

ANNUAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
REPORT

OUR STORY  
**GRATITUDE IN ACTION**

CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS'  
ENDOWMENT BOARD  
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THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

— 2023/2024 —

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024/2025

MS. MARY POPISH  
*PRESIDENT*

REV. DAVE BENNETT  
*VICE-PRESIDENT*

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MS. GAYLE SHEARMAN

REV. DR. SHIJUNG SHIM

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REV. MARK WHARFF



## NEW TO THE TEAM

MR.  
ALLEN  
BARR



Mr. Barr is a retired finance executive, whose most recent role was serving as CFO for cloud-based software companies GT Nexus and Jitterbit. Allen, his wife Lynn, and two daughters, joined Mt. Tamalpais UMC in 1991 after relocating from New York. Allen currently serves as the Chairman of the Finance Committee at Mt. Tam and was a founding member of the church's Permanent Endowment Fund Committee (along with two prior beloved Endowment Board trustees, Gary Willson and Richard Grissom). We are thankful that Allen has chosen to bring his wealth of knowledge to the board to serve our mission.



# A LAITY-LED MISSION OF GRATITUDE IN ACTION

133 years ago, a group of laypeople came together out of concern over what would happen to their ministers when they retired. The sad reality is that a life of service, though a noble choice, often poses undue financial worry on those who choose that path. These laypeople recognized that reality and created the Laymen's Relief Association, which would become known as the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board.



What began as grassroots effort focused primarily on retirement funding, has evolved into a century-long legacy of supporting retired clergy and their spouses across the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Endowment Board support includes pension contributions, healthcare cost assistance, fellowship, and relational care. Thank you, for walking with us and entrusting us to be good stewards of your funds. Our greatest joy is gifting our retired clergy and their spouses funds to help ease their retirement financial burdens. We can only do it with your support.

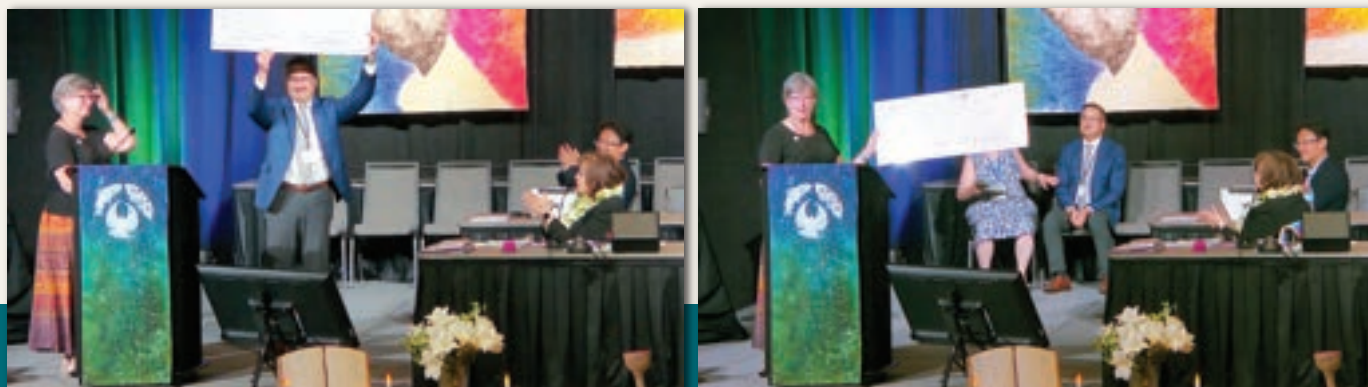
# TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

The Endowment Board (EB), the Retired Clergy Association (RCA), and the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) collaborate all year long to discuss where more assistance is needed to address modern challenges that the retired clergy and spouses may be facing. On Valentine's Day, the Executive Committees of all three agencies held a special meeting to identify changing needs and inflation driven increased costs of living. Excellent ideas were exchanged and a path to action was forged.



The Endowment Board, the Conference Board of Pensions, and the Retired Clergy Association's Executive Committees met in Stockton to discuss strategic planning in February 2024.

