



2018 | ANNUAL
REPORT



HIGHER EDUCATION & COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

WORSHIP + DISCIPLESHIP + MISSION + OUTREACH + LEADERSHIP + INNOVATION

The United Methodist Church has a long-standing commitment to serving students on the college & university campuses of the world. Through the UMC Commission, the North & South Georgia Annual Conferences support **9 UM-related campuses** & **18 Wesley Foundations** across the state.

UM COMMISSION STAFF

Michael McCord // Executive Director

Lesley Baskette // Administrative Associate

Jonathan Smith // Campus Ministry Liaison

Evan DeYoung // Campus Ministry Liaison

Nick Smith // Creative Director

Jonathan Duncan // Design Director

Janay Boyer // Development Specialist

Leigh Martin // Young Clergy Coordinator



COASTAL GEORGIA COLLEGE | EMORY | FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



ABOUT

5,000

**STUDENTS IN WORSHIP &
DISCIPLESHIP EACH WEEK**

GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY | GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE

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REBECCA

UM COMMISSION MEMBER

Though I am a third generation United Methodist pastor, my call to ministry was not a forgone conclusion. I had been nurtured by the church throughout my life, but as an undergraduate at Oxford, the chaplain was the first to suspect that God was calling me into vocational ministry. Being a part of the campus ministry meant that I had opportunities to lead in worship and test the waters of ministry. During my junior year at Emory I felt the surety of God's calling. The encouragement and support that I received from our United Methodist connection at Emory gave me the courage to move forward and pursue the call.

After I was ordained, I had the opportunity to be on the other side of the educational equation, teaching Old and New Testament at Andrew College. I saw the faculty encourage many future preachers, as well as future nurses, teachers, farmers, and business managers. Andrew's graduates go out prepared to flourish. I am grateful for my years at Oxford, Emory, and Andrew. These years, both as a student and teacher, helped to open my eyes to the world around me: to people who enriched my life, to injustices I had never noticed, to possibilities I had never imagined. My years at United Methodist schools helped to make me a more faithful follower of Jesus.

Our United Methodist Colleges and Universities help to prepare students for their future, not only through academic achievement, but through an environment that encourages growth as whole persons. Our schools make a way for students to love the Lord with their hearts, souls, and minds. By encouraging community involvement and engagement with the world, they help students to love their neighbors. Our schools are creating a place for many more faithful followers of Jesus to grow.



DAYLAN

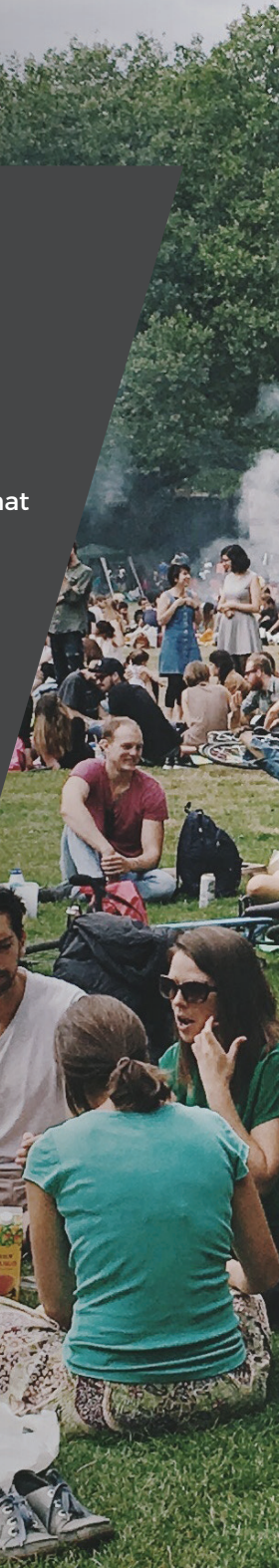
JUNIOR, GA SOUTHERN STUDENT

Wesley has been not only a student ministry for me, but more importantly it has been a community. The people at Wesley is what truly makes it so great. I meet many of my best friends coming to Wesley and the support, guidance, and comradery they provide is immeasurable.

