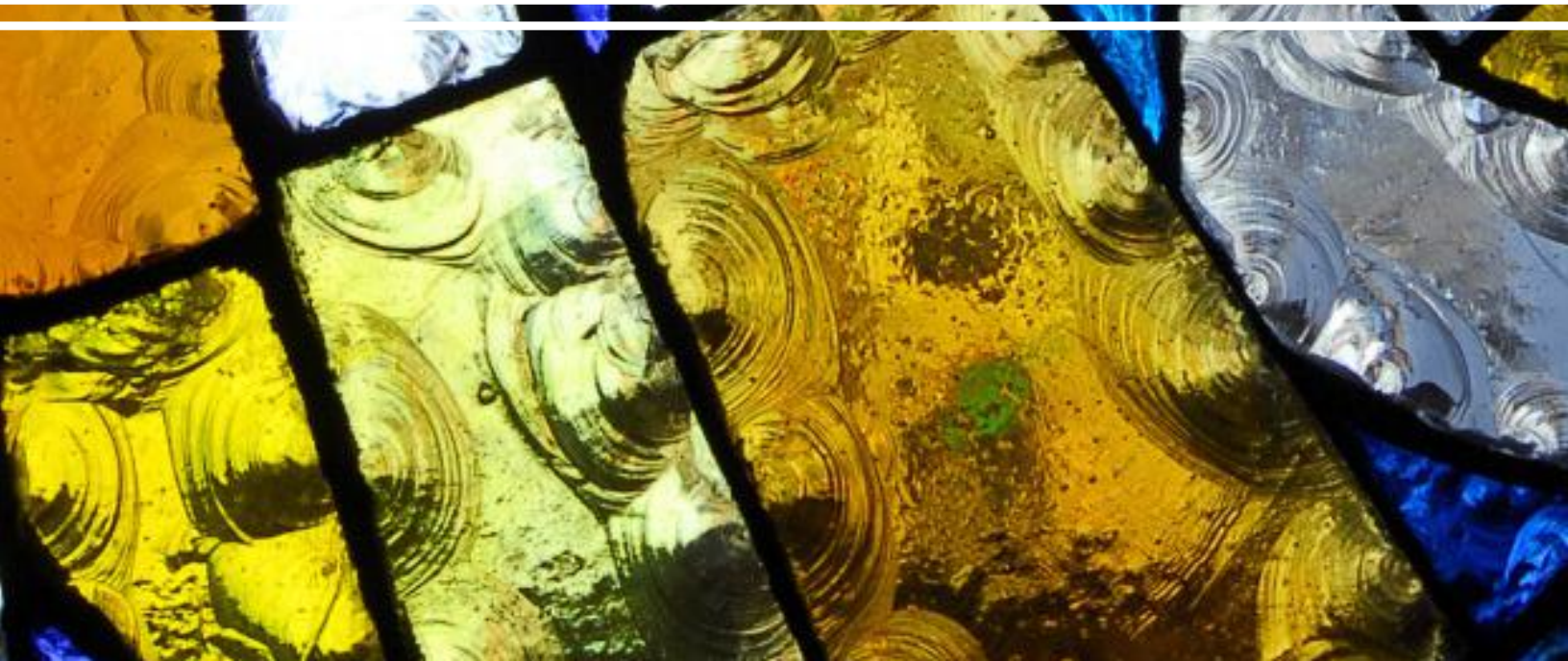


United Methodist Foundation
of the Northeast

2025 IMPACT REPORT



A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We thank God for a remarkable year in ministry in 2025. Our work together across all Foundation ministries has made a real difference in churches and communities throughout New England.

This report tells important stories in numbers:

- Church assets carefully managed for competitive returns in socially responsible ways
- Grants to churches building ministry capacity and engaging their communities
- Dozens of conversations to help faithful members explore their passions and legacy
- Support for churches telling compelling stories of ministries that inspire growth
- Services to immigrants in a time of fear and peril
- Coaching that helps leaders realize and grow their gifts for ministry and stewardship
- And many others

Behind each of these numbers are folks whom we have been privileged to walk alongside to support their ministries and help them impact their communities. We give thanks for each of them.

