

Springboard

Thanks for the memories...

As November brings the end of the year into sight, we are winding down Heartspring Methodist Foundation operations as a separate entity. We will begin 2019 under the Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) name as planned.



I keep hearing the words of the song "Thanks for the Memory." This classic love song has been performed and recorded by many artists in the decades since its 1938 debut, including Bob Hope, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, often with lyrics adapted to the situation. (In 2007 the band Fall Out Boy had a pop hit, "Thanks for the Memories.")

As I look back on my Foundation memories over the last 21 years, three things stand out:

1. The value we bring. United Methodist foundations can make a real difference in helping advance the mission of our churches, agencies and individuals, and I'm proud that each U.S. annual conference has access to the financial and stewardship services such foundations provide.
2. Our still relative obscurity. Despite our longevity — Heartspring has been around for 40 years and TMF for 80 years — many churches, agencies and individuals are still unfamiliar

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Spirit

Area reps can help your ministry succeed

AS WE PREPARE to join forces with TMF in 2019, we are excited about the opportunities to expand the resources and services available to Heartspring clients and other churches in the Texas Conference. One such resource is the TMF team of area representatives. Starting in 2019, the team, led by Rev. John Thornburg, will grow to nine with the addition of Heartspring's Rev. Mark Woodward. Three members are located within or tied directly to the Texas Conference.

The idea for area representatives came about in 2012 when TMF created a possible solution to the question its leadership had been trying to address for years: What would it take for clergy to feel renewed and energetic? With a grant from the Lilly Endowment, the concept of area representatives serving as resources to clergy and other church leadership became a reality. TMF began recruiting, and Thornburg joined TMF shortly thereafter to lead the new team.

So, what does an area representative do, exactly? "Area representatives provide resources to clergy and lay leadership that will help congregations discern their core purpose and connect to the mission fields to which God is calling them," Thornburg explains.

In other words, area representatives offer to partner with churches to help them connect to whatever they may need to move their ministry forward. Every church is unique, and there is not one solution that will fit every situation.

An area rep may offer consultation or educational resources related to visioning, strategic planning, stewardship education, endowment development, or mission and outreach opportunities. Area reps also serve as networking ties to the greater

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Meet your area representatives

Rev. John Thornburg – VP of Area Representatives: Specializes in Holy Conversations, Holy Excavations and strategic planning.
jthornburg@tmf-fdn.org

Rev. Melvin Amerson – Senior Area Rep. / Texas Conference: Specializes in stewardship education and resource management for small churches.
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Rev. Richard Edwards – Senior Area Rep. / Northwest Texas Conference: Specializes in helping mid-sized churches with year-round stewardship and Miracle Sunday.
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Rev. John Mollet – Senior Area Rep. / Central Texas Conference: Specializes in helping mid-sized churches with year-round stewardship and Miracle Sunday.
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Rev. Carol Montgomery – Senior Area Rep. / North Texas Conference: Specializes in Holy Conversations, Holy Excavations and strategic planning.
cmontgomery@tmf-fdn.org

Rev. Scott Sharp – Senior Area Rep. / New Mexico Conference: Specializes in Holy Conversations and strategic planning.
ssharp@tmf-fdn.org

Tom Stanton – Senior Area Rep. / Rio Texas Conference: Specializes in non-profit governance, board structure and efficacy, and serves as General Counsel for TMF.
tstanton@tmf-fdn.org

Leah Taylor – Senior Area Rep. / Texas Conference: Specializes in laity empowerment.
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Rev. Mark Woodward – Senior Area Rep. / Texas Conference: Specializes in clergy relations.
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with our work. When I was appointed to Heartspring in 1997, I quickly became aware that so many did not know we existed and/or did not have a clue what we did. I was so excited when we finally had enough resources to spend more on marketing, adding a professional consulting firm as well as creating the staff position of communications director. With a new name, new branding and new communications tools, we have been able to extend our reach across the conference — although there is still a way to go.