As a result, The Endowment Board's Board of Trustees unanimously approved an increase of \$30,000 to our annual Retired Clergy Association grant, bringing the 2024 gift total to \$136,000. We are blessed to provide the additional funds which will ensure more programming, event attendance support, and no-cost administrative fees which will ease the pain of inflation for our retirees. Endowment Board President, Ms. Mary Popish, formally presented the grant to the Retired Clergy Association as well as the \$2M annual grant to the Conference Board of Pensions on Sunday, June 9th at Annual Conference Session (pictured). That is a grant total of \$2,136,000 for 2024.



"I'd like to commend the volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to the care and support of the diverse membership of the retired clergy and spouses of the CA-NV Annual Conference. I'm encouraged that this additional funding will provide more programming in service of their mission."

Cory Parish, Executive Director of The Endowment Board

# STEWARDSHIP

## A CORE VALUE OF THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

Yet, after all this careful collaboration, how do we know funds are getting to retirees and spouses, and actually making a difference? The Endowment Board understands that wise stewardship and distribution depends on doing our homework around the needs and keeping tabs on the impact of our gifts so that every year we are more effective in serving our retirees. We have created an infographic and a simplified breakdown of how our funds are allocated.



Endowment Board team member, Ms. Gwen Dunham, and president, Ms. Mary Popish, staff The Endowment Board's table at Annual Conference Session, educating individuals on the mission and work of the organization.

# GRATITUDE IN ACTION



## Our History & Structure

Founded in 1891, The Conference Claimants' Endowment Board's mission is to provide funding for the retired clergy and spouses of the CA - NV Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, guided by a Board of Trustees made up of 50% lay people and 50% clergy. Thanks to our donors, enduring investments, and careful management of our assets, we will continue to provide funding in perpetuity.

Through God's Grace, we provide funding from:

- Our Donors — Annual Gifts and Planned Giving
- Our Stock and Bond Portfolio
- Our Real Estate Holdings



## Who we support

### Conference Board of Pensions

Healthcare cost assistance  
Personal emergency cost assistance  
Pension contributions for pre-1982 service years

### Retired Clergy Association

General operations  
Travel and per diems for conferences and events  
Communications, care services and programs for retired clergy

### CA-NV Annual Conference

Gathering of Spiritual Leaders sponsorship

# \$2,000,000

## Granted to the Conference Board of Pensions

**\$1,959,138** for healthcare cost assistance for 468 retirees/spouses.

**\$4,186** in annual benefits per participant.

**\$40,861** for Pre-82 service years pension contributions.

"Someone who served in the CA-NV Conference for 20 years and lives 20 years after retirement would receive a minimum of \$160,000 in benefits thanks to The Endowment Board. There is no other conference that has our Past Service Rate and the additional healthcare support."

— Mr. Paul Extrum-Fernandez, Executive Officer of the Conference Board of Pensions



# \$136,000 to the Retired Clergy Association:

- Crisis assistance
- The printing and distribution of the Days of Grace Newsletter
- Events that support social engagement, connectivity, & fellowship
- Funding for continuing education
- Per diems to attend various conference events (Annual Conference Session, Gathering of Spiritual Leaders)
- Volunteers-in-Mission (VIM) Trip funding
- Administrative fees vital to the leadership of the RCA
- Serving over 800 retirees/spouses/surviving spouses



Ms. Sandy Roberts, past president of the Retired Clergy Association, and Ms. Nancy Daley, Executive Director of the Retired Clergy Association, present at the 2024 Retired Clergy Association Luncheon.

## Gathering of Spiritual Leaders Sponsorship

### Mission in Mission

For the last several years, The Endowment Board has enthusiastically sponsored the annual Gathering of Spiritual Leaders event to improve programming that touches retired clergy. We also value this event as an opportunity to educate young, active clergy about the ways that The Endowment Board will support them long before their retirement years. This year's \$4,000 sponsorship underwrote the cost of the audio equipment at the Wednesday evening fellowship event where Rev. Dr. Rochelle Frazier presented on behalf of The Endowment Board. The sponsorship also covered transportation costs to and from the church and fellowship venue. In addition to the financial support, president and C.P.A., Ms. Mary Popish, hosted a successful clergy tax planning workshop. Her extensive knowledge on the subject served as a great benefit to all who attend, both retired and active.