This year also marked a milestone for the Foundation in the formation of the United Methodist Foundation of the Northeast. This exciting new expansion, which came fully to fruition in 2026, gives us an opportunity to bring our services into relationship with almost 1,000 United Methodist churches in two annual conferences across the state of New York. We detail this development inside this 2025 Impact Report.

Our purpose remains steadfast: to support the mission and ministry of churches, individuals, and conferences in New England and now with our new friends across New York.

Most of all, we thank God for you, our investing and ministry partners. It is a joy to work with you to make disciples, work for justice, and to bring love into the world.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Ted Crass
PRESIDENT



Lauren Wobby
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 BY TH

$160,667,321
Total Assets Under Management



3
New or Refinanced Loans Supporting
New England Church Buildings



$9,020,751
Distributed to Churches



353
Invested Accounts Enrolled
in the Fixed Percentage Payout (FPP)



319
Churches & Agencies Invested
with the Foundation



31
Stock Donations Processed
to Benefit Local Churches



E NUMBERS

More Than 32

Grants Awarded to Organizations and Churches in New England



28

Preaching Engagements



Over $150,000

Committed in Justice & Ministry Grants



42,558

Miles Traveled to Partner with Churches



Over 54

Churches Engaged with the Wesley Development Group



135

Total Participants in the Foundation's IIE Leadership Development Program



TWO FOUNDATIONS, ONE MISSION

HOW A CONVERSATION BETWEEN NEIGHBORS BECAME A NEW CHAPTER FOR MINISTRY ACROSS THE NORTHEAST



It started, as many good things in the church do, with a conversation.

Leadership from the United Methodist Foundation of New England and the United Methodist Frontier Foundation first came together simply to learn from one another: how each served local churches, and where the needs were growing. What they found was a remarkable overlap of purpose, and the aspiration of the Frontier Foundation to be able to offer needed ministry services to churches and individuals in New York like those available in New England. Those early exchanges drew in board conversations in both Foundations to explore how to expand to serve churches and organizations in New York, and soon led to a larger decision to bring the two organizations together.

Today, that decision has taken shape as the United Methodist Foundation of the Northeast (UMFNE), a combined ministry resource serving churches across New England, New York and Upper New York. Its purpose is straightforward: to support the mission and ministry of local churches and their Conferences.

"When we first sat down together, we really were just trying to learn from each other and see how we could help the Frontier Foundation expand services," said Ted Crass, UMFNE president. "What we discovered was that we were already walking the same road. Bringing our foundations together lets us offer churches across the Northeast more than good stewardship of their funds. It also offers them a true partner in ministry and enhances their tangible connection to other churches, whether that's a grant, a loan, a stewardship campaign or a consulting engagement to help churches understand what to do with an aging building."

A LONG TRADITION

Uniting foundations in service of the church is not a new idea in the region. In New York, the United Methodist Church Foundation in Syracuse was incorporated in December 1970 to serve the Central New York Conference. The New York–Connecticut Foundation followed in February 1977, and the United Methodist Frontier Foundation in January 2005. Each generation has found new ways to pool resources on behalf of congregations, and this latest chapter continues that lineage.

The two partners bring complementary strengths. The Frontier Foundation has managed investments in a socially responsible way for more than 200 churches in New York and Upper New York, and had long hoped to pair that work with broader ministry services. The Foundation of New England managed investments for more than 300 New England churches and the New England Conference for over three decades. Working hand in hand – though independently – with the Conference's bishop, superintendents and staff, it has built ministries in the gaps. It offers resources that churches need but where the Conference does not focus, acting as a strategic partner.

"Our churches trusted us to care for their resources, and we took that trust seriously at every step," said Ellen Knudsen, Executive Vice President of the United Methodist Foundation of the Northeast, who previously served as President and Executive Director of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. " For New York churches, nothing about the relationships they count on has changed. What's new is everything we can now put within their reach, from ministry grants to leadership development, alongside investments that reflect our values and cost them less."

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ELLEN KNUDSEN

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF THE NORTHEAST

WHAT CHANGES, AND WHAT DOESN'T

One of the first visible steps came on January 2, 2026. That day the United Methodist Foundation of New England, in partnership with its investment managers, Parametric Portfolio Associates and Breckinridge Capital Advisors, became investment manager for Frontier Foundation churches. The Frontier Foundation's Board approved the change after thorough due diligence and a recommendation from its Investment Committee. The New England Foundation brought even lower fees, highly competitive returns and a rigorous approach to socially responsible investing. Portfolios are comprehensively screened to exclude companies involved in fossil fuels, weapons, tobacco, alcohol and for-profit prisons, among others, in close alignment with the United Methodist Social Principles. Importantly, virtually all investment fees would be re-invested into mission and ministry across New England and New York.

