

Abbreviated History of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation (DSUMF)

February 2, 1985: Members of the Special Interim Committee of the Bishop's Special Task Force met to discuss the division of the "Pacific and Southwest" United Methodist Foundation Assets.

October 23, 1986: The Arizona Corporation Commission approved The Foundation's Articles of Incorporation.

October 30, 1986: Bishop Galvan opened the first meeting of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation.

September 30, 1988: The Board approved expenditures to hire a full-time Director and a request of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference to disburse designated Desert Southwest UMF funds.

December 22, 1988: The Foundation's IRS Tax-Exempt status became official with the assignation of our Employer Identification Number.

November 1, 1989: The Rev. Cecil Lackore began work as the Foundation's first, salaried Executive Director.

May 18, 1990: The first Investment Committee Policies and Guidelines were approved.

May 17, 1991: Cal-Pac Foundation completed its distribution of DSUMF funds and Rev Cecil Lackore resigned to move to another Conference after spending most of his time on the "Building Our Future" Capital Campaign and on special tasks as assigned by Bishop Galvan.

September 6, 1991: DSUMF transferred funds from First Interstate Bank to Shearson Lehman Hutton brokerage firm and established a Pension and a Pooled Fund Account.

May 29, 1992: DSUMF Pension Fund: \$811,525.00; DSUMF Pooled Fund: \$766, 235.00.

September 10, 1993: Bishop Galvan proposed the hiring of a part-time Foundation Director.

October 30, 1993: Foundation considers "merging Investment Service" into New Mexico United Methodist Foundation.

April 15, 1994: Foundation hired Charles Douglas as part-time Director; DSUMF Pension Fund: \$709,324; Pooled Fund: \$741,000.

December 1995: Director Charles Douglas suffers massive heart attack. Mr. Douglas did recover, but was unable to return to work.

March 29, 1996: Without an Executive Director, DSUMF moves closer to merging its Investment Service under New Mexico UMF umbrella.

July 1, 1996: Foundation enters into cooperative agreement with United Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education (UMFCHE) in Nashville, TN to “share” their Vice President, Richard M. Brown Ed.D., CFRE. Dr. Brown acts as a part-time Director for DSUMF while continuing his planned giving responsibilities for UMFCHE.

November 1, 1996: Foundation restructures (reduces) Money Management Fees charged to Annuity, Trust, and Endowment Accounts in order to be more competitive in the non-profit market place.

January 24, 1997: Foundation approves new Scholarship Distribution Policy involving fewer scholarships, but for higher dollar amounts.

April 18, 1997: DSUMF moves from “Purchase Value” to “Full Fair-Market Value” when preparing financial statements. Fair-Market valuations are consistent with financial accounting standards as suggested by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

September 5, 1997: Foundation moves accounting services from Conference Treasurer’s Office to outsourced service that specializes in non-profit fund accounting.

December 5, 1997: Pension Fund Balance: \$1,096,000; Pooled Fund Balance: \$1,857,000; new financial operating polices adopted; Foundation adopts Annual Conference Personnel Policies.

January 1, 1998: Foundation hires Dr. Rick Brown as full-time Executive Director with financial subsidy agreement from UMFCHE.

December 11, 1998: More than \$1.25 million dollars were deposited into the Foundation’s newly created Investment Service during 1998.

February 19, 1999: Foundation adopts new Gift Acceptance Policies.

March 13, 1999: Foundation proposes \$220,000 operating budget to Annual Conference CF&A with apportionment funding request of \$97,500. Foundation begins restructuring itself into a Service Bureau.

May 7, 1999: Board Member Gary Drown, an actuary, proposes an asset allocation model of 60% equities and 40% bonds for the Foundation’s portfolio after performing a regression analysis of asset allocation models in relation to their annualized rates of return over a 20-year period of time. Foundation approves proposal. Foundation receives over \$900,000 in deposits from churches, and new annuities in May alone.

Summer of 1999: Foundation begins process to restructure its Investment Service. Pooled Fund Balance: \$4,169,153; Pension Fund Balance: \$1,218,686.

September 1999: Foundation moves portfolio from Smith Barney to Prudential after interviewing four out of 20 investment firms that responded to RFP’s. Through Prudential, Foundation hires six asset managers to invest different portions of portfolio with an asset allocation model of 60% equities & 40% bonds.

December 31, 1999: Foundation's audited net assets: \$7,941,405.

