Helping Texas United Methodist Students Attend Texas United Methodist Colleges and Universities

The mission of the Texas United Methodist College Association remains strong. Our total distribution to the TUMCA schools for their scholarship use reflects an increase over last year. It is important to note that TUMCA funds granted to SMU, Southwestern, Texas Wesleyan, and McMurry are restricted to scholarships to deserving students from United Methodist congregations in Texas. No funds can be used for bricks and mortar. Many TUMCA scholars are first generation college students.

Thanks be to God and the United Methodist Church for TUMCA's privilege to serve at this remarkable intersection of faith and learning. John Wesley is surely smiling because of the way in which TUMCA has "united the pair so 'oft disjoined, knowledge and vital piety."

TUMCA students are profoundly grateful for these critical scholarship funds. Among the many letters from appreciative TUMCA scholars is this quote, "I am the first of my brothers and sisters to go to college. My desire to go to a United Methodist school would not have been realized without my TUMCA scholarship. I love my school! The professors are terrific, and chapel is really cool."

While the TUMCA apportionment is modest for any congregation, the impact of these funds is enormous. Beyond the financial assistance, the recipients of the TUMCA scholarships receive hope, affirmation, encouragement, and the development of leadership and servant ministry skills that will serve the church as future clergy, laity leaders, teachers, and responsible business and community leaders.

TUMCA is an extension of a congregation's mission beyond its walls, affirming to our youth that their congregation will partner with them in the next chapter of their educational journey.

Upon the occasion of Bishop Dan E. Solomon's retirement as President of TUMCA, it seems appropriate to thank him for his fourteen years of service to our church, our students and our universities. As Dr. Darrell Loyless assumes the role of President, it is TUMCA's abiding hope that this ministry will remain strong, vibrant, and a partner with our church in the creation of new leaders as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



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