



2018-2019

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:



REV. DAVE ALLEN

In what has been a tumultuous year for United Methodism, you hold in your hands some truly hopeful news about the future of the church. I am excited to give you a taste of the rich transformations taking place among the current generation of Duke Wesley students. We are serious about growing in the love of God and neighbor through our life of worship, sacrament, service, and study. At Duke Wesley, our students find the tools, experiences, and friendships through which they can come to embrace the faith for themselves, and see the ways in which God might use them for good as they chart their course into adulthood.

One of the most important things we do at Duke is to help these supremely capable, motivated, self-reliant students rediscover their dependence on God. We've spent this year pressing more deeply into the life of Christian piety, from our fall sermon series on the Holy Spirit to our spring retreat about the sacraments. Weekly Eucharist continues to be a pillar of our life together. Of course, as good Methodists, we always hold these faithful practices alongside works of mercy and a commitment to social justice. Inside this report, you'll read about two important ways that we've engaged with the wounds of the world: our border trip to Arizona, and the "Do Good" Fund. These have been formational experiences, sharpening our students' skill as readers of the Bible and readers of the world. Piety and mercy go hand-in-hand.

I've observed this same dynamic as our group has navigated the fallout of the UMC's special General Conference that met in February. While the reinforcement of the church's restrictions on LGBTQ people caused great pain and turmoil among our students, it has also helped to clarify and solidify the students' theology around identity and sexuality in a way that I find extremely hopeful for the future. Much remains to be seen about the future configuration of the Methodist Church, about Duke's affiliation with the UMC, and about the North Carolina Conference's ability to continue its current level of funding for campus ministries. In the meantime, I take heart in the words of Hebrews 10:23-24: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for the one who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JANIE BOOTH

Home: Charlotte, NC (Myers Park UMC)

Major: Art History, with a minor in Chemistry

Janie Booth (T'19) arrived at Duke with a strong Christian formation, thanks to her family and her home congregation. During her college years, she pressed deeply into that identity as a small-group leader and Student Pastor in Duke Wesley. She was also a Duke Chapel Scholar, a frequent lector in Chapel services, and the winner of this year's Student Preacher competition. Janie's sermon focused on the way that Jesus' "upside-down" message in the Sermon on the Plain illuminated her own experience in the Arizona desert during Wesley's trip to the border.

Janie was also a fixture on campus, serving in leadership roles with the First-Year Advisory Counselor (FAC) program, the Nasher Museum of Art, and Duke Chorale. In her last semester, she became a *Chronicle* columnist, and presented her senior thesis at a research conference at Duke Kunshan University in China.



Student Preacher Sunday  
Duke Chapel  
Feb. 17, 2019

# WESLEY TRAVELS TO THE US/MEXICO BORDER



In January, in the middle of a government shutdown over funding for the President's border wall, eight Duke Wesley students journeyed to Tucson, Arizona for a five-day learning experience hosted by BorderLinks.

In Tucson, our group heard from advocates and activists with decades of experience on both sides of the border. They learned about the economic, humanitarian, and ecological dimensions of an increasingly fortified border region. They heard the story of the Sanctuary Movement at its epicenter, Tucson's Southside Presbyterian Church. They visited Operation Streamline, the Justice Department's bulk-processing court, and witnessed the deportation orders of dozens of detained

migrants. They also ventured into the Sonoran desert, walking a migrant trail and leaving water for thirsty travelers, with a guide from the humanitarian agency No More Deaths.

The group returned to Durham with a new understanding of two impossibly challenging realities: the harrowing physical challenge of crossing the border, and the byzantine legal system that governs migrants and asylum-seekers. Since the trip, several students have been able to give presentations on the border at their home churches.

Our pilgrimage to the border was part of Duke Wesley's long tradition of using academic breaks to serve and to learn. The Holy Spirit can transform students in powerful ways when we step off the campus and into the lived experience of the people of God in another part of the country or world. This trip to Arizona was possible because of funding from Duke Chapel and from Wesley's Brian Howell Memorial Endowment.

For more information about our Tucson partners, visit [BORDERLINKS.ORG](http://BORDERLINKS.ORG) and [NOMOREDEATHS.ORG](http://NOMOREDEATHS.ORG).



# THE 'DO GOOD' FUND

From 2007-2016, Duke Wesley owned a large house adjacent to East Campus. The Wesley House was home to a vibrant residential community and formed an important part of the ministry's life. Thanks to generous donors, the Wesley House defined this period for two generations of Wesley students. But trends in student housing, combined with accumulating repair concerns and a change in leadership, led the Board of Directors to sell the house in the summer of 2016.

In this transition, the Board saw a rare opportunity to engage students in thinking about money and generosity. The Board set aside a tithe of \$30,000 and tasked the students with distributing these funds to charitable organizations beyond Duke's walls. The students quickly dubbed this the "Do Good Fund," inspired by John Wesley's second General Rule for the early Methodists societies: "Do all the good you can."

This year, a group of five students met to discern how best to distribute the Do Good Fund. The group reflected with the campus minister on their own experiences with money, and how they were taught to think about generosity. They discussed writers who have thought deeply about Scripture, human worth, and money.

In our baptism, we have vowed 'to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.' With this in mind, our giving focused on Gender Justice, LGBTQ+ Justice, Refugees & Migration, and Systemic Racism & Inequality. Because Duke Wesley is part of a longer story and a larger circle of generosity, we are also glad to give support to three 'friends of Duke Wesley,' important partners in our journey: NCCU Wesley, L'Arche North Carolina, and the NC Conference's hurricane response effort. In all, 75% of the Fund went to organizations based in Durham or North Carolina, because we wanted to prioritize local needs and strengthen relationships between Wesley students and these trusted partners.

Read the full report on the Do Good Fund at [DUKEWESLEY.COM/GOOD](http://DUKEWESLEY.COM/GOOD).



# FINANCES

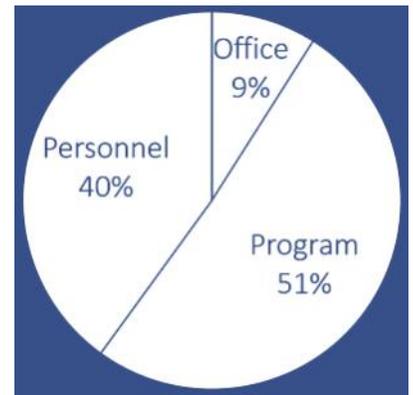
For the 2018 calendar year

## INCOME BREAKDOWN

\$19,170	Contributions
\$13,380	NC Conference
\$6,940	Endowments

The campus minister's salary and benefits are paid as part of the budget of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



The above proportions exclude the campus minister's salary, but they include the intern stipend. The largest program expenses are the January trip to Tucson and our Sunday night dinners. The money we spend enriches the students' experience from week to week and semester to semester.