January 19, 2000: Foundation begins revising Investment Guidelines. Executive Committee begins Long Range Strategic planning process.

April 14, 2000: Foundation begins development of simplified Mission Statement and marketing itself as a Service Bureau with two primary services: Education Service and Investment Service. Investment Committee begins evaluating asset manager performance according to Peer Group Percentile Rankings and requires our asset managers to be operating in the top 50% percentile for 5 of 7 time periods.

December 31, 2000: Foundation finishes year with \$8,877,138 in assets. Foundation continues to average 40 Estate Planning Seminars, with approximately 1,000 attendees per year since 1996.

March 31, 2001: More than \$2,250,000 in deposits was received during the 1st quarter of 2001, bringing Foundation's total assets to more than \$12 million dollars. Most of the new funds are gifts from major donors to the "Bold In Christ" Capital Campaign and the funds are not considered permanent or long-term funds. New asset managers were hired to manage a more diversified portfolio while maintaining the 60% / 40% Asset Allocation Model.

June 1, 2001: Foundation hired Lucille Sterling as full-time accountant / Controller. Lucille begins process of bringing outsourced bookkeeping activities to an "in-house" accounting activity.

August 17, 2001: Director proposed new Monthly Management Report that tracks the Foundation's goal of achieving self-sufficiency. Proposal was accepted. Foundation has eight asset managers investing different portions of its portfolio.

September 11, 2001: Terrorists attacked the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon. American Heroes thwarted an attack on another unknown site. World investment markets plunged. Due to the collapse of the World Trade Centers, the Stock Market remained closed for one week.

September 28, 2001: The Foundation offered a free conference call to all depositors and potential depositors to calm concerns about the Stock Market. Twelve churches participated in the conference call.

October 19, 2001: Foundation adopted new Grants & Scholarship procedures including new, 4-page, Application Form.

November 2001: Foundation's "in-house" accounting process is finalized.

December 31, 2001: Foundation finished the year with \$8,000,000 in assets after distributing more than \$4,000,000 for Bold In Christ initiatives, scholarships, and other grants.

February 2002: Foundation established the Board of Directors Endowment Fund in an attempt to achieve self-sufficiency sooner, rather than later.

September 2002: Due to year-to-date double-digit losses in the stock markets, the Foundation's income from money management fees are lower than budgeted. Therefore, the Foundation will not move closer to its long-term goal of becoming self sufficient in 2002.

December 2002: Despite losses on the market, the Foundation was able to distribute more than \$680,000 for various Bold In Christ projects and approximately \$20,000 for scholarships and other purposes from its endowment funds during the 2002 calendar year. After all these distributions, the Foundation still ended the year with \$6,324,837 (audited) in total assets. Agencies, Boards and Churches using the Foundation's Investment Service experienced a net loss, after all expenses, of -10.18% on their deposits. While such losses are not desirable, it is noteworthy that all the major indexes (DJIA, S&P 500, NASDAQ) experienced losses ranging from -20% to -32% on the year.

In year-end giving activities, more than a dozen donors contributed over \$250,000 to establish Charitable Gift Annuities and new endowment funds.

April 2003: A formal "Brainstorming Session" was conducted by Director Roy Schlessman. The purpose of the session was to address the Foundation's need for more income, balanced with the fact that the Foundation cannot conduct any fundraising activity that would be perceived as presenting competition by pastors or members of local churches. Marketing consultants, trust bankers, non-profit executive directors, and professional fundraisers participated in the session with a few of the Foundation's Board Members. All participants were impressed with the Foundation's services, productivity, and growth since 1996. Two recommendations developed from the session:

1. The Foundation should look into the possibility of operating a vehicle donation program to increase income, and
2. The Foundation should consider developing a comprehensive Marketing Plan.

June 2003: The Foundation initiated a vehicle donation program. Proceeds from sold vehicles are to be split on a 60/40 basis, with the local church receiving the 60% portion of the proceeds.

August 2003: DSUMF Board approved Investment Committee's recommendation to permit depositors with large portfolios to choose their own asset allocation. The recommendation clears the way for churches with large portfolios to deposit funds into our bond portfolio and/or our stock portfolio. Minimum deposits must be \$500,000 and a separate fee structure for these types of deposits has been developed. This is called the "Custom Choice" Option.

