



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

April 2009 Volume 9, Issue 1

When It Comes To The Economy... WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

It is always a pleasure to share the good news that occurs daily in our work at the Foundation...news that almost always, in one way or another, reflects the actions of generous people whose feelings, thoughts, and actions have led them to make sacrificial gifts of their financial resources for the good of others.



Over the past eight months, however, not all news has been good, and the turmoil in the financial markets and the economy has had a significant impact on the value of permanent funds held by the Foundation. As a result, the board and staff have been placing special emphasis on those facets of the Foundation's operations that we can control and that will best-position the Foundation for when the recovery begins.

At a time when trust and confidence seem to be in short supply, we take great pride in saying to our Church family that the Foundation remains financially strong. The Board of Directors has taken steps to ensure the stability and perpetuity of permanent endowment funds, and the investment portfolio continues to be broadly diversified so as to

minimize risk and maximize growth and earnings opportunities over the long term.

Whether you are a donor considering a gift that will provide ongoing permanent support for the benefit of your church or other ministry, whether a seminary student who receives a scholarship administered by the Foundation, or a church or ministry that receives endowment fund income, whether you are a member of a church that is considering participating in the Foundation's Investment and Account Management Services program, or whether you are already a participant, you can trust and have confidence that the Foundation will continue to maintain and provide financial stability for all whom we serve.

In the October 17, 2008, New York Times, Warren Buffett wrote: "In the near term, unemployment will rise, business activity will falter and headlines will continue to be scary. But fears regarding the long-term prosperity of the nation's many sound companies make no sense...most major companies will be setting new profit records 5, 10 and 20 years from now. Over the long term, the stock market news will be good."

In addressing why many people lost money in the stock market even

as the Dow Jones average grew from a low of 66 points to 11,497 during the 20th century, Mr. Buffett wrote, "The hapless ones bought stocks only when they felt comfort in doing so and then proceeded to sell when the headlines made them queasy."

While Mr. Buffett admits that even he can't predict short-term movements in the financial markets, his long-term prognosis deserves our attention and serves to remind us that this is a time to stay the course with a portfolio of quality investments, to maintain our long-term goals, and to not attempt to time when the markets will turn around. In his words, "If you wait for the robins, spring will be over."

The Foundation's long-term investment goals have not changed. We do expect the financial markets to be bombarded with bad news throughout most of 2009, and history will most-likely confirm that we are in the worst recession since the Great Depression. But the markets will recover and we should be rewarded with attractive returns over a five to ten year time horizon...it is just a matter of patience.

Jim Heller
Executive Director

IMAGINE the joy of making a gift today that pays you **guaranteed income for life** and **leaves a legacy of your support** for God's work in your church after your lifetime.

CONSIDER the impact that such a gift could have on your life now, and on the life of your church or favorite ministry after your lifetime.

A **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY** can provide you with guaranteed lifetime income, income tax benefits that may be more or less than illustrated below, possible capital gains tax and/or estate tax savings, and then, following your lifetime, the remainder value of the annuity will provide permanent, ongoing support for your church or other ministry according to your wishes.

A sampling of current rates and benefits for a gift annuity created with \$10,000.

YOUR AGE	PAYMENT RATE	ANNUAL PAYMENT	TAX-FREE PORTION	CHARITABLE DEDUCTION	EFFECTIVE RETURN RATE*
65	5.7%	\$ 570	\$ 402	\$ 2,001	7.41%
70	6.1%	\$ 610	\$ 449	\$ 2,860	8.18%
75	6.7%	\$ 670	\$ 514	\$ 3,627	9.25%
80	7.6%	\$ 760	\$ 603	\$ 4,328	10.78%
85	8.9%	\$ 890	\$ 742	\$ 4,952	12.98%
90	10.5%	\$1,050	\$ 896	\$ 5,609	15.68%

* This rate represents an equivalent, fully-taxable yield if in the 25% tax bracket.

