

Bequests and Endowments Drive Ministries

By The Rev. Ed Bailey, Executive Director



This year's UM Foundation grant application period closed on April 29. Sixteen churches and nine agencies submitted applications for this year's awards, which will be announced during June. We thank all who submitted their applications and hope everyone found it easy to do so with the aid of our newly developed online application process. Our review process is now ongoing under the direction of the Foundation's Grants Committee.

Each year since 2001 the Foundation has awarded grants with funds made available through a generous bequest of Robert M. Stewart, a former Board of Directors Chair. To date there have been 330 grants awarded, amounting to a total of \$635,550. Best of all, these funds have been generated completely through investment income, meaning the original amount of this bequest is still intact. This allows us to keep planning for the continuation of this long-term program.

Western Pennsylvania United Methodist churches and agencies have used these grant awards to initiate and sustain many important and timely ministries.

These grants exemplify incredibly well how a [bequest](#) or [endowment](#) can help us foster our faith. There are so many fine ways that such long-term gifts can be used. And even a relatively modest sum can really bring about substantial change for your church or agency. If you or someone you know is considering establishing a bequest as part of a will, or an endowment to support a ministry or ministries, please [contact us](#) and we'll help you with the process.