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Dear Friends:

Do you know that the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is one of the largest scholarship providers to seminary students in Michigan? We are good stewards of generous gifts provided to the Foundation over the past several decades to assist ministry candidates. These funds are set aside to offer life-changing awards to highly qualified future leaders of the Church. Seminary education is expensive! These scholarships greatly reduce the burden of student loan debt required by so many talented individuals who are called to ordained ministry.

Education is a core value of Methodism. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry affirms that John Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life. He championed greater educational accessibility to ensure that leaders would act ethically and responsibly. We have been blessed over the years with charitable gifts to provide scholarships, grants, and awards for United Methodists throughout Michigan. In 2018, we awarded nearly \$90,000 in scholarships. We are projected to reach or exceed this amount in 2019.

I am inviting you to support our mission in a very specific way. I am encouraging you to give generously to our Scholarship Ministry. Your generosity changes the lives of pastors. Brian Lightner, a seminary student from Hartford United Methodist Church, stated, "It literally made the difference for me to be able to come to seminary."

In order to perpetuate the long-term sustainability of this Scholarship Ministry, we are seeking your generous financial support. Every dollar contributed will be designated specifically for seminary scholarships. Each year, we invite some of our most faithful friends to make a special contribution. The enclosed brochure highlights a few of the various gifts that you might consider. Please complete the enclosed commitment card and return it along with your gift. I invite you to partner with us and to support the future pastors of the Michigan Conference. Every contribution matters. Thank you for helping us sustain our drive to help faithful people live generous lives!

All my best to you and your family for a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David S. Bell".

David S. Bell  
President & Executive Director