November 2003: DSUMF Board approves a 2004 expense budget of \$282,303, and adopts a comprehensive Marketing Plan that addresses Goals, Organizational Positioning, a Marketing Audit, and a Promotional Campaign. Included in the Plan was the development of a Corporate Signature to include a logo and a "tag line." The new logo involves a man building a foundation. The United Methodist Church's Cross and Flame rests on the top of the foundation. The "tag line" running underneath the foundation is "Building Your Church's Financial Future One Brick at a Time." The wall being built by the man in the logo is being made out of bricks. Each brick is labeled with services provided by the Foundation.

December 2003: DSUMF distributed \$12,647 in scholarships, pre-1982 pensioners' benefits, and vehicle donation proceeds. DSUMF ends the year with \$7,142,248.56 in total assets.

February 2004: For accounting purposes, DSUMF separates, to the extent possible, its operational income and expenses from its investment activities with Wachovia by opening a checking and money market account with the United Methodist Federal Credit Union (UMFCU). The new account with UMFCU will enable existing depositors to use the relationship between Wells Fargo and UMFCU to deposit funds into the Foundation's investment account.

June 2004: DSUMF Board approves policy and form used to authorize Executive Director to conduct financial transactions required by normal foundation activities. Said form, as a statement of resolution, will be provided to all entities requiring a variety of signatures for financial transactions. Foundation's Investment Committee decides not to employ Real Estate Investment Trusts as part of its Asset Allocation Model, but decided to continue discussions on including Managed Futures as part of its Asset Allocation Model in the future.

August 2004: DSUMF adds 8th Charitable Gift Annuity for the year, bringing total value in new CGAs for 2004 to \$167,000. DSUMF also tops \$1 million in new deposits for the year-to-date. Vehicle Donation program income is averaging \$350 per vehicle after distributing "splits" to local churches.

September 2004: DSUMF formally changes its Asset Allocation Model to include Managed Futures. Five percent is removed from the bond portion of the portfolio and placed into Managed Futures with Campbell Company out of Towson, Maryland. The new Asset Allocation Model is 60% stocks, 35% bonds and 5% managed futures.

October 2004: Bishop Minerva Carcaño hosts Foundation's first, conference-wide Investment Service Event. The event is well attended and enables the Foundation to "get the word out" about its Investment Service. DSUMF establishes its own web site and registers its domain name as DSUMF.ORG.

December 2004: DSUMF receives large deposits from churches that attended the October Investment Service Event and finishes the year with \$9,199,298 in total assets. DSUMF also distributes \$59,426 to beneficiaries in the form of scholarships, Vehicle Donation Program proceeds, pre-1982 pensioners' benefits and donor designated gifts.

March 2005: DSUMF adopts Dr. Harry Markowitz's Modern Portfolio Theory and decides to adjust its current portfolio to be consistent with the "Efficient Frontier." A portfolio on the Gold Curve of the "Efficient Frontier" is one that represents an acceptable level of risk, with a great deal of diversification, and one that represents a better-than-average, achievable, rate of return.

Based on the adoption of Markowitz's Modern Portfolio Theory and adjusting the portfolio to be consistent with the Efficient Frontier, the DSUMF also began to employ statistical procedures to measure asset manager and portfolio performance. The statistical procedures include "Alpha, Beta, Standard Deviation," and "Sharpe Ratios."

June 2005: After acquiring new accounts and receiving more deposits from existing depositors, DSUMF ends the month with more than \$10,800,000 under management.

October 2005: DSUMF Board approves Educational Cruise fundraiser in August 2006. Cruise will be through Inside Passage on Holland America's ms. Statendam.

December 2005: The DSUMF Investment Committee unanimously voted to move \$1 million of the Foundation's portfolio from a bond manager into 7-Day, Auction Rate Preferred Stocks. DSUMF ends year with record deposits (\$3.2 million+), and \$12,032,165 under management.

February 2006: DSUMF develops Leadership Training Events on a District by District basis as part of ongoing upgrade in marketing activities. DSUMF develops fundraising program for churches called the GREAT Program, which involves a unique utilization of Charitable Gift Annuities.

June 2006: DSUMF Board approves Educational Cruise fundraiser in August 2007. Cruise will be to the Mexican Riviera departing from San Diego.

October 2006: The Cabinet, during their September Annual Retreat, requested that Executive Director Brown prepare and present a conference wide fundraising proposal. The "Make New Disciples" proposal was presented to the cabinet on October 20 and again to Covenant Council on October 21, 2006. The Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation is named as the "Campaign Consultant" in the proposal. Both bodies approved the proposal as presented.

