

 **Issue 8 *News and Notes* Summer 2021**

**Milestone Achieved**

In late May The Foundation passed the threshold of managing $10M. Twenty-four years ago The Foundation was created with a $6.5M investment from the sale of Winebrenner Village. In 2004 The Foundation entered into its first Investment Facilitator Agreement and presently manages $1.1M in savings for the GLC and three congregations. During the more than two decades of its existence, The Foundation has distributed $5.9M in grants, almost equal to the original investment. We are so grateful for the growth of the fund and the impact that The Foundation’s work has made on the Conference and the Kingdom of God.

**Grants Awarded**

In May, Directors awarded traditional grant money as follows:

Eagle Church of God $10,000

 Replace roof on Fellowship Hall

Celina First $7,500

 Create a digital media room

Connections $10,000

 Fund a short-term mission trip

GLC Missions Comm. $18,000

 GLC leaders to GR mission fields

GLC Missions Comm. $8,000

 Cultivate Latino Ministries in GLC

GLC Missions Comm. $12,000

 Teach Kenyan pastors

Wooster First Church $2,000

 Ministry to local school

Ridgeway First $9,000

 Provide food pantry resources

Seville Community Church $8,000

 Leadership Dev through Camp

Ridgeway First $3,000

 Update technology

College First $50,000

 Develop Leadership Pipeline

Camp Otyokwah $18,275

 Upgrade cooler and dishwasher

Camp Otyokwah $9,000

 Purchase open air tent

Camp Otyokwah $15,000

 Recreation enhancements

Congratulations to these fourteen congregations and agencies. We trust that the Kingdom of God will be strengthened and their ministry will be enhanced through these resources.

Next year’s grant-making cycle will begin in January with a call for Preliminary Grant Applications. Deadline for submission of the Preliminary Applications is **January 31, 2022**. Begin thinking and praying now over ideas that could be supported by grant funds.

**Micro Grants**

At its May meeting The Foundation Board approved a program called *Micro-Grants for Kingdom Reach*, in which a maximum of $5,000 will be provided on a matching basis to congregations and agencies for the purpose of stimulating missional outreach and/or reproducing disciple making.

The congregation’s governing board will need to approve the grant proposal which will then be sent to The Foundation Board for review and adoption. Following approval, congregations will submit receipts or invoices for reimbursement. Part of the application process requires that congregations think about ways that successful completion of the grant will be measured. Deadline for applications is December 10, 2021. While the grant year is limited to 2021, congregations may apply for an extension if the ministry exceeds this current year.

To every extent possible, The Foundation will approve these micro-grants in a short response time by electronic vote. Two micro-grants have been approved:

Wonder Ministries $2,100

 Sponsor back to school campaign

Mt. Tabor $1,500

 Support for comm worship/picnic

**Giving Ideas: Creating a Permanent Endowment**

In April, the Wharton First Church of God took action to transfer a portion of their Investment Facilitator resources to The Foundation as a permanent endowment to create *The Wharton Fund*. Interest and dividends from the Fund will be distributed as follows: 85% will be returned to the congregation to be used in a manner consistent with the congregation’s status as a 501(c)3 organization; 14% will reinvested in the principal of the *Wharton Fund*; and 1% will be contributed to The Foundation.

The Fund provides an excellent opportunity for members and friends of the Wharton First Church of God to direct estate gifts that will benefit the local congregation in perpetuity.

If you would like more information in creating an endowment fund, please contact The Foundation Office at (419) 425-9602, (419) 957-2661, or foundationdirector@cggc.org.

**A Reflective Meditation**

In 1997, Dr. Richard E. Wilkin was instrumental in helping establish The Foundation. He served as a Director for three terms and as the first Chair of the Board. On June 22, 2021, he entered into his eternal rest at the age of 90. His wise counsel, visionary leadership, and careful stewardship of the church’s resources will be sorely missed.

It was my privilege to serve as Dr. Wilkin’s pastor for sixteen years, and earlier as his successor as Administrator in the Churches of God, General Conference office. His shoes were impossible to fill!

At his funeral service numerous testimonies described his compassion and care to pastors and families. He had a way of listening intently and discerning the joys and challenges that were being conveyed to him. He was deeply immersed in scripture which leaked out of the overflow of his life. He knew the church intimately with all its character and flaws. But while he may have had answers, he had the grace to ask humble questions and let the Holy Spirit teach or apply truth. He brought a quiet joy, hope, and encouragement to conversations.

Some years ago, I participated in a retreat focusing on experiential Bible study. In one of our sessions, we spent time studying together and reflecting on the story of Jesus’ healing the paralytic (Mark 2:1-12). Mark describes a scene in Capernaum where Jesus had attracted so large crowd that people spilled out of the house making it impossible for anyone else to get near Jesus.

The story focuses on four men who each carried a corner of a paralytic’s mat, courageously ascended to the roof, dug through the thatch, and lowered their friend to Jesus. Mark tells us that when Jesus saw *their* faith, he forgave the man’s sin. Hearing that the religious leaders began accusing him of blasphemy, Jesus healed the man, presumably not only giving back access to his legs, but demonstrating Jesus’ ability as the Son of God to forgive sins.

After we had sufficiently explored the text, the group leader gave us a piece of clay and invited each of us to reflect on our own inner life, to get in touch with any part of our life that may be frozen, or ineffective, or paralyzed, or in some other way, broken or marred. We were invited to mold that paralysis with a portion of the clay and offer it to the Lord for healing.

We were then asked to think of four friends who cared for us so deeply, exhibited such courage as to “deroof the roof,” and had faith in the redemptive mercy of Jesus. These friends we were likewise to mold with the remaining bit of clay and offer to the Lord with a prayer of gratitude.

Over the course of my life and ministry those four friends have changed. But I am grateful to name Dr. Wilkin as a friend who carried me to Jesus in his prayer support, in his kindness, and in his wise counsel. Thank you, Lord, for his ministry to so many people in such gentle and unassuming ways.

As I think of Dr. Wilkin and others who would each carry a corner of my mat I think of the complementary responsibility: those whose mat am I called to carry. O God, may I have the sensitivity and the courage to be a mat-bearer, willing to defy the crowd to bring my friend to Jesus!

Pastor Bill

This *News and Notes* is brought to you by The Foundation of the Great Lakes Conference, 700 E. Melrose Ave, Findlay, OH, and its staff, William Reist, President and Robert Stephenson, Financial Controller. For more information, contact us at [www.foundationglc@cggc.org](http://www.foundationglc@cggc.org) or call (419) 425-9602 or (419(957-2661.