

National Association of United Methodist Foundations Awards Record Grant

The National Association of United Methodist Foundations (NAUMF) met recently in Tucson, AZ for their annual meeting. One of the highlights of the annual meeting is the presentation of the Jim Argue Award, an award that recognizes ministries making a transformative difference in our connection. This award is given to a ministry within the jurisdiction where the meeting is being held, chosen by the executive directors of that jurisdiction. This award has been a way for NAUMF to show its appreciation to the hosting jurisdiction and, more importantly, practice the generosity of Jesus. In 2018, the award was named in memory of Jim Argue, as long-time leader within NAUMF.

This year's Jim Argue Award recipient is Boulder City United Methodist Church (BCUMC) in Boulder City, NV. BCUMC has designed a worship service that creates a space for autistic children with needs that often go overlooked by churches. With the Jim Argue Award, they will be able to grow this ministry and welcome more families who cannot find a worship experience and a church family truly welcoming of their children. Through this unique worship service, the church will continue to redefine what it means to be a community, welcoming all who seek a place of comfort, faith, and unconditional love. (<https://bouldercityumc.com>)

This year's award marks a momentous occasion for NAUMF. It is the largest amount ever awarded to a mission grant or Jim Argue award recipient! The increased amount is in response to the association's desire to model the generosity established by our Lord to make a profound impact in the lives of those who struggle. Wespath Institutional Investments made an initial gift of \$10,000 and challenged the members of NAUMF to double their gift. Members of the NAUMF community were invited to make their own contribution, either personally or from their foundation, to better express the impact capacity of NAUMF. In response to this invitation, members more than doubled the amount of Wespath's gift, bringing the total amount awarded to \$31,100!

NAUMF President, Rev. Dr. Phil Jamieson wrote, "At all times, it is important for the people of God to share generously from their many blessings. It is most essential to do so when there are great temptations to retreat into a mindset of scarcity." The 2024 Jim Argue award is a testament to NAUMF's commitment to modeling God's abundance.

The National Association of United Methodist Foundations is a network of United Methodist Foundations across America organized to help each other accomplish our goals related to stewardship, planned giving, and securing future funding of our United Methodist churches, agencies, and ministries. Along with investing opportunities, many of the constituent bodies offer church loans, grants, stewardship, leadership and planned giving services. It is comprised of 47 member foundations who collectively manage over \$5.7 billion.

James B. "Jim" Argue Jr. was a beloved member of NAUMF for many years due in part to his tireless efforts to make the world a better place. He was a dedicated United Methodist lay person and public servant. He lived life abundantly. He was genuine and caring, and was a cherished friend of many. Before becoming the longest-serving president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, he spent 18 years in public service with the Arkansas State Legislature, largely advocating for effective educational reform to better serve the whole community. Jim passed away May 3, 2018 as committed, tenacious, and unwavering in his successful efforts towards major school reforms and improvements. Whether it was education, healthcare, or families facing poverty and food insecurity, Jim could be relied upon to create or support greater opportunities for all children.