

IN MISSION & MINISTRY

United Methodists at Work Developing Disciples



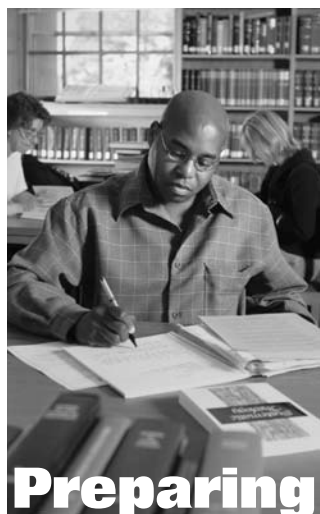
United Methodists have cared about education since the days of John Wesley. There are hundreds of United Methodist schools around the globe. Three United Methodist colleges are located in Kansas – Southwestern College and Kansas Wesleyan University in Kansas West and Baker University in the Kansas East Conference. Baker receives financial support from the Kansas East Conference through the Special Askings in addition to the conference budget.

“Baker planted seeds in me that came to fruition in ways I did not expect,” said Rev. Kurt Cooper, a graduate of Baker University and a newly ordained deacon in Kansas East. “I think one of the things for me at Baker was that it was a Liberal Arts College, and it allowed me to take a wide variety of courses that were not necessarily related to my field of study.”

By encouraging students to study outside their field, United Methodist colleges help students grow in ways that prepare them for leadership roles in their communities and congregations as well as their chosen fields and the world.

United Methodist colleges like Baker provide a quality education while at the same time giving students a broader, more holistic experience where faith is talked about as easily as business ethics.

Likewise, United Methodist seminaries provide an atmosphere for the development of new leaders. Seminaries receive support through local church giving to the denomination-wide Ministerial Education Fund, which is included in the conference mission and ministry funds.



Preparing to Serve

“I think that going to Wesley [Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.] really helped me prepare to go into ministry in the United Methodist Church in ways that wouldn't have been possible elsewhere,” said Rev. Andrew Conard, an associate pastor at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood.

The Ministerial Education Fund is split between support for seminary students in the annual conference and support for the operation of United Methodist seminaries. In Kansas East, 12 students each semester receive financial support through MEF scholarships.

“It's common for clergy to have significant seminary debt,” Cooper said. Cooper graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo. “It's the same level of debt that a doctor or lawyer would have without the potential for income.”

Both United Methodist colleges and seminaries strive to prepare the next generation of leaders for our communities and congregations. Your financial support makes their development possible.

United Methodists at Work ...

Baker University and Saint Paul seminary receive funding through the Special Askings portion of the Kansas East Conference budget. Kansas East uses its 25 percent of the MEF to provide financial assistance to seminary students who are working through the conference's candidacy process toward ordained ministry. Each semester 12 students receive assistance toward their seminary education.

Learn More About ...

MEF Fund at www.umcgiving.org
United Methodist Seminaries at www.gbhem.org
Baker University at www.bakeru.edu
Kansas Wesleyan University at www.kwu.edu
Southwestern College at www.sckans.edu

Shaping Futures



“Baker planted seeds in me that came to fruition in ways I did not expect.”

“I think you need a next generation of leaders,” said Rev. Nicole Conard, an associate pastor at Resurrection. “They bring passion, they bring excitement, they bring vision for ministry, and they bring a willingness to say, “here I am God, send me.” And the church needs them.” ■