Knowing that when I volunteer and go to Wesley I am introducing others into a community which has had such a dramatic impact on my life truly does bring me joy. Having been a part of Wesley for about 2 years now, I know that all the people here go above and beyond; they genuinely invest themselves in the people. The Holy Spirit is clearly at work when I consider the lives we impact.

Everything I have done ranging from community groups to volunteering, or even intramural sports and lip-synch battles, has been through a community which builds up one another and glorifies God. When I first started going to Wesley it was mainly because I was invited by some friends and I decided to go without really knowing what the experience would be like. Wesley was not only my first introduction to student ministry, but also into ministry in general. It provided the perfect place to meet Christ-like people and guide others into knowing Christ.

Wesley caught my attention immediately and I have been hooked ever since. When I look back at the past few years, leading at Wesley has been without a doubt one of the most impactful decisions I've made. I'm grateful for the opportunity that Wesley provided me and I'm proud of the amazing opportunities we provide others.





KATIE

SENIOR, UGA STUDENT

I started coming to Wesley as a senior in high school, this is my 5th year spending every Wednesday with Wesley. As soon as I got to UGA, I immediately signed up to be discipled and joined a Freshley small group. Since then, I have become a student discipler myself and joined Wesley's prophetic ministry, Encounter, and will be going on my first Wesley mission trip this summer.

My first two years of college were marked by the usual difficulties of undergraduate students — stressing over majors, relationships with friends, and other general insecurities. They were still hard things to go through, but thanks to incredible lessons every week and chats with my discipler, these things never overwhelmed me. Suddenly, during my junior year, my dad unexpectedly passed away and my world came crashing in around me.

The Lord felt unfamiliar to me, I had to force myself to come to Wesley each week, and I nearly quit discipling altogether. However, it was in that incredibly painful season of my life that the Lord in His mercy showed me that while I was wandering miles into my grief, He wasn't going anywhere — and neither was Wesley. The Lord used Wesley to teach me what real community looks like.

During that dark time, Wesley was the guiding light that brought me back to the Lord when I wanted to let grief and lies from the enemy consume me. My discipler never stopped praying, my friends never stopped caring, and the directors never stopped speaking truth over me. Thanks to the work of the Lord in me and at Wesley, I walk in joy, I walk in freedom, and I could not be more thankful to have had this spirit led people pouring into me for the last five years.

NEW LAUNCHES

NEW CAMPUSES • NEW MINISTRIES • NEW STUDENTS • NEW LEADERS

2016

COASTAL GEORGIA
AUGUSTA STATE
MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE

2017

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
GEORGIA GWINNETT

2018

COLUMBUS STATE
NORTH GEORGIA, GAINESVILLE

FUTURE

ALBANY STATE
DALTON
BERRY COLLEGE
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY
AGNES SCOTT

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY | OXFORD COLLEGE | PAINE COLLEGE



DAN

PRESIDENT, LAGRANGE COLLEGE

Following John Wesley's conviction that piety, education and service are essential elements to transform the world, LaGrange College supports students in their search for truth by challenging the mind through an education that integrates personal and spiritual growth, and inspiring the soul toward community service and personal vocation.

More than one-third of the students who come to LaGrange represent the first generation in their families to attend college. Forty percent of them are Pell-eligible, able to receive federal funds reserved for families with the most financial need, and 20 percent are full-need, meaning their families' ability to contribute to college costs is zero.

LaGrange College is called to help such students achieve their dreams of a college education and meaningful vocation. The partnership of the church and of other agencies that support this work makes student transformation possible.

