

# ENCORE

Ministry Foundation



***Empowering*** Churches.  
***Honoring*** Senior Adults.  
***Strengthening*** Communities.

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**As I reflect on 2025**, I am deeply moved by the ever-changing evolution of ENCORE Ministry Foundation. While our purpose – intentional ministry by, for, and with older adults – remains steadfast and solid, I am excited to see what the next chapter holds for ENCORE.



**Key Achievements**

- Rebranded and launched new ENCORE website.
- Began building a resource, training, and continuing education secondary website (going live in 2026) to house a plethora of resources, articles, podcasts, webinars, and other material related to aging and older adult ministry that is easily accessible for individuals and congregations. The site will also host the Family Stewardship Center that will be migrated with information, downloadable white papers, and other material related to increasing intergenerational trust and communication.
- Gathered feedback and compelling stories from churches that have received ENCORE funding in 2025. The material will be shared via ENCORE social media and website posts.
- Solidified and expanded our relationship with UTC College of Nursing through the Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate (AFCC) program and fall 2025 conference.
- Increased fundraising efforts and response to our targeted appeals for support of the Kent and Ellen McNish Fund for Food Security, as well as the AFCC.
- Because of the growing demand for Older Adult ministry resources, training, and consultation, we have continued our discussions with other denominations such as the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, UM Mountain Sky Conference, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Discipleship Ministries, and the Center for Congregations.
- Dispersed \$211,900 in grant funding, including 20 one-time Food Security grants to churches and other ministries.

In conclusion, 2025 was marked by considerable progress and impactful achievements, alongside challenges that have provided opportunities for growth and learning. I am confident that the groundwork laid during this period will pave the way for even greater successes in 2026.

Sincerely,

*John Rivas*

**John Rivas**

*Executive Director*

**Purpose:** Intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults.

### How

- Provide quality resources
- Initiate collaborative solutions
- Empower older adults to live grace-filled lives

### We Value

- Our Wesleyan heritage
- Strategic alliances
- Lifelong learning

### Core Values

- Grace-filled lives
- Seeking collaborative solutions
- Affirming our Wesleyan tradition



## YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to our supporters and God's blessings on our efforts, ENCORE Ministry Foundation (ENCORE) impacted older adults throughout the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference and beyond! In 2025, we celebrated these milestones:

### Dispersed more than \$211,000 in grant funding

Blankenship Grant for Individual Assistance	Amount
Glenclyff UMC, Nashville, TN	\$ 5,000

Disaster Relief Grant	Amount
First UMC, Columbia, TN	\$ 10,000

McAlilly Grants for Church Accessibility	Amount
Christ UMC, Franklin, TN	\$ 10,000
Cooks' UMC, Mt. Juliet, TN	\$ 10,000
First UMC, Woodbury, TN	\$ 10,000
Forest Hills UMC, Brentwood, TN	\$ 10,000
St. Mark's UMC, Murfreesboro, TN	\$ 10,000

McNish Grant for Older Adult Food Security	Amount
Calvert City UMC, KY	\$ 10,000
First UMC, Lawrenceburg, TN	\$ 10,000
Lafayette UMC, TN	\$ 10,000

New Older Adult Ministry Grants	Amount
Bethlehem UMC, Clarksville, TN	\$ 900
Rehoboth UMC, Gallatin, TN	\$ 1,000

Older Adult Community Service Grants	Amount
Gordon Memorial UMC, Nashville, TN	\$ 10,000
Grace Depot Church, Clarksville, TN	\$ 5,000

Special Food Security Grants	Amount
Churches/Organizations with Food Ministries	\$ 100,000

ENCORE also provided consultation, training, and resources to help church leaders develop intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults, including:

- Launching an updated website offering more resources and ministry options for intentional ministry, by, for, and with older adults.
- Initiating an Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate program for individuals and churches.
- Sponsoring a conference-wide older adult ministry event for church leaders and older adults at Franklin (Tennessee) First United Methodist Church.
- Sponsoring and presenting information about ENCORE to participants at the Board of Laity Luncheon at the 2025 the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference.
- Presentation to and collaboration with Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation in the Mountain Sky Conference about ENCORE and how values can be passed from generation to generation via legacy planning.

2026 promises to be filled with even more training and support, consultations, advocacy, quality resources, networking opportunities, and grant funding to equip church leaders for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults. We look forward to working together to further strengthening churches and creating faith communities of well-being for older adults.



ENCORE Ministry Foundation provides grant funding to churches and communities for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults.