December 2006: During 2006 more than \$1.2 million was added to the portfolio's balance, and there was a net increase in the number of accounts under management; more than 32 gift stock transfers resulting in more than \$500,000 in proceeds were distributed to our church depositors without charging a fee.

February 2007: DSUMF Board unanimously voted to redirect an "inherited, unused" Endowed Loan Fund in the amount of \$122,790 to the new "Footsteps" Endowment Fund. The provisos being "only that the earnings from this new gift can be used for new church/new faith community start-up expenses as determined by the appropriate authorities within the Desert Southwest Conference."

June 2007: Asset allocation was changed from 60/35/5 to 60/30/10 in equities, bonds and managed futures respectively. The "Forward In the Footsteps" Campaign proposal was presented by Executive Director Brown at Annual Conference and was unanimously approved by all in attendance. The Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation acting as the campaign consultant was part of the proposal.

December 2007: DSUMF changed its Asset allocation Model to a blend of 60% equities, 25% in fixed instruments and 15% in managed futures.

In 2007 there were total distributions of \$12,876 in scholarship, \$5,500 for health benefits to pre-1982 pensioners, \$2,300 to churches sharing in vehicle donation sale proceeds, and \$955 in camperships.

February 2008: Due to the failure of an auction on a 28-day municipal bond based ARP, the \$360 billion ARP industry is currently "frozen." Therefore due to a domino effect which is occurring, the Adjustable Rate Preferred instruments currently owned by DSUMF are not liquid at this time.

The Board voted for a 14-day cruise to the southern Caribbean and the Panama Canal be the Educational Fundraiser Cruise in 2008.

In spite of compliments to the author of the "Forward In Their Footsteps" Campaign, Executive Director Brown expressed a concern regarding phase 1, Major Gifts.

DSUMF received an unrestricted bequest of \$134,000.

August 2008: Executive Director Brown tendered his resignation effective 9/30/08. He accepted the position of V.P. of Special Gifts and Philanthropy with the Muscular Dystrophy Association-USA. The Board unanimously approved Controller, Lucille Sterling, as Acting Executive Director as soon as Executive Director Brown vacates the position. The Board will begin a search for a new Executive Director.

The Investment Committee authorized the purchase of \$100,000 in Collateralized Mortgage Obligations to add to the portfolio. Monies used from the redemption of the Auction Rate Preferred instruments are slowly beginning to be redeemed.

September 2008: The Board hired the services of Southwest Recruiting Services to search for qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director.

October 2008: The balance of the Adjustable Rate Preferred instruments were redeemed earlier in the month. 100% of the principal invested was returned without any interruptions in the weekly income payments over the time they were owned. The Board voted to put \$250,000 cash from the redemption of the Adjustable Rate Preferred instruments into the Futures market.

December 2008: 2008 presented economic challenges unprecedented in modern times. Due to the well designed policies and procedures leading to a consistent and time tested investment strategy, our portfolio performed better than the general markets.

The Foundation distributed more than \$13,464 in scholarships and health benefits to pre-1982 pensioners. The year ended with a total of \$9,213,930 with \$57,535 of that coming from new deposits.

The Investment Committee unanimously made the decision to change the allocation of the investment portfolio to 60% Equities, 30% Fixed Income and 20% Futures.

January 2009: A new Executive Director, Ralph Serpico, took his place as the new Executive Director of DSUMF.

July 2009: The position of Executive Director is once again vacated. Controller, Lucille Sterling, was asked to take charge until further notice. The position of part-time office manager was created and filled as a contract position.

October 2009: The DSUMF Board voted to take the annual fundraising cruise to Alaska in July of 2010.

November 2009: Controller, Lucille Sterling, was elected to the position of Executive Director.

December 2009: The Foundation's portfolio ended the year with a total of \$10,821,080 after new deposits of \$550,000 and distributions of \$21,633 in scholarships and health benefits to pre-1982 pensioners.

January 2010: The contract office manager's position was restructured as an employee of DSUMF.

February 2010: The board voted to create a Stewardship Task Force and appointed Director Roy Schlessman as chair.

June 2010: Dr. J. Clif Christopher, during his educational day at Annual Conference, called on Executive Director, Lucille Sterling, and engaged in an impromptu dialogue discussing DSUMF's services available to the local church in front of the entire DSC membership. Those few minutes gave the Foundation a huge boost, we could have not have paid for better advertising.