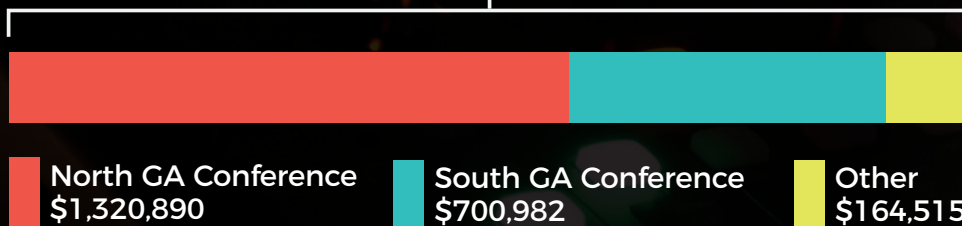
Our college's mission statement ends by calling us to "prepare students to become successful, responsible citizens who aspire to lives of integrity and moral courage." We—and the United Methodist Church—are interested in more than giving students a credential for a career: We are concerned about each student's moral, character and spiritual development.

Each year, as students cross the commencement platform, we see evidence of the success of that mission. We are grateful for our sacred partnership with the church that makes such transformation possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT

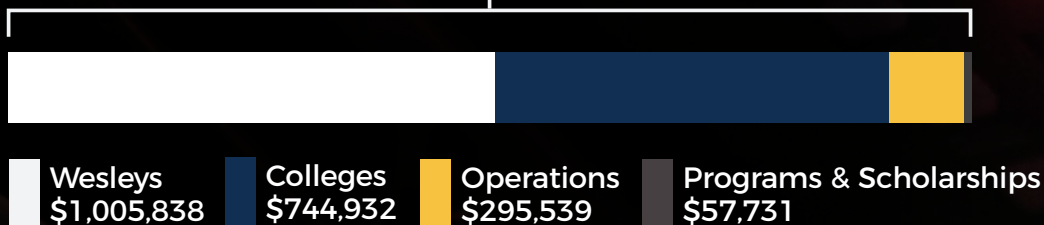
\$2,186,387

INCOME



\$2,106,040

EXPENSES



WEST GEORGIA | VALDOSTA STATE | WESLEYAN COLLEGE | YOUNG HARRIS



EVAN

DIRECTOR, KENNESAW STATE

Wesley Foundation's and the United Methodist Church's commitment to supporting higher education has had a profound influence on my life. Our society has created a high pressure situation for our college years. The costs associated with education, the academic expectations, and the social challenges of modern society come together to form a challenging season of life with incredible formative opportunities. That storm is where I found myself, like millions of other students, in the Fall of 2006 at the University of Georgia. I was young, unreasonably confident, and obviously had all of the answers to life and my future; at least externally. My internal spiritual life was another matter.

Growing up in the Methodist Church I knew my foundation had been invested in deeply but I was tired. Searching for that next step, I had to decide if the spiritual truths instilled in me growing up were truly my own. Was my faith simply a social one? I flirted with the thought of taking a step back and seeing what else the world had to offer now that I was on my own. Like other times in my life, God had already gone before me.

I reluctantly attended services at the Wesley Foundation and quickly realized that the prayers that so many had been praying for me throughout my time in the Church were being answered through their programs and staff. God was teaching me. I developed an external social life with strong believers who gave me room to ask questions and grow. Wesley provided leadership opportunities for our city and my peers, while investing in me personally through the discipleship mentoring program. They gently helped me realize I don't have all the answers and taught me that part of growing in my faith was seeking, searching, and asking questions.

My walk began with a children's Sunday School class at Hillside UMC. It was furthered by Confirmation and youth group. But for me, a lifetime of faithfulness and discipleship would not have happened without the support and direction of the Wesley Foundation during my college years. Of this, I am forever grateful.

ENGAGE

ANNUAL FUND | 2018



GOAL

**\$35,000 + CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO
OUR CURRENT FACILITIES**

YOU ARE THE REASON WE CAN CHANGE STUDENTS' LIVES.

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

The Engage Annual Fund 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

ENGAGE THE FUTURE BY GIVING TODAY!

[UMCommission.org/Give](https://umcommission.org/Give)

UMCommission
Higher Education + Collegiate Ministry

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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