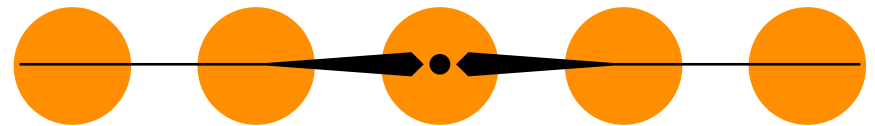




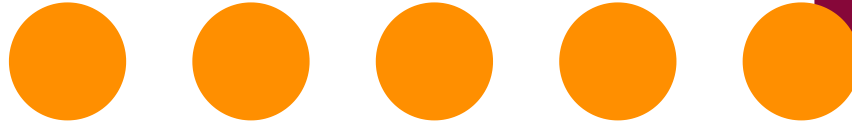
2020
Annual
Report

Transformation Abounds



UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND
34 Route 111 / Suite 102 / Derry NH 03038

A FAREWELL LOOK-BACK



This is my farewell letter as board chair. As I write this, I am completing my twentieth year as a Foundation board member, and seventh as board chair. It has been an honor and a blessing.

I was fortunate to join the board as it was emerging from the Foundation's earliest growing pains, and to participate in implementing the three-fold vision of its founders – investment management, stewardship, and grants. In my early years on the board, we revised the Foundation's fee structure and developed a state-of-the-art investment program that I believe is second to none in the world of socially responsible investing.

We have developed a wide array of stewardship education resources and services, including a variety of planned-giving options, and have recently embarked on a revamped, donor-centric development program designed to facilitate giving by individual United Methodists throughout New England to local churches and other ministries. The Foundation's grants program has become an indispensable part of the Foundation's ministry in and to the New England Conference. In the past year, the Foundation has added an anti-racism focus to its financial outreach. The Foundation has also embarked on a mission to facilitate leadership development among United Methodist clergy in New England.

I have had the privilege of working with three outstanding Foundation presidents – Wee-Li Tan, Jim Mentzer, and Ted Crass – each of whom had just the right set of talents to meet the organization's needs as he arrived, and with dedicated staff too numerous to mention (though I must single out our chief financial officer, Pam DiMartino, who has brilliantly managed the Foundation's finances). I have also had the opportunity to serve with dozens of fellow board members – brilliant, talented, passionate, committed individuals – many of whom have become good friends.

As I hand the baton to my successor, I am confident that the Foundation will become an ever more effective partner in ministry throughout New England, and I leave the board with a full heart.

John Regier - *Board of Directors / Executive Committee - Chair*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was unlike any other we have seen, and we needed more than ever to hear the Good News and know that God's love abounds.

Amid the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, our churches began to connect in new ways and discover new avenues to be in mission. In our ministry at the Foundation, we continually sought out opportunities to assist churches and our conference partners in this time.

The Foundation joined with our partners in the New England Conference and the Preachers' Aid Society to establish the Zarephath Fund, and we administered more than 70 emergency operating grants to dozens of churches and congregations most hard-hit by the pandemic. We also provided emergency payment relief to our loan partners and stewardship consulting and advice to churches across New England for a myriad of emergency financial issues.

The generosity of our sisters and brothers continued, and this report contains some of the many stories of our work to help donors connect to their passions, to provide grant support for ministries, and to further our investments in clergy leadership development throughout the year.

In 2020, the Foundation also made important decisions to participate in the sustained effort for racial equity. Throughout the year at staff meetings, the Foundation team has been intentional about growing in awareness of history and the pursuit of racial equity. We formed the Justice In Our Time Fund, a fund seeded primarily by the Foundation's own funds and funds from the New England Conference, to provide churches and individuals an opportunity to contribute to grants and investments that overcome structural barriers caused by systemic racism.

I want to thank our Board of Directors for their willingness to serve an additional year beyond their terms during the pandemic. I especially want to thank John Regier, our Board Chair for the past seven years. John's wisdom and leadership have been vital as the Foundation has continued to grow in both mission and in assets under management. In July 2021, we will welcome Pam Carpenter as our new Chair, along with several new board members from across New England.

Most of all, I thank all of our church partners for placing your trust in us. The Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization with the sole purpose to support the mission of New England churches and the New England Annual Conference. One hundred percent of our revenues are reinvested into the ministries of the church through our services.