3. The appreciation of our clients. The churches that have discovered our work have been greatly appreciative. Our entire staff agrees that our jobs are very meaningful because we focus on helping others to do great things. We provide a vast array of services including socially responsible investing, loans, grants, consultation and stewardship campaigns. It is so rewarding to receive appreciative responses like, “We couldn’t have done it without you,” and “Your involvement made all the difference in the world.”

Now if I were just enough of a songwriter to craft them into my own version of “Thanks for the Memory” lyrics!

Although we live in uncertain times, I am positive that when churches work hard to be faithful to the call of God, great things will happen. I am excited about the future. As we join forces with TMF, we will have even more resources to help our churches and charitable donors be the very best they can be. Truly we will be stronger together in our ministry to help your ministry succeed.

Yes, I want to say thanks for the memories. And, yes, the best is still to come!

Grace and peace,



Rev. C.J. Taylor

Thornburg: Growing entrepreneurs of hope

MEET REV. JOHN THORNBURG, vice president of area representatives at Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF). Thornburg has a rich history of serving Methodist ministries in various capacities for more than 35 years. After graduating from DePauw University in Indiana in 1976, he went on to seminary at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology where he received his master of divinity degree in 1981.

Thornburg spent 22 years ministering to churches in the Dallas area before jumping fully into what he says was a persistent call to focus on congregational singing as an extension ministry. He spent the next 12 years writing and publishing hymns, leading music worship across the United States, and helping other music ministers to explore the role of congregational singing in their own contexts.

During this time, the Texas Conference began researching what would become the Advancing Pastoral Leadership (APL) program, an initiative officially launched in 2009 to develop a deeper capacity for strategic congregational leadership among younger pastors with the potential to serve at least 30 more years.

The APL leadership team knew of Thornburg’s ministry work and called upon him to contribute to the process. Ultimately, Thornburg partnered with the first seven cohorts of APL pastors, allowing him to cultivate long-term relationships with key leaders in our conference.

It was no coincidence, then, when TMF began to develop its own leadership ministry, President Tom Locke sought out Thornburg for advice.



Thornburg strives to incorporate the idea of entrepreneurial hope into his daily work and into that of his team.

Locke asked him what kind of clergy a new leadership ministry would need, and Thornburg said simply, “You’ll need entrepreneurs of hope.”

Over the next several years, Thornburg consulted with TMF on developing its leadership ministry, identifying key “entrepreneurs of hope” in each conference, and then facilitating clergy accountability groups where members could provide support, encouragement and perspective for each other.

As a self-professed “professional encourager,” Thornburg strives to incorporate the idea of entrepreneurial hope into his daily work and into that of his team as they partner with churches discerning what God is calling them to do. ■

Heartspring celebrates 40 years of ministry in Texas Conference

HEARTSPRING IS PROUD to celebrate 40 years of faithful service, helping Texas Conference ministries succeed. Founded at the 1978 session of the Texas Annual Conference, Heartspring, originally called the United Methodist Foundation of the Texas Annual Conference, was created to provide financial and stewardship services to the churches and members of the conference.

At the end of the first year of operation the Foundation consisted of one staff member and \$1.4 million under management. Today, the Foundation has grown to seven full-time staff members and \$86 million under management. For the past 40 years, we have worked hard at doing exactly what we were created to do — and so much more than we ever could have imagined. From that modest beginning, our Foundation has grown into a ministry that now distributes more than \$1 million



a year into the operations of churches, ministries and missions within the Texas Conference. While we have grown and our ministry evolved year over year, the core mission of the Foundation remains unchanged.

