

## **Grant Announcement**

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is committed to supporting the stewardship ministry of local churches. One of the ways that we fulfill this mission is by annually sponsoring the Wayne C. Barrett Steward Leader Award. The purpose of this award is to honor up to four United Methodist congregations across the Michigan Conference for their exemplary stewardship ministry and culture of generosity. Each recipient receives a \$2,500 award from the Foundation. Local church leaders may apply prior to March 15, 2023.

Rev. Dr. David S. Bell, President of the Foundation, commented, "Wayne was a legendary leader of the Foundation for many decades. His passion for the local church and its generosity ministry was unmatched among his peers. We are so pleased to honor his legacy. Moreover, this award allows churches to seed or accomplish some ministry that they otherwise might not be able to consider. We are amazed at the creativity and innovation of church leaders who apply for this award."

What are some attributes of the church serving as a good steward leader? Here are a few:

- a collaborative relationship between the pastor and laity in providing leadership in generosity ministry and financial oversight.
- a clearly defined mission and vision for the church.
- adherence to the financial procedures and protocol as defined in the *Book of Discipline*.
- a year-round culture of generosity with a focus on changing lives more than meeting church budgets; and
- a reputation for generous community engagement

The award is presented to those who embrace a larger view of church finances. The award is meant to recognize those steward leaders who look beyond budgets and building projects. We want to hear your stories of serving, giving, and investing in your community. We want to see how your church encourages others to see God's generosity and love.

Award recipients will be selected by early May and presented with the \$2,500 grant and certificate during a worship service or other appropriate occasion.

[Apply here today.](#)

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