



## Circuit Rider Dispatch



Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

# Holston Foundation Gives Largest Gift in its History

The Holston Foundation announces the largest gift in its history to Holston Camp and Retreat Ministries! The Holston Foundation will give \$150,000 to Holston Camp and Retreat Ministries, which makes history as the most significant gift given by the Holston Foundation since its creation nearly 40 years ago.

The grant from the Holston Foundation will support Camp and Retreat ministries' *Together for Tomorrow* campaign and will be divided equally among the Holston Conference camps: Camp Bays Mountain, Camp in the Community, Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout, and Camp Wesley Woods.

Through camp, children and youth often make decisions to follow Christ, to dedicate their lives to service, and develop an appreciation for the importance of creation and its stewardship. Camping is a vital part of Holston's ministry to children and youth. However, in 2020 in-person camping was canceled at all Holston camps due to the pandemic. The loss of revenue had a significant impact on each of the camps. The *Together for Tomorrow* campaign strengthens camps financially and ensures the future of Holston Camp and Retreat Ministries.



"God has blessed the Holston Foundation and we want to be good stewards of those funds. This gift enables the Foundation to help impact people's lives throughout Holston through the ministry of camp," Paul Bowman, Holston Foundation president, said. "There's value in camping not only for the young, but also for those who feel called to ministry, older adults, and churches. Camping strengthens and fosters the spiritual life of Holston."

The Holston Conference's love for and investment in camp and retreat ministries is evident. In other United Methodist conferences, camps are shutting their doors.

However, the Holston Conference is ranked among the largest United Methodist camping ministries in the world. Holston has physical camps in four of the nine districts and also boasts Camp in the Community, which is a unique model that takes camp to campers in each of Holston's districts.

"Our Camp & Retreat Ministries feel especially blessed to be in the Holston Conference. Our laity, clergy, and Conference office show us such an abundance of support. We are so



grateful to receive this generous gift from the Holston Foundation and be able to continue to provide this ministry for all," Mary Thompson, director of Holston Camp and Retreat Ministries, said.

In previous years, the Holston Foundation has given significant gifts to Tennessee Wesleyan University to support its acquisition of the dental hygiene program from Hiwassee College (\$100,000) and to support Holston's ministry with the people of South Sudan (\$75,000).

For more information about the Holston Foundation or leaving a legacy, contact president [Paul Bowman](#). To learn more about the Together for Tomorrow campaign, contact [Mary Thompson](#), director of Holston Camp and Retreat Ministries.



#### DONOR STORY

### [Linda Bird Wright](#)

The Rev. Linda Bird Wright has been through so much in the last two years, one would expect her to... [Read More](#)

#### PERSONAL PLANNER

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Because children often look at their inheritance as a representation of their parents' love, most parents leave children equal shares of their estate. However, there are a number of good reasons why a parent might leave unequal shares. [Read More](#)

#### SAVVY LIVING

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Can you explain the differences between the coronavirus and the seasonal flu? I am 70, and usually get a standard flu shot, but would like to find out what else I can do to protect myself this winter. [Read More](#)

#### WASHINGTON NEWS

### [Timely Tips for End-of-Year Tax Planning](#)

Each year, the IRS offers tips on preparing for filing tax returns in the upcoming filing season. With two months left this year, it is an excellent time to gather your tax records and review your withholding and estimated tax payments. With preparation this... [Read More](#)

#### FINANCES

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## For Your Day: Peacemakers Among Us

Are you seeking peace during this day? Take a few moments to read about Holston peacemakers from *The Call* [Read Now](#)

## Impact on Congregations

Many have wondered how the pandemic would affect church finances. The first hint comes from a new national study of 555 congregations (multi-denominational) looking at giving in American churches from February through June 2020 from the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving. [Read the full study](#)

## Meet with the Holston Foundation

The Holston Foundation continues to meet with church leaders, committees, and donors during this time either in-person or virtually. The Foundation can even help host your committee meeting online. Reach out to [Paul Bowman](#) to set up a meeting in the ways you are most comfortable today.

**In-person?  
Online?**

**No matter how you meet,  
the Holston Foundation is  
here to serve you!**

The Holston Foundation can meet with committees and donors safely in-person or virtually. Your preference matters to us.



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