



2020 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 & UNIVERSITIES SERVED

Andrew College
Augusta University
Clark Atlanta University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
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 & TESTIMONIES OF IMPACT



Lyn Meadows | Board Member

From personal experience, I know the power of campus ministry not just to impact a life, but to change the trajectory of a life. I am a product of campus ministry myself, and I've witnessed its impact on my own children as well as on students in my church. For so many, Wesley is a home away from home—giving students life-shaping relationships with others at a time when they are questioning so much about who they are and who they want to become. Wesley gives students both an anchor to ground them and an invitation to explore and deepen their faith in ways they may never have had. As a mother and pastor, my greatest desire for my students is for them to have a community that points them toward Jesus, assures them they are loved, and challenges them to become who they were created to be. That's Wesley.



Perry Rountree | Vice President of the Commission

I have had the honor of serving the commission for a number of years. I have a unique perspective in that I began my journey by volunteering as a board member of the Georgia Southern Wesley Foundation when I lived in Statesboro. I enjoyed working with a wonderful group of students and volunteers there. It has been a pleasure to see that ministry change and grow with the community and college around it. I was then honored to be asked to serve on the commission for the South Georgia Conference and allowed the privilege of seeing the tough work of managing this organization in the aftermath of an economic downturn. Later, when life brought me to the Atlanta area, I was honored to be asked to serve again, this time for the North Georgia Conference. I can say that while it has sometimes been challenging, it has been rewarding and an honor to serve. I and all the many lives you have touched thank you for your continued support of the commission.



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



Susanna Baxter | Board Member

As a product of a United Methodist Affiliated institution (Pfeiffer), I've experienced the transformational work of a Methodist college experience. The mission field of these campuses is fertile, holy ground. Student lives are impacted in meaningful, beautiful ways. As I survey our Methodist colleges, I burst with pride with what is happening. Generations of students' lives are changing, whether they participate in the formal religious life activities because they are getting consistent doses of faith throughout their experience at the college.

I think of Andrew College and the nurses they are now able to supply to an extremely underserved region of our state. I think of the fact that over 40% of the nurses serving the hospital system in LaGrange's region are LaGrange graduates. Those nurses hold the hands of the scared, the joyful, the dying—they are the hands of God—and our college prepared their hearts and minds for the job.

I think of Reinhardt and the musicians and police officers they send out into the world. Compassionate, thoughtful, talented voices in our community that give us peace, albeit in two different forms, but nevertheless impactful.

I think of Young Harris and the teachers they send into classrooms across the state to minister to the young. I think of their involvement in the local community—for a long time, providing a professor to teach AP-level courses as the county high school had no such offering.

I think of Wesleyan and the strong, faithful women that come from that unique experience. The nurses, the scientists—we don't yet know what these STEM majors will go out into the world and solve, but I know they will do amazing things.

I think of Paine College and the high number of first generation, low income students that they serve. These are students that could easily fall through the cracks.

When I think of Clark Atlanta, I remember its important role in our country's history. For a long time, it was the only place a person of color could obtain a graduate degree. It now has the leading prostate cancer research center focused on African-American men in the country. What a gift our denomination will give to the world, the pain that will be avoided for families, when they figure out how to better detect and cure this cancer.

I'm proud to financially support the collegiate ministries supported through The Commission.



Mackenzie Shover | Senior at Georgia College Wesley

Wesley has brought me some of the greatest friendships I have ever encountered, and it taught me how to actively pursue a relationship with Jesus that is meaningful and my own. I have learned so much about God's grace, humility, peace, love, and provision not just from the messages and worship, but also from the people that make up Wesley. I came into my freshman year in a pretty rough place with no friends here at school and severe anxiety that plagued my thoughtlife making me afraid of stepping into most opportunities. After I attended my first Wesley during sophomore year, I left knowing that something in me had shifted and that I had found my place. This ministry changed the trajectory of my life. I will be reaping the benefits of the seeds planted in this season for the rest of my life.



Emily Pittman | Student at Georgia Southern Wesley

Since I have been a part of Georgia Southern Wesley, I have seen and felt God moving in my life and in my peers' lives in numerous ways. I've been honored to serve as the worship coordinator the past year and a half, but now I have the joy of serving as an intern. Through working at Wesley I have been able to truly see how the Spirit is moving in our ministry and on our campus. This year we have experienced an increase in passion and desire for Jesus in our students. Wesley has provided me with a genuine and Christ-like community of friends that challenge and encourage me in my faith in all of my hardships. I thank God daily for Wesley. The past three years of my life have been marked by immense joy, strong friendships, and a deepening faith.




Morgan Wilson | Senior at Georgia College Wesley

Wesley is more than a service for college students one night a week. Wesley embodies a community that continually works towards serving Jesus and others. It was at Wesley where I became confident in who the Lord has called me to be. I have been immensely shaped by the Lord and the Wesley community since my freshman year. It's been wonderful to take the information that I've learned at Wesley and share it with those closest to me. I greatly value the significance that Wesley places on discipleship. I've witnessed discipleship meetings substantially grow students. This community has imprinted me for the rest of my life. The Lord has shown up time and time again for the Wesley community. I am eager to see all that He will continue to reveal to this faithful group of believers.

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. The nine-month program is an experience that helps participants discern their specific calling to full-time ministry.

The 2019-2020 class of the Young Clergy Academy includes seven recent college graduates who are considering full-time ministry as a career. These interns are serving in traditional church settings as well as Wesley Foundations and other college ministry across Georgia.

CURRENT PARTICIPANTS

Brooks Hanson
Georgia College

Brianna Lewis
The Chapel

Sam Kellum
Kennesaw State University Wesley

Caleb Russell
Richmond Hill UMC

Rebecca Frantz
West Georgia Church

Mary Chandler
LaGrange College

Josh Meeks
UNG Wesley

CAMPUS CRAWL

Campus Crawl 2019 Recap.

25 students from the North and South Georgia Conferences visited 16 Methodists universities, colleges and Wesley ministries across the state. One of the purposes of the trip is to introduce to incoming college freshmen ways to engage with Christian religious life on campus.

Campus Crawl enables high school students to expand their horizons when it comes to potential college choices - we highlight smaller colleges as well as large universities to help students decide what kind of higher education experience would fit them best.





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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income: \$2,282,426

North Georgia \$1,392,674

South Georgia \$677,244

Other \$202,508



61%

30%

9%

Expenses: \$2,195,255

Wesley Ministries \$934,316

College \$698,000

Operations \$343,966

Young Clergy Initiative (YCI) \$87,419

Program and Scholarships \$2,000

Other \$87,984



44%

38%

14%

3%

1%

1%



COMMISSION STAFF

Michael McCord | Executive Director

Lesley Baskette | Director of Administration

Evan DeYoung | Director of New Initiatives

Jonathan Smith | Campus Ministry Liaison

Bob Beckwith | Campus Ministry Liaison

Adam Roberts | Chaplain Liaison

Nick Smith | Creative Director

Jonathan Duncan | Design Director

Jessica Smith | YCA Coordinator

Justin Patton | Graphic Design & Social Media



Higher Education & Collegiate Ministry.

We continue to experience extraordinary growth across our campuses. For us, this demonstrates the deep calling to be in ministry with college students on their campuses in ways that center on a faith tradition rooted in meaningful worship and intentional discipleship. We want to thank all those who allow us to respond to this calling.

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.

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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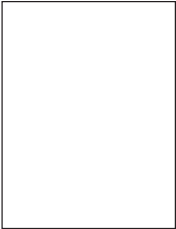
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