



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



The Commission exists to provide **training, support, oversight** and **accountability** for the mission of the United Methodist Church on our college and university campuses.

As United Methodists, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have been given a unique opportunity to respond to this call because **the world lives on the college campuses of Georgia.**

Through these ministries, we create opportunities for students to **discover their faith** and **explore their calling** through intentional **discipleship** and **active faith** experiences.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WE SERVE

ANDREW COLLEGE
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA
DALTON STATE COLLEGE
EMORY UNIVERSITY
FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (SAVANNAH)
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (STATESBORO)
GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

LAGRANGE COLLEGE
MERCER UNIVERSITY
MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OXFORD COLLEGE
PAINE COLLEGE
REINHARDT UNIVERSITY
SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA (DAHLONEGA)
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA (GAINESVILLE)
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
WESLEYAN COLLEGE
YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE



STORIES OF IMPACT

TINOTENDA DUBE
STUDENT - UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA



I've met the best friends in Wesley, people who are really cool and encourage me to be who God calls me to be at the same time. Which is not necessarily easy to find in college. Wesley is the place that I go to relax when I've had a rough class and it's the place that I constantly find someone to talk to about important things. The community I have at Wesley is currently, in my life, the group of people who are most accepting of me (it's super awesome to have people who choose to see the good in me.) But also, I get honest advice from my Wesley peers. The truth about things I need to pray about and maybe change, educational advice. I know God desires for us to be in community, and I know how important it is to him because of the people he gave me at Wesley.

REV. SAM DAWKINS
WESLEY DIRECTOR - UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA



Over the last year, we have been busy continuing to build a new ministry at the University of West Georgia. We launched our student leadership team which now consists of 10 students who are engaged in weekly discipleship, worship, and outreach on campus. We took our first mission trip to Memphis, Tennessee, and we partnered with KSU Wesley for our first Fall Retreat. We have also begun holding worship services on campus and in our house just off campus each Wednesday night during the semester. Along with the launch of Sunday morning services at New Church West Georgia, UWG Wesley has seen new students become engaged in a community of faith at UWG, and we can't wait to see how God continues to grow our community and our influence on campus.

LINDA BUCHANAN
PRESIDENT - ANDREW COLLEGE



Andrew College offers a variety of religious life opportunities on campus. Our part-time chaplain, who also serves as the pastor for Cuthbert United Methodist Church, works closely with the Dean of Students to organize religious life programs such as weekly chapel services, informal fellowship and prayer gatherings, and an official Wesley Fellowship program. This year, the College also played a part in giving one of our students the opportunity to intern with our pastor/chaplain. In addition to programs organized by the chaplain, the College offers a growing Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and also invites local laypeople to hold small-group Bible studies with Andrew students on campus. Andrew College President Linda Buchanan also attended the NASCUMC annual meetings on a regular basis.

TYVEZ WOODBERRY
STUDENT - KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY



It used to be just a name of my friend that lived down the street. Now, the name means much more. Wesley for me was what saved me in the lowest point of my life. There was a time where I had felt lost and had no direction. I had no friends I could/wanted to really hang out with, but when I got to Wesley my whole perspective changed. Suddenly I had these people who were friendly and supportive and gave me a sense of home in Kennesaw. I would get invited places and would vibe well with everyone and for the first time in my college career, I was content with where I was in life. Seeing everyone praising Jesus and listening to Evan's messages, allowed me to tap into something that I wasn't used to. Wesley has changed my life for the better and I'm forever grateful.

MICHAEL McCORD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - UMCOMMISSION



I am who I am today because a small church welcomed me into its life while I was a college student. This community became a place where I would reimagine my faith and discover my call to ministry by being invited to lead (and encouraged to try again when I failed). This is what college ministry is all about. We create opportunities for students to discover their faith and explore their calling through intentional discipleship and active faith experiences. Today, the United Methodists in Georgia ensure that students at over 26 campuses across the state have the same opportunity as me. Through our Wesley Ministries and UM-related colleges, we support more than 25,000 students on their educational and spiritual journeys. None of this would be possible without your generosity and commitment to the future. Together, we believe we can transform the world, because the world lives on the college campus. Students Matter.