October 2010: The first of what is foreseen as many stewardship workshops, Strengthening Your Churches "Planned Giving," was a grand success with 46 in attendance representing 26 churches in the DSC.

The Board of Directors unanimously voted that the fundraising cruise would be going to the Mexican Riviera in November of 2011.

December 2010: The year ended with \$11,564,652 portfolio with approximately \$350,000 in new deposits. There was a total of \$16,620 distributed in scholarships and donor restricted funds.

June & December, 2011: The Foundation distributed \$9,500 in scholarships. Distributions were made to: Lauren Harcourt, Sanctuary UMC; Sandra L. Johnson, Green Valley UMC-Henderson NV; Heather Rodenberg, Gold Canyon UMC; Kody A. Sawyer, First UMC-Tucson AZ; and, Sarah Sejen, Paradise Valley UMC.

October 2011: Executive Director Sterling submitted a "Continuity Plan" which the Board of Directors approved. This document will ensure a seamless transition in the case of an unanticipated disruption within the everyday operations of DSUMF.

November 2011: DSUMF conducted its Sixth Annual "Cruisin' with the DSUMF" event by hosting a 7-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera on Holland America's ms Oosterdam. A group of thirteen United Methodists enjoyed each others fellowship during the cruise. A total of \$1,100 was distributed through the participation of the "mariners" to their respective United Methodist Churches and DSUMF. DSUMF will not be promoting a cruise in 2012.

December 2011: The year ended with \$11,084,709 in the portfolio after experiencing an extremely volatile market. There were a million dollars in new money added to the portfolio this year. More than \$100,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and beneficiaries of charitable trusts. In addition almost \$18,000 of gift annuity residuums were distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured in 2011.

February 23, 2012: The Board of Directors, recognizing the Stewardship Task Force's vital role over the last two years, voted to upgrade the Stewardship Task Force to the Stewardship Committee, making them an official branch of the DSUMF organizational structure.

February 28, 2012: The Stewardship Task Force hosted "Stewardship University" presented by Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek at Central UMC, Phoenix AZ. It was well attended and received by 47 individuals.

April 26, 2012: The Investment Committee made the decision to reduce the 20% currently invested in "Managed Futures" to 11.5%. The funds, taken proportionally from the Managed Futures managers, will be used to invest 5% in "Real Estate Investment Trusts" and increase the "Preferred Stock" portion of the portfolio to 5%.

June & December 2012: In 2012, the Foundation distributed \$16,000 in scholarships. Distributions were made to Sandra L. Johnson, Green Valley UMC-Henderson NV; Susan H. Holden, Trinity UMC; Heather Rodenborg, Gold Canyon UMC; Bryanell E. Rop, First UMC Tempe; Randal S. Rudder, Shepherd of the Valley UMC; and, Kimberly O. Scott, Zion UMC.

August 30, 2012: The Stewardship Committee wrote and presented the "Stewardship Committee's Mission, Vision and Mission Goals" to the Board for adoption which was unanimously approved.

October, 2012: The Stewardship Committee hosted "Financial Peace University" to anyone interested each Tuesday of the month. Volunteer Trainers for this event were John and Rev. Jennifer Lower. There were 26 attendees with positive feedback from all.

November 1, 2012: Bishop Robert Hoshibata joined the meeting of the Board of Directors. He met everyone and spoke to the group giving his support and blessing to our work and purpose.

December 2012: The year ended with \$14,300,000 portfolio with approximately \$3,000,000 in new deposits. In addition, more than \$150,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and beneficiaries of charitable trusts. Moreover, almost \$57,000 of gift annuity residuums were distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured in 2012. DSUMF also distributed \$150,000 to various churches as a result of our Gifted Securities Transfer Service.

February 28, 2013: Formal "Investment Service" documents were presented for approval: An "AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR DISTRIBUTION REQUESTS" and a "REQUEST TO WITHDRAW FUNDS." The use of these forms will help DSUMF staff distribute church investment funds with greater confidence.

In the course of due-diligence the Investment Committee will solicit proposals from other investment firms.

April 5, 2013: The first in-person Western Jurisdiction UM Foundation Executives meeting is held here in Phoenix and hosted by the Desert Southwest UM Foundation.