We thank God for the opportunity to partner with you and for our ministry together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the Foundation staff any time that we can be helpful to you and your church.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ted Crass - *President*



FOUNDATION SERVICES

CHURCHES & AGENCIES

- Socially Responsible Investment Management Services
- Grants Ministry
- Planned Giving
- Stewardship Education & Resources
- Capital Campaigns
- Low Cost Loans

CLERGY

- Innovate.Integrate.Elevate
- Financial & Life Planning Education
- Personal Planning Consults
- Pastoral Financial Resources

DONORS

- Financial & Stewardship Education
- Trustee Services
- Will & Estate Planning
- Gift Planning Consults



GRANTS MINISTRY PROGRAM



Wesley Foundation / Cambridge MA

CIRCUIT is an online "campus" ministry connecting college students during the Covid pandemic as well as fostering meaningful communities for those at risk of loneliness & mental health challenges.

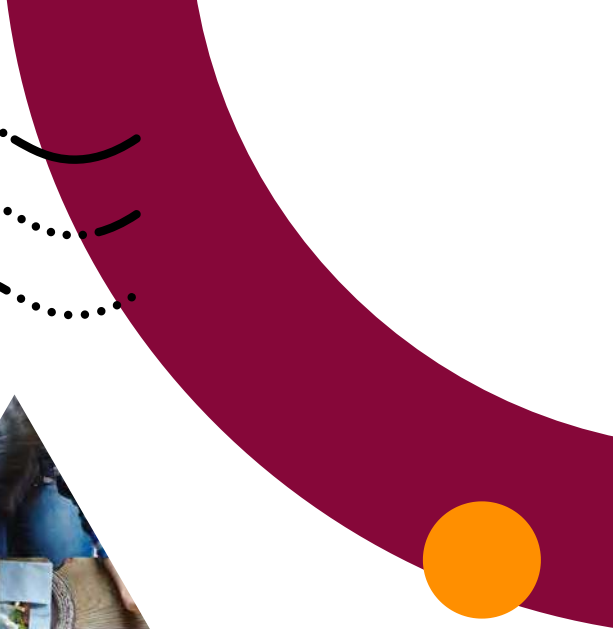
Haven UMC / East Providence RI
Creating a youth community orchestra & a free violin music school.



Wanakee United Methodist Center / Meredith NH

Bringing camp to our community amidst the pandemic through Camp@Home and Wanakee from Home.





Rolling Ridge / N. Andover MA

Rolling Ridge on the Road - bringing spiritual retreats & events to local congregations.



Ashburnham Community Church / Ashburnham MA

Creation of Dinner Church to provide a place for people to gather, eat, and worship together.

Old West Church / Boston MA

Creating & living out a Congregational and Connectional Vision for Boston Methodism.



Federated Community Church / Hampden MA
Providing coaching for staff of Connecting in the Spirit program as well as "Messy Church" startup.



Faith Community Church / Plymouth MA
Outreach through building community partnerships to serve those on the south shore who are under-served or ignored.



Jesus Life Center / Worcester MA
Life Garden Cafe Coffee Shop and Community Center that offers: tutoring programs, drum circles, ESL classes, and chess clubs.





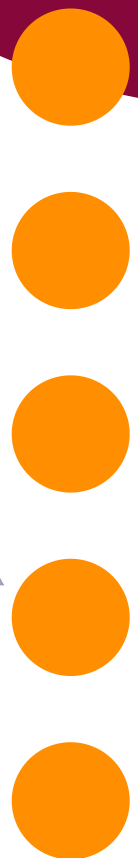
Belfast UMC / Belfast ME

Technology upgrades to improve the presentation & quality of on-line ministries for current members as well as to engage new people in, and beyond, their community.



Houlton UMC / Houlton ME

Love & Meals Ministry - "sharing God's love by sharing meals with seniors" to help alleviate the effects of isolation and lack of food for older adults.



DONOR-CENTERED PHILANTHROPY

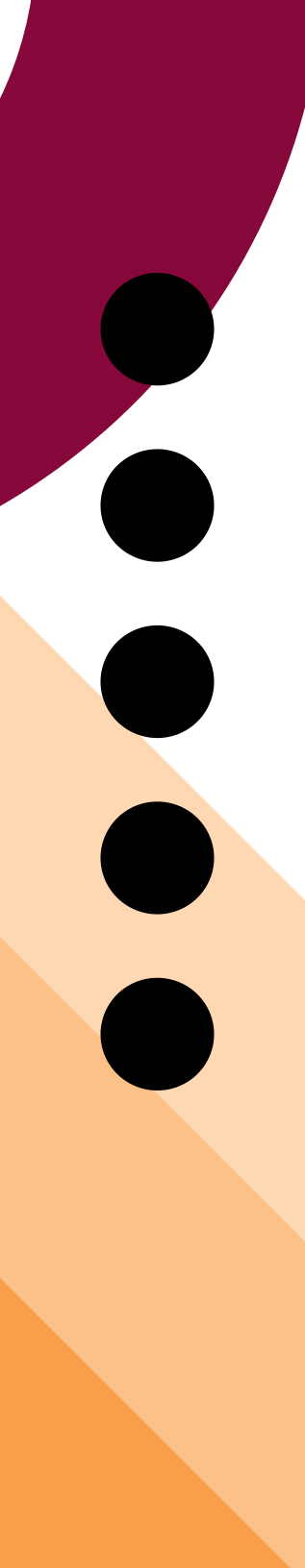
The story begins with two young college students, Carol and Tom, who met in a geology class at Miami University in the late 1960s. The two became friends and then an item, and after Tom's service in Vietnam, were married. Tom used his degree in geology and began a successful career with AEP as Chief Geologist in charge of coal exploration in Charleston, WV.