The funds help support and impact an aging population in areas such as accessibility, food security, transportation, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, and spiritual development. Here are a few examples and how they have provided lasting impact:



## Encore Grants Help Fund Centertown UMC Food Ministry Program In McMinnville

The ministry started about 10 years ago with three volunteers serving approximately 20 families. Today, they distribute 180-200 boxes every week. It's hard to say exactly how many families they serve since they do not require any information from the recipients, but they estimate it is well over 200 and one-third to one-half of the recipients are over 65 years old.



## Be Fit Exercise Program Thrives at Bethlehem UMC

The Be Fit exercise program at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee, continues to flourish, offering participants a unique opportunity to improve their physical health while fostering a sense of community. The program accommodates various schedules, welcoming participants throughout the week with some dedicated individuals joining every day.

## Gordon Memorial UMC's Best Year's Program

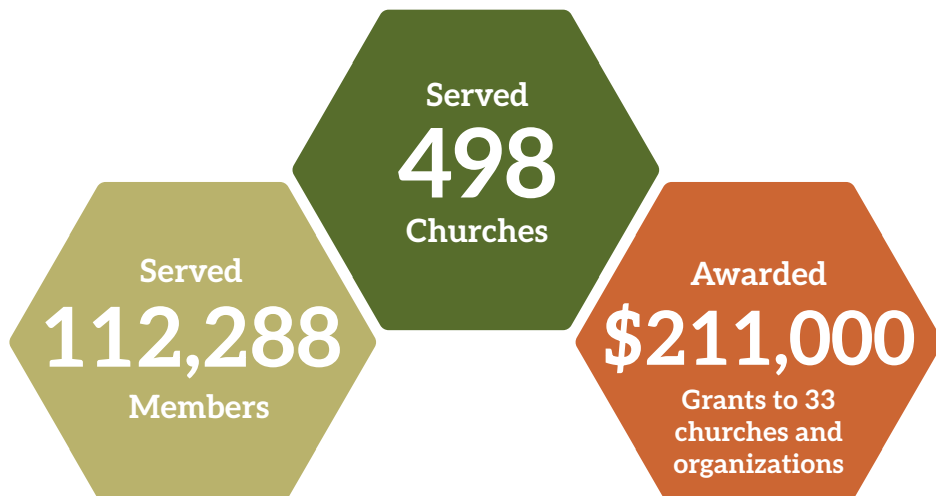
The church's Best Years program has served church and community members for more than 10 years. Beginning as a Bible study, the program has evolved into a weekly gathering for 45-50 seniors (ages 70-90) from the church and surrounding area. It offers a mix of fellowship, physical activity, spiritual formation, and nutritious meals, helping participants stay active, connected, and engaged.

## Grant Helps Food Pantry Ministry Fight Hunger in Local Community

Grace Depot Church in Clarksville, Tennessee, is making a significant impact in the lives of older adults in the community, thanks to a \$5,000 Older Adult Community Service Grant awarded by the ENCORE Ministry Foundation. The grant has enabled the church's Elders Network to provide essential services and Christ-centered care to seniors facing isolation, medical challenges, and emotional strain.



## 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



### Events Hosted

Sponsored and presented information about ENCORE Ministry Foundation to participants at the **Board of Laity Luncheon** at the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church. Keynote speakers were John Rivas and Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr.

**Building Community with Older Adults** sponsored by ENCORE Ministry Foundation and UTC Chattanooga's College of Nursing. It was in-person and live streamed at Franklin (Tennessee) First United Methodist Church. Area experts, including Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr., presented topics on grief and loss; cybercrime, fraud and scams; and respite programs and resources. In addition, a new Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate Program was highlighted.

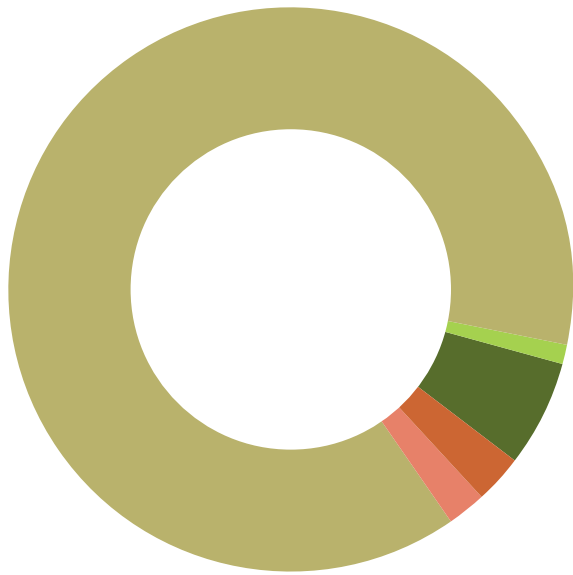
John Rivas presented eight sessions of **Living a Legacy**, including one to the Methodist Helping Methodist Foundation in the Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr., served as an Older Adult Ministry training leader for clergy and lay leaders at the **2025 Festival of Wisdom and Grace** at Lake Junaluska.

Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr., served as keynote speaker at **State of Tennessee's 2025 Leadership Summit**.

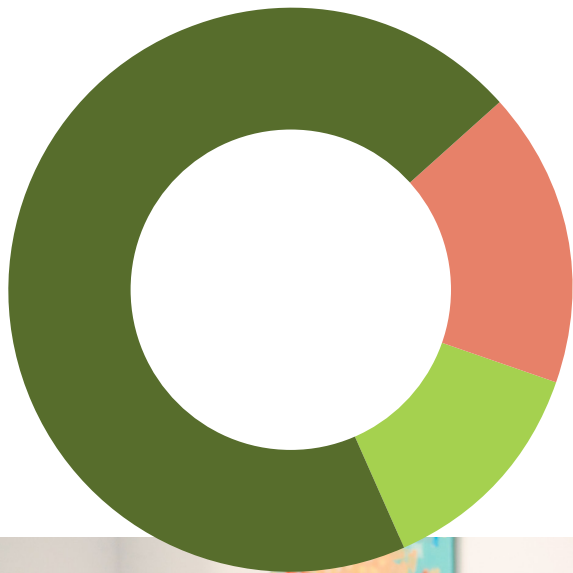


# 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Revenue Overview

Grants	\$ 1,202,792
Events	\$ 1,000
Other Income	\$ 90,231
Individual Donations	\$ 23,729
Church Contributions	\$ 4,821
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	\$ 1,322,573



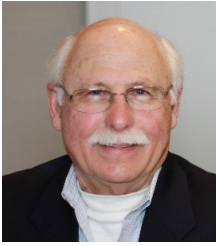
## Expense Overview

Program Services	\$ 461,688
Fundraising	\$ 111,962
Administrative	\$ 82,038
	<hr/>
	\$ 655,688



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2026 Board of Directors



Charles Hewgley  
Chairman



Cliff Steger  
Vice Chairman



Tom Adkinson  
Secretary



David Morgan  
Treasurer

2026 Ex Officio  
Member



Courtney Lawson,  
Connectional Ministry Associate

Class of 2026



Kay Bowers



Rev. Dr. John Collett



David Morgan



Al Partee



Cliff Steger



Rev. Ed Trimmer

Class of 2027



Tom Adkinson



Luci Cromer



Rev. Sonnye Dixon



Rev. Neil Dobson



Charles Hewgley



Ed VanVoorhees

Class of 2028



Chrissy Calhoun



Rev. Sarah Carty



Mike Engle



Lisa Harper



Rev. Marie C. King



Michael Lorance



Linda Schumann



## PARTNER & SUPPORT RECOGNITION

ENCORE would like to thank  
our generous donors and supporters in 2025

Tom Adkinson  
Kay Bowers  
Cathy and Joe Burkhead  
Lisa and Byron Carson  
Sarah Carty  
Luci Cromer  
John and Rita Collett  
Megan Cooper  
Neil and Norma Jean Dobson  
Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr.  
Susan Hay  
Kathryn Heavey  
Charles Hewgley  
Marie King  
David Lilley  
Michael & Joanna Lorance  
Emily McNish  
Kathryn McNish  
Kent and Ellen McNish  
David Morgan  
John Rivas  
Krik Rutter  
Cindy Solomon  
Cliff Steger  
Shirley Vaughn  
Ed Van Voorhees  
Erin Williams-McNish  
Susan Williams  
Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Clarksville, TN  
Cannon United Methodist Church, Shelbyville, TN  
Clark United Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN  
First United Methodist Church, Franklin, Tennessee  
First United Methodist Church Mt. Pleasant, TN  
Madison Street United Methodist Church, Clarksville, TN  
Versa Care Grant  
United Women in Faith Greenbrier UMC



## Meaningful ways to support **ENCORE Ministry Foundation**

There are many meaningful ways to support ENCORE Ministry Foundation, both today and for generations to come. A simple and lasting option is to include a gift in your **will or trust (bequest)**, which allows you to make a future impact without affecting your current finances. You can also make an immediate difference with a **cash gift**, which provides crucial support for our ongoing work.

Another popular giving method is the **IRA Charitable Rollover** (also called a Qualified Charitable Distribution), which allows donors aged 70½ or older to give directly from their IRA—satisfying required minimum distributions and reducing taxable income. If you are looking for income as well as impact, a **Charitable Gift Annuity** offers fixed payments for life in exchange for a gift, while a **Charitable Remainder Unitrust** provides variable income and potential tax benefits, with the remainder supporting ENCORE Ministry Foundation.



**ENCORE**   
Ministry Foundation