REV. DAVID WOOD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GNTV MEDIA MINISTRY



The campus ministry at Georgia Tech set me on my way by revealing what God had called me too. The Wesley Foundation there led by Dr. Bill Landis asked questions and brought scripture to life through weekly worship and Bible studies. These times of study and worship coupled with the friends and fellowship led me to explore what became a calling that I did not even realize existed to ordained ministry. Years later, I know that my ministry was dramatically enriched and the friends I made there continue to be an important connection for me as many of them have gone into ministry too. The Wesley Foundations and Fellowships are truly a gift to our young people. I am who I am because of a Wesley Foundations supported and strengthened by the Georgia Commission on Higher Education.



"Our college students aspire to change the world and God is actively pursuing them as they dream for the future. We want to disciple them and help them discern where the Spirit is leading them."



"We are providing a framework for those who have been called to serve on our campuses. We desire to provide the resources, both physical and spiritual, for them to freely give and serve."

YOUNG CLERGY ACADEMY

The Young Clergy Academy is helping create onramps for young adults to become leaders in The United Methodist Church. By creating mentoring relationships with emerging leaders and local church leadership, the Young Clergy Academy interns are experiencing ministry and clarifying God's call on their lives.

To date, the Young Clergy Academy has enabled 25 young adults to try on ministry for a season and take next steps in their calling. These young adults are now in seminary, leading youth and children's ministries, camping ministries, serving as Wesley Foundation directors, and growing the church in new and exciting ways.



Current Participants

Amanda Gall - Isle of Hope UMC
 Ashley Fenstermaker - Georgia Southern Wesley
 Austin McMillan - Kennesaw State University Wesley
 Clay Boerner - Statesboro First UMC