After a year, they were transferred to Athens, OH, where their two sons, William and Kurtis, were born. Shortly after the birth of Kurtis, they moved to Lancaster, OH, where life was made complete with their active membership in the Mills Memorial United Methodist Church. Faith was and is the cornerstone of their family.

As time passed and their sons became men, Tom was forced to take early retirement due to new coal regulations. Carol, with an entrepreneur's spirit, taught herself website design and started a consulting business. Life was good, but this is where their story takes a turn.

Tom needed what was referred to as a routine surgical heart procedure. There were complications during the surgery, and sadly Tom died. The unexpected death of her life partner of nearly 49 years turned a happy life into one of chaos. During the storm of pain and grief that came upon her, Carol's deep faith was her rudder, keeping her steady and safe.





Being alone was difficult for Carol and it was a family decision for her to leave Lancaster and move in with her sons, dividing time between them and her summer home in the Adirondacks. Time with her family made the grieving process more bearable. The first move she made was into the home of Kurtis, his wife Carol and their two children, where she also became part of the faith community at Portsmouth United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, RI.

Carol found herself, like many do after the death of a spouse, under a mountain of paperwork and she wisely engaged a financial advisor to help her navigate the complexities of retirement plans and taxes. Her advisor suggested that a charitable gift would mitigate taxes and satisfy her charitable desires. Carol liked the idea of diverting her tax dollars to support her charitable interests and began the process of investigating institutions that could both guide and properly invest her charitable wishes. She wanted her charitable investment to reflect her Christian faith and values, so her pastor, Rev. Michael Pike, referred her to the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

Because the Foundation has a unique combination of faith-based investments and a full array of gift planning vehicles, her choice made it a worthy partner in philanthropy. After many conversations, Carol established the Carol F. and Thomas W. Swinehart Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to provide sustainable income to support her church and other charitable organizations. As a life-long tither, being generous was as natural as praying and this was a wonderful solution and act of generosity.

However, there was one concern that needed to be addressed. Many people today are concerned about the possible break-up of the United Methodist Church denomination and Carol questioned the Foundation's ability to invest and administer her DAF should the denomination split. Fortunately, the Foundation has its own IRS 501c3 letter which enables it to serve both current and former United Methodist Churches regardless of the outcome of the denomination. Furthermore, as a separate but supporting organization of the United Methodist Church, the Foundation is able to serve donors who find themselves attending a church outside the Methodist tradition.

Carol is pleased with the outcome and flexibility of her DAF and has named Kurtis and William as successor advisors to her Fund. After her death, her sons will continue the family legacy of faith and generosity.

THE WIN-WIN BRIDGE

Janet Johnson turned 19 this year. Of course that is not her age, but it is the number of charitable gift annuities she has purchased from the United Methodist Foundation of New England. When Janet began purchasing gift annuities in 2002, she used the increased income to travel. Now at 86 years young, she is using the income to provide a good quality standard of living at the Deaconess Abundant Life Community in Concord, MA.

Charitable Gift Annuities offer several living benefits. The most attractive benefit is the increased guaranteed lifetime income. The favorable income tax benefits include a tax deduction, and income payments, which are partially tax free. And, when funded with appreciated assets like stock, the capital gains tax is avoided. After the death of the annuitant(s), the balance of the annuity is transferred to the named charities in the agreement.

Her current gift annuity beneficiaries include: Deaconess Abundant Life Communities, Preachers' Aid Society, United Methodist Foundation of New England, and Sudbury UMC. Janet says, "I am very grateful for this opportunity to donate to the work of the United Methodist Church and still receive such great personal benefit. My charitable gift annuities are a win - win arrangement."

Indeed, a charitable gift annuity is the win - win bridge between the donor's heart and the charitable organizations they love and support.