In January 2019 we'll take our next step. Heartspring will join forces with TMF, merging

our staff, assets under management and other resources. The resulting combined organization will be stronger together, sharing a mission, an inspiration and a commitment to helping Methodists fulfill God's plan for them. ■

Heartspring / TMF merger update

WITH A JAN. 1 DATE for joint operations, the core transition team continues to meet regularly to discuss the complex details, logistics and moving parts of the merger. With many new and exciting possibilities to explore, the team is taking the time necessary to effectively discern the best steps moving forward. Our goal is to keep everyone well-informed of any changes to be made. The most current information, including new contact information and other operational details, will be mailed, emailed and/or posted online as soon as it becomes available: www.heartspringmethodist.org/about-us/heartspring-tmf. Questions? Contact us at 800-521-9617 or office@heartspringmethodist.org. ■

Financial Corner: Poised for a new season

In preparation for Heartspring to merge with TMF on January 1, we are reviewing every aspect of our day-to-day operations. Be assured that Heartspring will continue operations as usual for the remainder of 2018. Gift and grant instructions and procedures related to your Heartspring funds will remain the same through December 2018 and into January 2019. As we get closer to year-end, be sure to look for our letters and email notifications about any changes to your particular product or service. We are honored that you have entrusted us with your financial assets and invite you to continue with us as we move into our new season of life with TMF.

One-stop shopping for financial information

Visit the Financial Corner on our website www.heartspringmethodist.org/financial-corner for our most current performance, as well as other tools and resources, such as market news and commentary from our fund managers, updated monthly.

Thank you: 40 years of giving and growing

AS WE PREPARE to merge with TMF, we want to remember all those who have contributed to our rich history of ministry to the Texas Conference. We are thankful to church leadership from the late 1970s, including Bishop Finus Crutchfield and visionary lay leader Rudy Williams, for having the courage to dream big, and then to apply the foresight and resources needed to bring their vision of a conference foundation to fruition.

We appreciate each of the six bishops who have served the Texas Conference since 1978 for supporting the foundation over the years, and for their wisdom in appointing Dr. Roy Felder, Dr. Gus Browning, Dr. Faulk Landrum and Rev. C. J. Taylor to lead the foundation forward.

We are grateful to each and every person who has served as a foundation board member over those 40 years. We appreciate each person's contribution of valuable time and talents to inform countless decisions made through board meetings, letters, phone calls and emails to help shape each ministry the foundation has been able to provide.

We are thankful to all our staff, both past and present, for committing to the mission of the foundation, and for putting in the hours needed to accomplish our goals. Staff members are the backbone of any great organization, and we are grateful to each employee for delivering a job well done.

Most importantly, we are grateful to our clients — the churches, agencies and individual Methodists of the Texas Conference — for the trust each has placed in the work of the foundation. We are thankful to partner with so many incredible ministries doing great things, and to support churches as they strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

And finally, to our foundation friends: We are thankful for the support, for the collaboration available through our connectional system, and for those who chose to walk with us through 40 years of ministry.

We are truly grateful for every hand that has touched the ministry of Heartspring in one way or another and appreciate continued prayers and support as we join forces with TMF. ■



thank you

AREA REPS *continued from page 1*

connectional system and may share information about relevant grant or loan opportunities, leadership ministry programs, or other TMF services that may be helpful to a church.

While area representatives are initially assigned a geographic territory, each person brings a unique skillset, or specialty, to the team's dynamic, and TMF believes that specialty is far more important than conference lines. The area representatives work together to make sure every church receives the best resources and support network available.

"As area reps, our job is to create cultures of purpose, generosity and courage within each congregation. Although, to be honest, we tend to spend more time cultivating

courage since you cannot develop purpose or generosity without it," says Thornburg.

In January 2019, Heartspring's Rev. Mark Woodward will join the team of area representatives at TMF and will focus primarily on cultivating courage and connecting Texas Conference churches to the right resources.

"I'm really looking forward to joining the incredible team of area reps at TMF," he says. "We're all trying to provide resources to help churches do great things, and I'm excited to continue playing a role in that ministry."

For more information on area reps or how the team could help your church take its ministry to the next level, visit www.tmf-fdn.org or contact your area rep directly. ■

Spirit

The Heartspring *Spirit* is published quarterly by Heartspring Methodist Foundation for clients, friends and members of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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