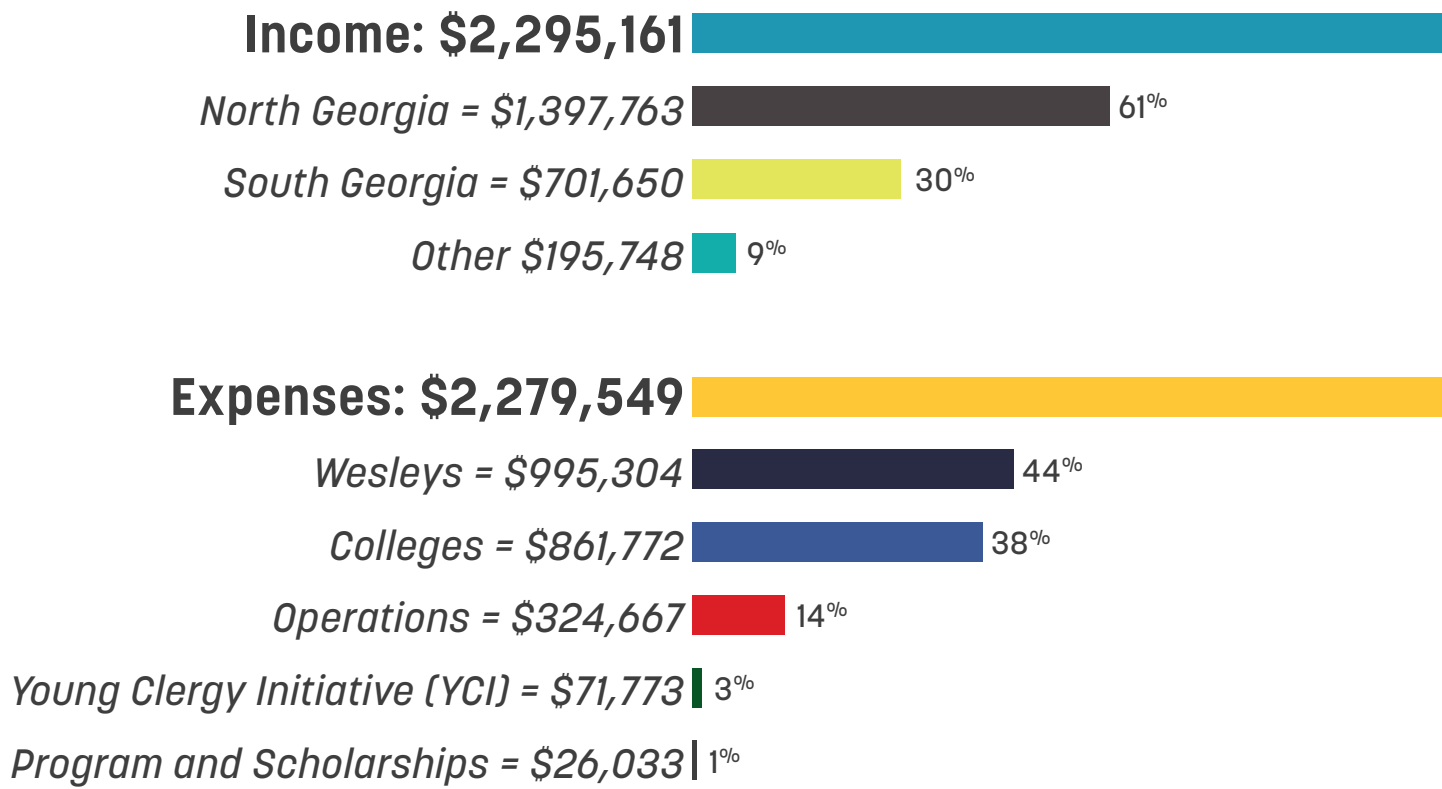
Dale Giefing - LaGrange College Chaplain
 Rebecca Paul - Wesley UMC, Macon
 Sarah Pounds - Wesley of Macon
 Tripp Anderson - Metter UMC

STUDENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT '19

There is no quicker way to transform the world than to invest in emerging leaders. Our annual Student Leadership Retreat is designed to inspire and equip student leaders from across Georgia to strengthen their college ministries and create the change they long to see in the world. It also gives student leaders a unique space to rest, worship, and connect with other leaders from across the state.



FINANCIAL REPORT



HIGHER EDUCATION AND COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

The United Methodist Church has a long-standing commitment to serving students on the college and university campuses of the world. Through the UMCommission, the North and South Georgia Annual Conferences support 9 UM-related campuses and 19 Wesley Foundations across the state.



COMMISSION STAFF

- Michael McCord Executive Director
- Lesley Baskette Director of Administration
- Evan DeYoung Director of New Initiatives
- Jonathan Smith Campus Ministry Liaison
- Bob Beckwith (not pictured) Campus Ministry Liaison
- Nick Smith Creative Director
- Jonathan Duncan Design Director
- Jessica Smith Young Clergy Academy Coordinator
- Justin Patton Social Media
- Nathan DeYoung (not pictured) Videographer



"Discipleship and accountability are crucial. We have already seen countless lives changed by the presence of Spirit-filled college ministries."

YOU ARE THE REASON WE CAN CHANGE STUDENTS' LIVES

The UMCommission engages the hearts, minds and souls of thousands of college students by supporting Wesley Foundations and United Methodist-related institutions across Georgia.

Your support puts you in the heart of our commitment to faithfully serve these students and their communities by helping us:

- Launch new Wesley ministries
- Build capacity at our fastest growing ministries
- Invest in the religious life of our UM-related colleges
- Grow student leaders

SUPPORT THE FUTURE BY GIVING TODAY!
UMCOMMISSION.ORG/GIVE

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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