CONVERSATION WITH DEACONESS BOBBI BRAGAN



Roberta “Bobbi” Bragan grew up as an only child on a small farm in southeast Ohio. The church played a major role in her early formative years. Her parents restricted her time with school friends but made the exception for church activities. Naturally, Bobbi signed up for everything offered to youth at the church. Her willingness to serve and constant availability led to her being chosen to serve in leadership positions including the Annual Youth Conference. A very memorable mission trip brought her to the city of Cleveland. The year was 1965. The historical church they visited was in a wealthy and white neighborhood. She remembers that the church members were so proud of their new and expensive carillon. Later in the day they traveled less than a mile, crossing a river, landing them in a poverty stricken part of the city which was a mostly black neighborhood. The contrast, especially for someone from a small town, sparked an interest in social justice. And if the images Bobbi saw that day did not leave an impact, the meeting where a member of the Black Panthers spoke surely did. For Bobbi, the church was and continues to be a place that challenges her to grow spiritually.

In college Bobbi excelled in science and math. In her senior year, company recruiters visited the campus and interviewed prospective students. Placing high in her class, Bobbi was hired by the Traveler’s Insurance Company as an actuary. Her work experience and heart for mission were the gifts and graces that made her a valuable team player on the Conference Council on Finance & Administration and United Methodist Women. Her own camping experience led her to volunteer at Camp Aldersgate. Bobbi’s criteria for volunteering her time and talent is that it must be mission centered – not just reviewing financials.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOUR MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVICE AND GENEROSITY?

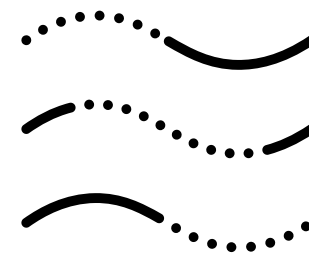
Bobbi: *"My mother gave birth to me after several miscarriages. She instilled in me that each person has a purpose with gifts and talents. Above all she taught me to be grateful. There was a Deaconess, Margaret Stimpson, that took me under her wing, guiding me through my youth. She was my mentor, and she had a large impact on my life. And because of that relationship I enjoy being a mentor for others. I feel it is important to be a mentor when and where I can. In college, my Sorority influenced my philanthropy and my service. We were very active in the community."*

Bobbi shared that she found that the more she gave the more her income increased. Her tithing is a demonstration of her gratitude. In giving, of money or time and talent, she always seemed to get back more than she gave.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TALK ABOUT GIVING AND SERVICE AS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?

Bobbi: *"I didn't go to church for a long time. I went to a progressive college and the churches we tried were not a good fit - too conservative. It wasn't until I visited the Hazardville UMC and heard a sermon given by Rev. Charlie Whitford, that I felt comfortable in church. His sermons were relatable and spoke to me. I became involved in mission work and UMW. "*

As Bobbi got more involved, the seeds of ministry that were first sown in her by her mentor Deaconess Margaret Stimpson were watered by others who suggested she too could be a member of the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner. Bobbi, like most of us, resisted the call, thinking it is not for me, or I am not worthy. Bobbi confided that two hymns, "Because He Lives" and "The Summons" stirred her soul to the point of tears. She said, *"I cried and cried. I thought of John Wesley's experience of having his heart strangely warmed. When the Holy Spirit moves, there is no response but, 'Here am I, send me.'"* In 2016, Roberta Bragan was consecrated a Deaconess. As a photojournalist, Bobbi is focusing on stories about the human condition with an emphasis on highlighting injustices and providing a pictorial chronical of mission related activities. Bobbi's commitment to justice was highlighted as our conversation came to an end. As an only child, she inherited the family farm which had stayed in the family for 6 generations. She is investigating how to return the property back to the Shawnee indigenous people.



INNOVATE. INTEGRATE. ELEVATE

Pastoral Leadership Development Program

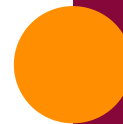
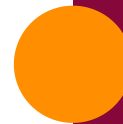
Boost gives me the opportunity to listen, discern, pray and to keep going. Boost reminds me of God constantly reminding me "I AM WHO I AM." My challenges and pain are part of the journey. I have my brothers and sisters walking with me and experiencing the same challenges... For me personally - Boost is my rock in Horeb. The journey goes on because I know that my "I AM WHO I AM" is always present. "Yippy, I got water!" Anonymous Participant

With the arrival of Covid-19 in March, the program spent much of 2020 on hold. The **Innovate** cohorts were put on pause. The **Elevate-Jumpstart** cohort - for pastors seeking to name, explore, and address contextual ministry challenges and the **Integrate** cohort - for Korean pastors serving in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments, were also delayed for health and safety reasons.