Ms. Mary Popish, C.P.A. and Endowment Board President, leads a clergy tax planning workshop at the 2024 Gathering of Spiritual Leaders.

"I want to share my deep gratitude once again for your prompt response and support of the clergy at the 2024 Gathering of Spiritual Leaders. You make things personal and meaningful, and it is such a joy to be serving— actually, more learning from than serving—The Endowment Board."

– Rev. Dr. Shijung Shim

# Donations

**FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

\*Our fiscal year begins on May 1st and ends on April 30th of the following year.

	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023	FY 2023/2024
<b>TOTAL DONORS</b>	90	97	108	80	89
<b>TOTAL GIFTS</b>	111	120	147	105	120
<b>ANNUAL GIFTS</b>	\$19,052	\$22,005	\$49,935	\$27,068	\$23,140
<b>MAJOR GIFTS</b>	\$10,000	-	-	-	-
<b>PLANNED GIFTS</b>	\$97,011	\$18,000	\$136,213	\$324,598	\$105,276
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	\$126,063	\$40,005	\$186,148	\$351,665	\$128,416

Annual Gifts – Outright gifts of less than \$10,000

Major Gifts – Outright gifts of \$10,000 or more

Planned Gifts – Legacy giving/deferred giving

## SPOTLIGHT ON OLLI

**OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)** programs exist at many college campuses all over the United States. They are a non-profit education program designed for people ages 50+ and open to all adult learners. Each year, OLLI provides fascinating webinars, interest groups, domestic and international trips, and special events for its members.

If you are an active “go-go” retiree or spouse who would like to travel without all the planning hassle, you may consider traveling through an OLLI program. An OLLI membership is not required to join in the adventures, and travel is both domestic and international. For more information, please reach out to Jenny Copello at (209) 390-0989 or [Jenny@endowbd.org](mailto:Jenny@endowbd.org) and she can connect you with an OLLI program near you.



University of the Pacific OLLI representatives staffed a booth at Annual Conference Session, encouraging physically active retired clergy to join them in their various travel opportunities.



Shepherd Fund



Healthcare Premium Assistance Fund



General Healthcare Fund

When you make a donation to The Endowment Board, you have three funds you may choose to direct your gift towards – the **Shepherd Fund**, the **Healthcare Premium Assistance Fund** (formerly the Healthcare Subsidy Fund), or the **General Healthcare Fund**.

The Shepherd Fund offsets costs for retired clergy and spouses in times of need. The fund has provided cost assistance for a lost hearing aid, relocation to an assisted living situation, a personal financial emergency, and a case of identity theft. Asking for help can be difficult for those who have chosen a life of service and selflessness, but the hope is that those who qualify will see the Fund as a blessing. The fund is confidentially administered by the Conference Board of Pensions office.

The Healthcare Premium Assistance Fund was established to provide support for those in difficult situations who may not be able to afford their healthcare premiums.

The General Healthcare Fund is used to help fund the \$2M annual grant to the Conference Board of Pensions.

It means more  
than we ever could say.  
yes, we do thank all of  
the staff @ the Endow-  
ment Board for sharing  
and offering to our RCF  
assistance, time, monetary  
gifts and more. God  
persons strong are truly  
grateful.  
Blessings and Love

-Rev. Jerry and Sue Angove

June 6, 2024  
Thank you for the  
kindness in your communi-  
cation w/ us who have moved  
and are out of contact with  
our Conference activities.

-Rev. Ardys Sandell

Thank-you, Endowment Bd, for  
the thoughtful book that is helping  
me with the grieving process.  
Your loving support is very helpful.