April 25, 2013: The Investment Committee advised the Board that after the committee had reviewed reports they found that the fee currently charged by Wells Fargo Advisors is extremely fair. Also considered was the experience with Wells Fargo Advisors relating to fees, service and the current advisors expertise. They advised the Board that due diligence had been exercised and recommended that DSUMF continue the current relationship with Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. The Board of Directors concurred.

June 21, 2013: The Board voted to host a 2014 Cruise to Alaska with a Sitka excursion included in the price.

October 19, 2013: Annual Stewardship Event: “BENEFITS – The Key to Retirement, Asset Protection & Estate Preservation” was well attended by 26 people of whom 2 were clergy. All had very positive feedback and asked for this type of presentation again in the future.

October 2013: The DSUMF website has a new look and has a fully equipped interactive planned giving module for users to familiarize themselves with all types of gifts. Moving forward the website will be maintained off site.

December 2013: The year ended with an \$18,000,000 portfolio with approximately \$1,200,000 in new deposits. The Foundation distributed \$10,500 in scholarships. Distributions were made to Sandra L. Johnson, Boulder City UMF; Bryanell E. Rop, First UMC Tempe; Kimberly O. Scott, Zion UMC; Tevita M. Tukunga, Advent UMC; and Joshua Warner, Dove of the Desert UMC. In addition, more than \$115,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and beneficiaries of charitable trusts. Moreover almost \$15,000 of gift annuity residuums were distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured in 2013. DSUMF also distributed \$260,000 to various churches as a result of our Gifted Securities Transfer Service.

February 15, 2014: The Stewardship Committee hosts “Stewardship University at First UMC, Phoenix. There were 47 people registered, five of whom were clergy. Feedback was very positive and reinforced that the Stewardship Committee is headed in the right direction.

May, 2014: President Johnson, Stewardship Chair, Rev. Ziegler, his wife, Christy and Executive Director Sterling, traveled to Austin, Texas for a “National Association of United Methodist Foundations” Special Meeting. They returned with videos and reports which they shared with the Board. Consequently, a “Strategic Direction” task force was created to brainstorm and bring back possible ministry projects for the Foundation.

May 21-30, 2014: DSUMF’s Annual Fundraising Cruise went to Alaska and included a United Methodist day in Sitka excursion included in the price. It was well received and everyone had a good time. There were numerous calls and notes expressing gratitude for this particular cruise.

September, 2014: The DSUMF office has committed to go paperless beginning January 1, 2015.

October 30, 2014: The Strategic Direction Task Force recommended that the Board approve their decision to solicit volunteers to serve and explore grant writing. The Rev. Dr. Laura O’Neil, a former board member who is now retired, is offering her assistance to this endeavor. The Board approved

that a task force be created to identify research and recommend a project that is advantageous for both the Foundation and the churches in the conference.

October, 2014: The Annual Stewardship Event, Personal Financial Planning Workshops Series “Three Simple Rules” was held. The volunteer trainer for this four-week program event was Janet Kaiser, an employee of the United Methodist Federal Credit Union. This event hosted eleven church leaders which included four clergy persons. They all plan to take this program back to their own churches. DSUMF has offered assistance to them as they go through the process.

December, 2014: The year ended with \$22,500,000 portfolio with approximately \$4,500,000 in new deposits. The Foundation distributed \$22,000 in scholarships. Distributions were made to Susan H. Holden, Trinity UMC; Caitlynn Pulley, First UMC Phoenix; Bryanell E. Rop, First UMC Tempe; Kimberly O. Scott, Zion UMC and Joshua Warner, Faith UMC. In addition more than \$168,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and beneficiaries of charitable trusts. Moreover, \$75,000 of gift annuity residuum’s were distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured.

February, 2015: The Stewardship Committee hosts “Stewardship University” by Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek in the North District at Green Valley UMC in Henderson Nevada. There were 37 people in attendance, 3 of whom were clergy. Feedback was very positive and requests for future events reinforced the need for DSUMF to continue to offer educational presentations in the North District.

March, 2015: DSUMF welcomes its first Planned Giving Officer, Kim Parrott! With over 25 years of experience working in the non-profit arena, Kim has successfully raised millions through solicitations, grant applications, and proposals. As the DSUMF Planned Giving Officer, Kim will work exclusively in the area of planned giving and life income plans, providing seminars on charitable giving on behalf of local churches and agencies of the Desert Southwest Conference.