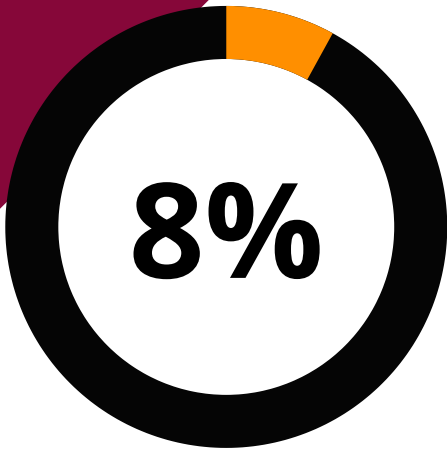
A shining light in the darkness of the pandemic was the beginning of the **Elevate-Boost** online cohort for multi-vocational pastors (MVPs) in August. It is one of only a few programs that was offered to pastors who served in less than full-time appointments. This platform provided an opportunity for local pastors from across New England to gather during October for two hours on Thursday evenings to name and claim their ministry strengths.

Moving forward in 2021, we are resuming existing cohorts and starting new multiple leadership development cohorts for pastors serving in a variety of ministry contexts.

*This program is partially funded by a Lilly Endowment **Thriving in Ministry** grant.*

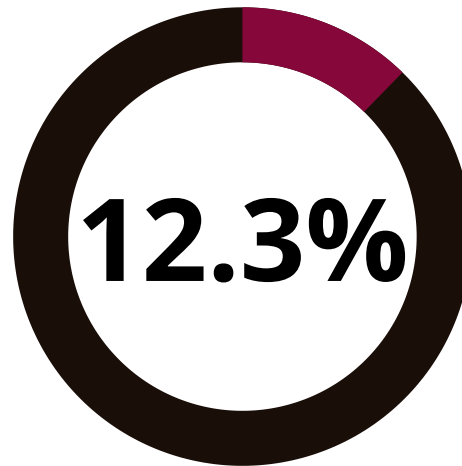


LOOKING BACK TO 2020



INCREASE IN TOTAL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

Total Assets Under Management.....\$129.2 million
Loan Portfolio Total.....\$ 4.9 million
Undesignated Endowment.....\$ 4.8 million



BALANCED GROWTH FUND RETURNED FOR THE YEAR

Awarded from Grants Ministry.....\$ 52,435
Total Distribution to Churches.....\$7,012,235






ASSETS:

Cash & Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 1,725,000
Investments & Endowment.....	\$122,471,526
Loans Receivable, Net.....	\$ 4,932,437
Property & Equipment.....	\$ 29,107
Other Assets.....	\$ 22,034
TOTAL.....	\$129,180,104

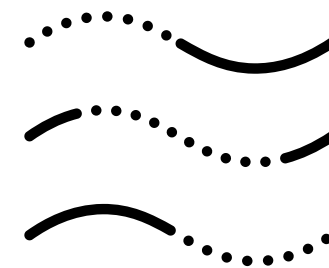
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses.....	\$ 126,735
Obligations for Funds Managed for Others.....	\$ 119,693,714
Annuities Payable.....	\$ 609,387
Total Liabilities.....	\$ 120,429,836
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions.....	\$ 4,364,936
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions.....	\$ 4,385,332
Total Net Assets.....	\$ 8,750,268
TOTAL.....	\$ 129,180,104





Staff



Rev. Dr. David Abbott - Director of Stewardship
X106 / dabbott@umfne.org

Christyn Bergquist - IIE Program Assistant
X114 / cbergquist@umfne.org

Dr. Bradley G. Call - Capital Campaign Consultant
bgcall@sbcglobal.net

Doris Connors - Accountant
X105 / doris@umfne.org

Rev. Ted Crass - President
X104 / tcrass@umfne.org

Pam DiMartino CPA - Chief Financial Officer
X112 / pamd@umfne.org

Tom Kinney - Loan Officer
X107 / tkinney@umfne.org

Chris McGuire - Communications & Event Planner
X102 / chrism@umfne.org

Gary Melville ChFC - Director of Development
X103 / gmelville@umfne.org

Leanne Mentzer - Office Manager
X100 / leanne@umfne.org

Mary Reedy - Accounts Manager
X113 / mreedy@umfne.org

Judy Vining - Accounts Manager
X101 / judy@umfne.org



Board of Directors

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Joy Mueller / West Dennis MA

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Rev. Brigid Farrell / Norwich VT

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Rev. Peter Hey / Wilmington MA

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Hill / Boston MA

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