-Anonymous



"I was recently faced with a costly dental issue that I was not expecting. Fortunately, I was reminded there is a Shepherd Fund that aids Retired Clergy with a one time grant provided by The Endowment Board. The subsidy allowed me to move ahead with my dental work that I would have otherwise put off, risking the threat of an even greater problem. I, along with others, am very grateful and fortunate to benefit and receive support from our Endowment Board."

– Rev. Carolee Catterall,  
Retired Clergy, Endowment  
Board Donor, and Shepherd  
Fund Recipient



# LEAVING A LEGACY GRATITUDE IN ACTION

Legacy giving, also known as planned giving or deferred giving, allows you to achieve your personal, financial, and philanthropic goals, and make a larger gift to a charity than you could make from ordinary income. Common types of planned gifts include charitable bequests, IRA charitable rollovers, charitable remainder trusts, retirement assets, pooled income fund contributions, and blended gifts.

## THE ENDOWMENT BOARD'S POOLED INCOME FUND

### INCOME FOR LIFE WITH A PHILANTHROPIC TWIST

The Endowment Board's Pooled Income Fund (PIF) is a separate charitable trust fund managed by estate planning attorneys at Hobson and Hobson. When people generously contribute to our PIF, they receive income for life and tax benefits.

### THE PIF WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

- Contributions are pooled with those of other donors and invested in our fund.
- Income is paid quarterly based on interest in the fund.
- Upon passing, the remaining principle is transferred to The Endowment Board.

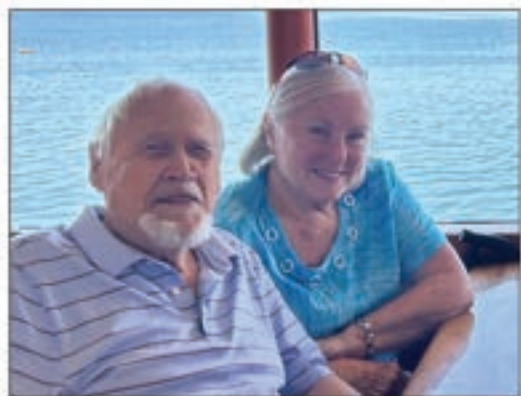
**In 2023, our PIF participants received a 5.9%\* average rate of return**

*\*Income return varies depending on the performance of the fund*

*The Endowment Board works with several estate planning attorneys that can provide assistance to you. Please contact Jenny Copello at (209) 390-0989 or [Jenny@endowbd.org](mailto:Jenny@endowbd.org) for more information.*

### In Memory of John Dodson

January 29, 1933 – October 8, 2023



John and Vicky Dodson, July 2023

#### Beloved:

Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather  
Senior Pastor, Los Altos United Methodist Church (1978-1999)  
Pastor Emeritus, Los Altos United Methodist Church (2013-2023)  
Exuberant Follower of Jesus  
Friend to All

#### John's Last Spoken Words:

"Kindness Heals  
Friends Matter  
Love Will Take You Home"

Deeply cherished past board member and retired clergy, Rev. John Dodson, passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, October 8th, 2023. John's last words were as poetic as the life he led, "Kindness heals, friends matter, and love will take you home." He finished every conversation with loving words of affirmation just in case they were his last with you. He let you know that he cared, and he meant it.

John lived his life with such sincerity and authenticity, the true definition of what it means to be clergy. **It was with his guidance that we revived our fund development program in 2015 which he believed in so much that he and his wife, Vicky, became inaugural members of our Pooled Income Fund.** We were blessed to have known him and the infinite wisdom that he imparted.

**"Kindness heals, friends matter, love will take you home."**

– In Memory of Rev. John Dodson



Ms. Jenny Copello and Mr. Cory Parish present a check from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. William and Elaine Halliday to Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church at their October 2023 board meeting.

