



The United Methodist Church

Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area
Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference

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Dear Clergy,

The Foundation for Evangelism has been helping to strengthen our denomination for over 60 years. As you may know, the signature program of the Foundation is the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism. The Foundation supports Professors of Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Duke Divinity School, Saint Paul School of Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary, and eight more across our country and the world. There are many things that the Foundation has done and is doing to develop leaders for The United Methodist Church but its most recent effort is to provide relatively large grants, called Venture Capital Grants, to entities within the church that are doing innovative, creative, and effective leadership development initiatives.

My experience with the Foundation for Evangelism is relatively new but I know it is an entity that is helping to strengthen The United Methodist Church. Dr. Jack Ewing, Executive Director and CEO of the Foundation will be in Pensacola on January 19 and 20 at three United Methodist Churches. Jack and Lane Rees (Board of Trustees Chair at the Foundation) are inviting pastors in our conference who resonate with the mission, vision, passion, and focus of the Foundation and may be willing to help guide the future of the Foundation. I would like for you to be a part of this group.

As you know, there is nothing more important for the future of our church than the identification, training, and placement of persons of exceptional leadership potential. While there are many organizations within The United Methodist Church that are focusing on parts of this critical task I am convinced that The Foundation for Evangelism is uniquely positioned to be a major force in shaping our future through its efforts.

I hope you will be able to attend one of these Pensacola area events ~ noon lunch at St. Luke on January 19; 6:00 pm dinner at Niceville First on January 19, or noon lunch at Point Washington on January 20. Please contact the churches directly to confirm your attendance.

Grace and Peace,

Paul L. Leeland