in the church, at campus events and during events that are open to the community.
10. Contact the chaplain, campus minister, and international student office to ask about students who won't be going home for Christmas or Thanksgiving, and provide hospitality for them.

EXPLORATION

Here's a chance for students in your church to spend three days with other young people—high-school seniors through age 24—who are exploring ordained ministry. EXPLORATION is an informative and discerning weekend of worship, Bible study, prayer, workshops, and small-group discussions. The event is held on a regular basis, as a national event in some years and by jurisdiction in other years. If you know students who are interested in ministry, tell them about EXPLORATION and help send them to the event. For information, visit www.gbhem.org/exploration.

Resources

General Resources

Unless otherwise noted, the following resources, grouped by ministry area, can be ordered from the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007. Some of these are also available at www.gbhem.org.

The Black College Fund

Unless otherwise indicated, resources are available through United Methodist Communications at 888-UMC-3242. Please provide the code and quantity needed when calling.

The Black College Fund bookmark. Lists facts and information about the eleven UM-related historically black colleges and universities.

The Black College Fund brochure. Includes information and location of all United Methodist-related black colleges and universities, along with ten reasons to attend a historically black college.

Black College Fund bulletin inserts (#85800306). “Contribute to the Legacy” is a celebration of the history of the Black College Fund. Available from United Methodist Communications (888-346-3862) or online at www.umcgiving.org.

Instruments of Change DVD. This thirteen-minute DVD highlights some of the world’s best and brightest students, their groundbreaking research, and forward-thinking majors. The eleven UM-related historically black colleges and universities supported by the Black College Fund are put in historical context through interviews with families, professors, and students. Their inspirational testimonies provide a rich portrait of the vitality and importance of these institutions. Available from the Black College Fund Office or from United Methodist Communications (888-346-3862) or online at www.umcom.org.

Operation Athletic Ambassador. A program in which your church hosts a visiting sports team from one of the historically black colleges. Contact the Black College Fund Office at www.gbhem.org/bcf.

Campus Ministry

Unless otherwise noted, the following resources can be ordered from the Campus Ministry Section, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007; or call 615-340-7404; or visit the website at www.gbhem.org.

Campus Ministry Matters. E-newsletter produced by the Campus Ministry Section. For campus ministers, college chaplains, annual conference leaders, and other interested persons. Subscribe by contacting the Campus Ministry Section at www.gbhem.org/campmin.

Campus Ministry: The Church Beyond Itself by Donald G. Shockley. This book gives an overview of campus ministry, outlines a theology of campus ministry, and makes the case for campus ministry as mission. Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.

Cartas del Corazon: Reflexiones sobre los Salmos. Estas reflexiones y oraciones sobre varios Salmos fueron escritas por alumnos universitarios y clérigos asignados a la tarea de la labor pastoral con alumnos universitarios auspiciado por la Iglesia Metodista Unida. Available in print from the Campus Ministry Section or online at www.gbhem.org/campus_ministry.

Letters from the Heart: Reflections on the Psalms. These reflections and prayers on various psalms were written by college and university students, as well as a campus minister, all of whom have been involved in campus ministries sponsored by The United Methodist Church. Available in print from the Campus Ministry Section or online at www.gbhem.org/campusministry.

17 Ways to Welcome College Students. This flier provides tried-and-true suggestions for your congregation to become a more welcoming place for college and university students. Free. Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.

The Call to Ministry as Vocation

Answering God's Call for Your Life: A Look at Christian Calls and Church Vocations, by Robert Roth. A guide to help young people listen, discern, and understand God's call in their lives and its meaning for their life's work. ISBN 978-0-938162-94-0. Available from Cokesbury at (800) 672-1789 or online at www.cokesbury.com.

Awakened to a Calling: Reflections on the Vocation of Ministry, by Ann Svennungsen and Melissa Wiginton. Abingdon Press, 2005. ISBN 978-068705-390-2. Eight sermons on vocation offer an important resource for high school and college students making vocational decisions.

The Christian as Minister: An Exploration into the Meaning of God's Call, edited by Robert F. Kohler and Sharon Rubey. An introduction into the meaning of God's call to ministry, the vision for that ministry, and the opportunities The United Methodist Church offers to live out that call. ISBN 978-0-938162-98-8. Available from Cokesbury at (800) 672-1789 or online at www.cokesbury.com.

ExploreCalling.org. A website for high school students, college students, seminarians, and other young adults interested in exploring God's call in their lives. Includes resources, tools for spiritual formation, and upcoming events. A resource CD-ROM is also available. Request it by email at explore@gbhem.org or at www.ExploreCalling.org.

ExploreCalling.org Explorecalling.org is a bridge between those exploring ministry as vocation and those who work as leaders or mentors in discernment and leadership development. The website invites people to consider God's call in their lives, and

provides answers to questions about candidacy and ministry in The United Methodist Church. ExploreCalling.org has the latest resources for those who work with youth and young adults. Visitors to the site may sign up to receive updated information and highlighted features.