In the 2023/2024 fiscal year, The Endowment Board, along with Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Foundation, was a beneficiary and trustee of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust established in 1994 by William and Elaine Halliday. The trust generated income for William and Elaine during their lifetimes, and upon their deaths, the remainder was transferred to the designated beneficiaries (over \$83,000 for The Endowment Board) – a win-win for the donor(s) and the charities. If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of creating a Charitable Remainder Trust, please give us a call at (209) 472-7288 and we will be happy to assist you. The Endowment Board strongly believes in doing good for the whole, so we will always encourage our donors to name multiple beneficiaries should their heart be called to do so.

## Qualified Charitable Distribution: A Tax-Smart Strategy for Charitable Giving with an IRA

If you are at least 70 ½ there is a great benefit available to you for your charitable giving. With the increased standard deduction, fewer people can itemize which means your charitable giving isn't reducing your tax burden.

Instead, there is a program called "Qualified Charitable Distribution" or QCD. Through this program, you can designate a charity like The Endowment Board or your local church to receive a portion of your traditional IRA account. It can count as part of your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) but when you file your tax return, you reduce the taxable IRA amount by this contribution putting the code "QCD" next to the taxable IRA amount. Most online tax programs are now set up to ask if any of the IRA was distributed to a charity. This is available for distributions up to \$105,000 per year. Since it reduces your Adjusted Gross Income, it can reduce how much of your Social Security is taxable. Most financial advisors are familiar with this program and can help you take advantage of this tax break.



# UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

## **VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM) TRIP**

Staff members of The Endowment Board and Retired Clergy Association volunteers will be traveling to Camp Lodestar in Calaveras County to help repair accumulated deferred maintenance to the beloved United Methodist camp.



RCA Work Project - Paradise, CA 2023

OCTOBER 2024

## **MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH**

October is "Minister Appreciation Month". In partnership with the CA-NV Conference, we are encouraging tribute donations in honor of or in memory of your favorite minister(s) as a small form of recognition for their sacrificial dedication to their calling. Whether your minister is active or retired, consider making a gift in their honor or memory to The Endowment Board or your local church this October.



DECEMBER 2024

## **YEAR-END GIVING**

For every tribute donation made in December, an ornament bearing a message crafted by the donor will be added to a tree on display in the lobby of The Endowment Board. A special acknowledgment will be sent to the person or family they designate, notifying them of the thoughtful contribution. It's the perfect way to bring light and love to someone special, while also meeting year-end philanthropic goals. Letters will be sent around Thanksgiving, so keep your eyes and hearts open!



The 2023 Tree of Light raised over \$13,000.

JANUARY 2025

## **GATHERING OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

The 2025 Gathering of Spiritual Leaders will take place January 14-16, 2025 at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Both active and retired clergy are invited for a time of retreat, learning, and strengthening relationships with one another as they continue on the journey of ministry with their congregations, their communities, and our conference.

# Congratulations to the 2024 Retirees!



Rev. Greg Bergquist

Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey

Rev. Paul Cheong

Rev. Thomas Cota

Rev. John Current

Rev. Tevita Fanaika

Rev. Virginia Foster

Rev. Dr. Rochelle Frazier

Rev. Linda Jamieson

Rev. Henry Kim

Rev. Jeffrey Kuan

Rev. Kathy LaPoint-Collup

Rev. Steve Lundin

Rev. Andrew Park

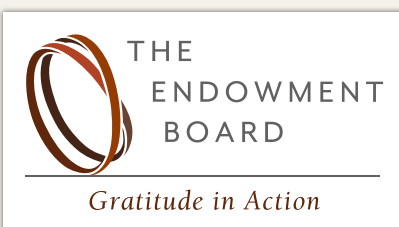
Rev. John Pavoni

Rev. Joan Pell

Rev. Janette Saavedra

Rev. Anne Schlesinger

Rev. Allen Yan-Chamberlin



If you would like to congratulate any of the 2024 retirees consider making a tribute donation to the Shepherd Fund in their honor. Visit our website at [EndowmentBoard.org](http://EndowmentBoard.org) to make a donation online or scan the QR code and make a note of the clergyperson you wish to honor in the comment box.

Learn more and be a part of our story.  
Visit **[EndowmentBoard.org](http://EndowmentBoard.org)** to join us.

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