Gift Annuities are issued in any amount of \$5,000 or more. Please contact the Foundation if you have questions, would like more information, or would like to receive a personalized illustration.

“SAVE THE DATE”

Tuesday, June 9, 2009
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
The Cornhusker Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska

“ADVANCING GOD’S KINGDOM: THE NEXT GENERATION”

Featuring

Douglas A. Dillon, Senior Partner
Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners
Chicago, IL/Boston, MA



Please be our guest for this special presentation by Doug Dillon, nationally recognized motivational speaker on financial resource development and planning. To register, please contact the Foundation at 402-323-8844, 877-495-5545 or info@numf.org. Pastors will also have a group registration form in their Annual Conference booklet.

*The mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is to **support** the ministries of the local church and the Nebraska Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church through the **development** of gifts and the **stewardship** of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God's work.*

Investing in Eternity

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

If a soul is the greatest value in all the world, then what investment can you make in this life that will pay the greatest dividends 100 years from now? The material things that you and I fight so hard for in this life go back to rust, to dust. There is only one investment that we can make in this life that would pay dividends 100 years from now – spiritual investments.

God died on the cross, He paid it all for us that we might have the gift of eternal life. He lives within us. We are His disciples. We are bought with a price. We are to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which belong to God. So, if this is true, isn't it wise to give God something that we can't keep anyway. One day death will come. We will have to go, and we will have to leave everything behind. If we give it to God, we can transform it. In this way, the good that is accomplished through our gifts is placed on deposit for us in our eternal life.

Henry Ford was a wealthy man, but how much money did he leave when he died? He left it all, didn't he? We are going to leave it all, too, except that which we give to God. The only money we will ever keep is what we give to God.

The verse we began with said, “Lay up for yourselves...” Have you ever stopped to think about the word “yourselves” in this verse? We take the money out of the bank on earth and put it in the bank of heaven. We exchange banks. When we give God \$1,000, He takes that \$1,000 and wins a soul. Then He puts that soul on deposit in our name. This is how we become rich toward God since a soul is the greatest value in the entire world. It is worth more than all the buildings and real estate in the US or even in the world. One soul is the greatest value to God.

ENDOW THE FUTURE TODAY by including your Christian stewardship in your personal planning.



Anita Crisp

Director of Communications & Donor Relations

It's Time For Those Scholarship Applications!

Each Spring, the Foundation kicks off its annual scholarship season. We are pleased to be able to administer seven scholarships this year for the benefit of those persons pursuing an advanced ministerial degree for service in Nebraska.

The Foundation will begin accepting applications May 1 for the following scholarships:

- *The Alice Kruse Seminary Scholarship*
- *The Alva Clark Seminary Scholarship*
- *The Cowles United Methodist Church Memorial Scholarship*
- *The Alice Kruse Ministerial Scholarship*
- *The Baldwin F. & Amy L. Kruse Scholarship*
- *The Sylvia Miller Memorial Scholarship*
- *The Albert R. Murdoch Ministerial Scholarship*

The application deadline is June 30, 2009, except for The Baldwin F. & Amy L. Kruse Scholarship, which is May 31, 2009.

In addition to the scholarships listed above, the Foundation administers *The Andrew & Nevabelle Howe Scholarship* with the assistance of the Gateway District Superintendent's Office. Preference is given to students from the Gateway District. Subsequent consideration is given to applicants of the other seven Foundation scholarships.

For more information and application materials, visit our web site at: www.numf.org/special_programs/scholarships.html

Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
402-323-8844 or 877-495-5545 • info@numf.org
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To learn more about Planned Gifts, Investment Services, Scholarships, or other Foundation services, please contact us at 402-323-8844 or 877-495-5545. You can also reach us at info@numf.org, www.numf.org, or complete and return this form. Your gift in support of the Foundation’s work is appreciated. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Church: _____ Church Phone: _____

I/we would like more information about: _____

Please: Call E-mail Send Information Schedule a visit

A gift to help support the Foundation’s work is enclosed.

Mail to: The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
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