Churches were not asked to do any heavy lifting. Existing investment choices were automatically aligned with new Model Portfolios, and the Foundation committed to absorbing any transition costs so no congregation would bear them. Just as important, the trusted team in White Plains remains the first point of contact for churches in New York, and reports continue to arrive in the same familiar format.

Room to Grow

The greatest promise of the partnership lies in what it opens up. Churches across the combined footprint now have access to:

- Ministry grants that directly support mission in and through the congregation
- Faithful impact investing, endowment stewardship and lending that turn church assets into ministry capacity
- Stewardship coaching and legacy gift planning that build tomorrow's church
- Leadership cohorts and coaching for clergy and lay leaders
- Guidance on putting buildings, land and facilities to work for ministry

The union has been seamless. Even before the combination was finalized, leaders from Upper New York and New York were joining the Foundation's virtual events and asking how its services might strengthen their own ministries.

"The coming together of these teams and combining resources has been well met by churches in New York, and that tells us this is filling a real need," said Crass. "A congregation might come to us about its investments and then find value in a stewardship plan, a leadership cohort for its pastor, or fresh ideas for a building it's been worried about. We want every church across the Northeast to know it doesn't have to figure these things out alone."

The Foundation describes the moment simply: a new name, an expanded partnership, and the same trusted support, now with more expertise, broader reach and deeper capacity. Funding, decisions and discipleship, all pulling in the same direction and connecting new friends across New England and New York.

For congregations from Cape Cod to Buffalo, what began as an exchange of ideas has become a mission-focused union, collectively engaging and supporting churches and ministries across New England and New York.

2025 GRANTS

ANNUAL GRANTS

Awarded to help fund strategic, vital, creative and impactful ministries & programs within UMC local faith communities. Grant value up to $5,000.

CHURCH	LOCATION
Belfast UMC	Belfast, ME
First UMC of Rochester	Rochester, NH
Franklin UMC	Franklin, MA
Grace UMC	Lynn, MA
North Kingstown UMC	North Kingstown, RI
The Food Drive, MA	Melrose, MA
Wanakee	Wanakee, NH
Vassalboro UMC	Vassalboro, ME
Swift Memorial UMC	Sagamore Beach, MA

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES GRANTS

Through the Engaging Communities multi-year grants, UMFNE supports missional partnerships - both new and established - and the sharing of resources among churches, community partners, and the Foundation to address the most pressing challenges within a church's ministry context. These challenges may include issues such as the opioid crisis, social justice, climate change, or other community concerns. Through this grant program, churches are empowered to serve as leading stakeholders in vital community mission. Grants of up to $30,000 over three years ($10,000 annually) are available.

CHURCH	LOCATION
Common Unity Place	Skowhegan, ME
United Community Church	Morrisville, VT

LEXINGTON SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND GRANTS

Supports programs that promote and enhance the dignity and welfare of people in unjust circumstances and address underlying systemic inequities and causes of injustice. Grant value up to $2500.

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Cathedral of the Beloved	Pittsfield, MA
Harvard-Epworth	Cambridge, MA
Limestone UMC	Limestone, ME
Maine Council of Churches	Portland, ME
Old South UMC	Reading, MA
Safe Havens	Boston, MA
THRIVE	Lowell, MA
UMC of Auburn	Auburn, ME
Young Prophets Collective	Somerville, MA

RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

Awarded to accommodate requests for immediate ministry and programmatic support in time sensitive situations within local UMC faith communities. Grant value up to $2,500.