Schools, Colleges, and Universities

Unless otherwise noted, the following resources can be ordered from the Division of Higher Education, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007; 615-340-7402; www.gbhem.org).

Directory of the International Association of Methodist-Related Schools, Colleges, and Universities. Lists over 750 institutions, representing 67 nations, related to the World Methodist Council. Resources available online at www.gbhem.org/iamsku.

Schools, Colleges, and Universities of The United Methodist Church. A complete listing of higher education institutions related to The United Methodist Church. Includes a map of their locations. Available from the Division of Higher Education. Resources available online at www.gbhem.org/education.

Africa University

Africa University Fund brochures. Features students from Africa University, the only United Methodist degree-granting university in Africa. Available from United Methodist Communications (888) 346-3862; www.umcgiving.org.

Africa University Fund bulletin inserts. Postcard bulletin inserts share the stories of three Africa University students and how studying at Africa University has helped them to discover hope for the future. Available from United Methodist Communications (888) 346-3862; www.umcgiving.org.

Africa University on the Web. To find out more about Africa University, visit www.support-africauniversity.org.

Africa University Today. A periodic newsletter highlighting the connection between Africa University and United Methodist congregations. Available from the Africa University Development Office (615) 340-7438; audevoffice@gbhem.org.

Loans and Scholarships

Unless otherwise noted, the following resources can be ordered from the Office of Loans and Scholarships, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007; 615-340-7346 for loans; 615-340-7344 for scholarships; www.gbhem.org).

Loan and Scholarship Special Offering Days envelopes and posters. Envelopes and posters for each of the United Methodist Special Sundays, including those with offerings that help support higher education and ministry: Native American Awareness Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day. These may be ordered from

United Methodist Communications (888-346-3862; www.umcgiving.org).

United Methodist Loans and Scholarships Handbook. Lists all loans and scholarships available, including criteria, deadlines, and applications. Includes loans and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. Also lists links with other United Methodist agencies and organizations that offer scholarships.

Women of Color brochure. Outlines scholarships available to women of color who are PhD or ThD students.

Websites

Division of Higher Education

www.gbhem.org/education

The Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Web pages provide information about and links to the following:

United Methodist-Related Schools, Colleges, Universities, and UM Theological Schools

www.gbhem.org/education (with links to institutions' Web pages)

Higher Education and Public Policy

www.gbhem.org/education www.naicu.edu

United Methodist-Related Campus Ministries and Chaplaincies

www.gbhem.org/campmin

United Methodist Loans and Scholarship Program

www.gbhem.org/loansandscholarships

Special Sundays With Offerings

www.umcgiving.org

The Black College Fund

www.gbhem.org/bcf

The United Methodist Student Movement (UMSM)

www.umsm.org

Explore Calling

www.ExploreCalling.org

Africa University

www.africau.edu; www.support-africauniversity.org; www.umcgiving.org

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

www.umhef.org

Interpreter Magazine

www.interpretermagazine.org

UMC Agencies & Helpful Links

General Board of Church and Society, www.umc-gbcs.org, 202-488-5600; Service Center, 1-800-967-0880

General Board of Discipleship (d/b/a Discipleship Ministries), www.umcdiscipleship.org, 877-899-2780; Discipleship Resources, <http://bookstore.upperroom.org>, 1-800-972-0433; The Upper Room, www.upperroom.org, 1-800-972-0433; email: info@umcdiscipleship.org

General Board of Global Ministries, www.umcmmission.org, 1-800-862-4246 or 212-870-3600; email: info@umcmmission.org

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, www.gbhem.org, 615-340-7400

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, www.gbophb.org, 847-869-4550

General Commission on Archives and History, www.gcah.org, 973-408-3189

General Commission on Religion & Race, www.gcorr.org, 202-547-2271; email: info@gcorr.org

General Commission on the Status & Role of Women, www.gcsrw.org, 1-800-523-8390

General Commission on United Methodist Men, www.gcumm.org, 615-340-7145

General Council on Finance and Administration, www.gcfa.org, 866-367-4232 or 615-329-3393

Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting (General Commission on United Methodist Men), www.gcumm.org, 615-340-7145

The United Methodist Publishing House, www.umph.org, 615-749-6000; Curric-U-Phone, 1-800-251-8591; Cokesbury, www.cokesbury.com, 1-800-672-1789

United Methodist Communications, www.umcom.org, 615-742-5400; EcuFilm, 1-888-346-3862; InfoServ, email: infoserv@umcom.org; *Interpreter Magazine*, www.interpretermagazine.org, 615-742-5441

United Methodist Women, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org; 212-870-3900

For additional resources, contact your annual conference office.