



# Investor Update

## *The Foundation Loan Program "A Tangible Connection"*

The United Methodist Foundation is committed to its connectional roots, and through its various services, seeks to leverage these connections in ways that strengthen local churches by enabling and multiplying ministries. One example of this service is the Foundation's Loan Program.

When a church invests its endowment funds in the following Foundation Investment Funds - the Fixed Income Fund, the Balanced Income Fund, the Balanced Growth Fund, or the Endowment Fund, the church becomes a partner with the Foundation in the important ministry of the Foundation's Loan Program. All of these Investment Funds have a portion of their assets invested in the Foundation's Loan Program. Not only does the Loan Program contribute to asset diversification in the church's investment portfolio, it also provides a means of ministry by supporting the building and capital needs of other local United Methodist churches. Currently, the Foundation has over \$6.3 million dollars in loans to churches in our annual conference.

In response to the needs of local churches and customer feedback, the Foundation's loan application has been simplified and its loan process streamlined. The Foundation now has two loan officers, Daniel Hussey and Rev. Brian Wood, who work closely with our local churches. They assist churches by helping them to determine their building or capital needs, and by exploring funding options and alternatives. In addition to loans, these options might also include a capital campaign (the Foundation offers consulting services for capital campaigns as well).

The Milford UM Church in Milford, NH recently had a \$1.2 million dollar loan approved by the United Methodist Foundation to build a new church. Mr. Kirk Randlett, Milford UMC treasurer, was pleased with our new application process and was very thankful for Dan's guidance and assistance. Kirk says, *"Dan was always accessible and was good at getting back to me. He is a real asset for the Foundation"*. Kirk shared that the church had explored commercial loans with two banks. One bank wanted audited financial statements that would have cost the church about \$2,000 more, and the other bank had too many requirements. He went on to say that, *"The Foundation understands how a capital campaign works"*. Having loan officers that speak the language of the church is critical because the impact of a church's ministry goes beyond the numbers and the brick and mortar of the buildings. The Foundation celebrates the vision and the faithfulness of the Milford UMC in undertaking this project, and we are proud to be partners in ministry with our churches and agencies throughout the New England Conference.



Through your investments with the Foundation, local churches are "partnering" with other U.M. churches in the New England Conference in a variety of projects ranging from a new handicapped bathroom to building new churches. Investing a local church's endowment with the Foundation also strengthens our connections with other U.M. churches and their ministries. Investment performance is measured in many ways. When evaluating our portfolios, we look at returns in the light of asset classes, business cycles, and social responsibility, but what yardstick will we use to measure our partnership in ministry? Perhaps the next time we talk about the total return on our investments, we should also include a "connectional" factor that highlights the mission component of our investing in one another's ministries!

***For further information on the Foundation Loan Program  
Contact Leanne Mentzer at 1-800-595-4347 Ext. 100***