CHURCH	LOCATION
Asbury UMC	Warwick, RI
Bethany UMC	Rochester, NH
Companions in Wholeness	Rutland, VT
Connextion UMC	Somerville, MA
Epwworth UMC	Pawtucket, RI
First UMC	Lincoln, ME
Fisk Memorial UMC	Natick, MA
Old South UMC	Reading, MA
Rockville UMC	Vernon, CT
The UMC of Newton	Newton, MA

LISTING OF BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF



STAFF

David Abbott
Director of Stewardship

Kristy Besada
Church Consultant

Adama Brown
Director of Impact & Grants

Michael Chasse
Financial Accounts Manager

Ted Crass
President

Pam DiMartino
CFO & Director of Gift Planning

Jennifer Nelson
Office Administrator

Tom Kinney
Loan Officer

Ellen Knudsen
Executive Vice President

Gary Melville
Development Consultant

Maureen Palumberi
Client Account Specialist

Wendy Paulaskas
Accountant

John Steele
Property and Facilities Consultant

Herb Taylor
Church Consultant

2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens – Homer, NY

Dennis Carlone – Cambridge, MA – *Grants Ministry, Wesley Development Advisory Board*

Pamela Carpenter – Manchester, CT – *Executive, Investment*

Rev. Jinyong Choi – Westford, MA – *Grants Ministry – Chair*

John Condon – Acton, MA – Executive – *Treasurer, Budget & Audit – Chair, Investment*

Pastor Bill Hoch – Newton, MA – *Grants Ministry, Leadership Development, Personnel & Nominations*

Mark Flower – Babylon, NY – *Budget & Audit*

Susan Kim – Bedford, MA – *Justice in Our Time (JIOT)*

Ellen Knudsen – New York, NY – *Executive, Investment*

Jorge Montanez – Brooklyn, NY – *Investment*

Joy Mueller – West Dennis, MA – *Grants Ministry, Personnel & Nominations*

Kristine Owen – Northborough, MA – *Executive – Secretary, Personnel & Nominations*

Peter Owh – Webster, NY – *Investment*

Dorothy J. Phillips, PhD – Framingham, MA – *Executive*

Kirk Randlett – Brookline, NH – *Leadership Development, Loan, Wesley Development Advisory Board*

Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez – Falmouth, MA – *Leadership Development*

Rev. Lourey Savick – Boston, MA – *Leadership Development*

Alan B. Stayton – Sudbury, MA – *Investment – Co-Chair*

James D. Stephen – Ayer, MA – *Executive – Vice Chair, Budget & Audit, Grants Ministry, JIOT – Chair*

Lauren Wobby – Northfield, VT – *Executive – Chair, Investment, Budget & Audit*

Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Ex-Officio – Methuen, MA – *Executive*

Rev. Theodore F. Crass, Ex-Officio – Lowell, MA – *Foundation President, Executive*

2025 FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$	3,204,720
Cash Reserves		556,765
Loans Receivable		3,210,786
Investments		153,695,050
Property & Equipment		15,329
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Asset		63,559
Other Assets		69,766
Total Assets	**$**	**160,815,975**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Operating Lease Liability	$	76,655
Obligations for Funds Managed for Others		144,493,633
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses		579,426
Annuities Payable		631,007
Total Liabilities		145,780,721
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		8,655,528
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions		6,379,726
Total Net Assets		15,035,254
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$**	**$160,815,975**

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2025

OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Revenue and Other Support		
Investment Administration Fee	$	1,488,255
Other Revenue		549,900
Total Revenue and Other Support		2,038,155
Operating Expenses		
Program		1,907,544
General and Administrative		287,936
Fundraising		35,992
Total Operating Expenses		**2,231,472**
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Operations		(193,317)
Nonoperating Activities		
Endowment Contributions and Bequests		1,503,621
Investment Income, Net		1,371,991
Change in Present Value of Annuities Payable		(35,230)
Total Nonoperating Activities		2,840,382
Increase in Net Assets		2,647,065
Net Assets, Beginning of Year		12,388,189
Net Assets, End of Year	**$**	**15,035,254**

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

$3,210,786
represents 31 loans to New England churches that allowed them to more efficiently carry out their ministries.

$153,695,050
invested with a focus on socially responsible investments and United Methodist Social Principles.

$15,035,254
invested in carrying out the legacy of donors.

$1,488,255
revenue generated and reinvested back into New England churches and communities through programs, presentations, and grants.

$9,020,751
distributed to churches and agencies to carry out work and mission.



United Methodist Foundation
of the Northeast

Learn more at umfne.org

Contact us at info@umfne.org or call (800) 595-4347

