

Charleston Wesley Foundation

Purpose:

This report serves to inform all of the great work of the Spirit in the students of the Charleston Wesley Foundation. This campus is comprised, this year, of students from College of Charleston, The Citadel, Trident Technical College, and the American College of the Building Arts.

Key moments from the previous year:

By Easter, we will have witnessed 4 Baptisms and 1 Reaffirmation of Faith/Joining of The UMC.

Average of 93 students served weekly in Fall of 2025.

We have raised more money this year than last year through various organized efforts.

Our Worship Intern, Ava Hussey, has developed a remarkable Praise Team that leads worship weekly for their peers. This Team consists of more than 10 students now.

We had to discontinue ministry efforts at Charleston Southern due to time constraints of Director.

Objectives for the coming year:

We wish to reengage The Citadel and College of Charleston with consistent advertisement, recruitment, and presence in order to develop a deeper relationship with the campus communities.

We will strive to continue to raise more money and support for the students in order to vision out a more effective and encompassing ministry.

We want to push students to attend local churches on Sunday mornings.

We wish to invest in Student Leadership and provide them tangible ministry experiences.

We will have two Retreats and at least two mission trips.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

The Spirit is at work in these college students, and our vast network of donors are allowing us the opportunity to continue in ministry and discipleship. Without our donors, we would be stagnant and unable to live into God's call for this ministry. Without our students, there wouldn't be a ministry. Thankfully, there is both, and in that college students are coming home to God. Through weekly Bible Study, worship, fellowship, and more, lives are being changed on the campuses in the Holy City.

Narrative:

Hannah Kelley from Eyrie, PA had never really been all that involved in church growing up. In 2023 during her freshman year at College of Charleston, she was invited to go carve pumpkins with a "church group," and she decided to stick with the group. Over time, prayer, study, and fellowship, Hannah fell in love with God and dove deeper into that relationship. In August of 2024, she accepted a position to assist with the Youth Ministry at North Charleston United Methodist Church. On September 14, 2025, Hannah was baptized into the Christian Church. She plans to join a local church soon.

There's a lot of story in between those sentences. But from October 2023 to today, Hannah's life has changed, and that is the work of our Lord.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev John Sterling Poole, Director
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Other ministry members:

Marissa Wilson, Executive Assistant

Ava Hussey, Worship Intern

Isabella Knapp, College of Charleston Wesley President

Kevin Lopez, Citadel Wesley President

Hannah Poole, Support Volunteer

Clemson Wesley Foundation

Purpose:

Clemson Wesley strives to be a Christ centered community, where all are welcome, treated like family, challenged to grow, and encouraged to love God and neighbor in concrete ways.

Key moments from the previous year:

We've had a great 2025-2026 academic year. We are averaging 50 students in weekly worship and 24 in weekly small groups. However, those averages do not tell the whole story. There are over 90 students who are engaged in Clemson Wesley through small groups, worship and other opportunities. We have also seen an uptick in on campus outreach. We've served over 1000 students in various outreach ministries on campus during the fall and spring. We had over 50 on both of our retreats and we took 18 students on a weeklong mission trip in March and another trip in May. This is just a small sampling of the ministry through CW.

Objectives for the coming year:

Our objective is to continue to provide a community where students can belong, grow, and serve. Every year at least a quarter of our community graduates and moves on.

This constant turnover requires an outward focus and a never ending emphasis on hospitality, equipping, and sending.

Action(s) required from the 2026 Annual Conference:

Just keep supporting campus ministry! We're in this together.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

Campus ministry is vital to both the present and long-term health of the church. At the same time our campus is filled with students looking for connection. They are longing for belonging with our students and a connection with God. I am grateful to partner with you, the SC Conference, as we serve as an outpost of belonging, hope, spiritual growth on our college campuses.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Steve Simoneaux, Executive Director/Campus Minister

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Coastal Carolina University Wesley Foundation (CCU Wesley)

CCU Wesley exists to create a Christ-centered community for college students and young adults offering a place of belonging, faith formation, and outward-focused love of neighbor.

Our heart is to help students become disciples of Jesus Christ who impact the campus and the world.

Highlights from the Past Year

CCU Wesley continues to grow as a welcoming and spiritually vibrant community where students explore and deepen their faith through weekly gatherings, Bible studies, and outreach opportunities. Our consistent presence on campus strengthens both community connection and spiritual formation.

One of the most anticipated moments of the year was participation in the Annual Wesley Collegiate Retreat at Asbury Hills. Students began asking at our very first fall gathering, "When are we going to Asbury?" The retreat has become a cornerstone experience marked by worship, fellowship, reflection, and renewed commitment to discipleship. It is a shared tradition that students eagerly anticipate and invite others to join.

In 2025, we launched our first CCU Wesley Golf Tournament, followed by a second successful tournament in 2026. Thanks to the dedication of our Board of Directors and Student Leadership Team, participation doubled and hole sponsorships increased by 25 percent. The event brought together students, alumni, local churches, and community partners, with funds directly supporting and expanding ministry programming. We look forward to continuing this as an annual tradition.

We also strengthened leadership capacity by welcoming new board members and student leaders focused on vision, sustainability, and long-term ministry health.

Recognizing that today's "front door" is digital, we continue to engage students through Instagram (@ccuwesley), our website, and a newly launched bi-annual newsletter. These platforms invite connection, share stories of transformation, and link alumni and churches to ongoing ministry needs and celebrations.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, CCU Wesley is focused on

- Continue to expand student outreach through increased campus presence and partnerships
- Enhance facilities and student-facing space, building on the momentum of the prayer room

Support Requested

We are grateful for the prayers and support of the Annual Conference, churches, alumni, and community partners. We ask for continued:

- prayer for students navigating identity, purpose, and faith in a demanding season
- encouragement and involvement from local churches (relationships, meals, & mentorship)
- In our consistently limited financial budget, the strongest place of continued support is financial partnership to sustain a consistent ministry presence and expand opportunities for discipleship, retreat participation, and outreach

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Emily L. Kirby, Director
CCU Wesley Foundation

Board of Trustees

Chair: Rev. Gene Aiken

Treasurer: Mrs. Sally Thrift

Class of 2027

Rev. Gene Aiken (23)

(Trinity UMC North Myrtle Beach)

Rev. Tae Park (23) (Surfside UMC)

Rev. Kyle Randle (23) (First UMC Conway)

Mrs. Tonya Ard (23)

Mr. Joe Hunter Hyman (23)

Mrs. Helen McLain (23)

Mr. Jamie McLain (23)

Mrs. Kara Schultz (23)

Mrs. Sally Thrift- Treasure (23)

Class of 2028

Mr. Delane Stevens (20-24) (CCU Trustee)

Rev. Pam Muike (20-24) (Remnants Church)

Student Representative: 2025-2026

Student President Director: Rev. Emily Kirby

Columbia Wesley (Methodist Student Network)

Purpose:

Rooted in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, Columbia Wesley offers a welcoming "home away from home" for all college-aged young adults in Columbia. We prioritize proximity with the marginalized, challenging one another to deepen faith through radical hospitality, vital worship, and tangible acts of service that reflect God's love for

Key moments from the previous year:

- Spring Break 2026 Border Encounter: Our team traveled to the U.S.-Mexico borderlands of El Paso, Texas. By listening to the stories of asylum seekers and community leaders, students moved from intellectual awareness to a "proximity of the heart," re-humanizing the migration crisis through the lens of their faith.
- Expansion of Small Group Ministry: We have seen a surge in spiritual vitality through our small group ministry, which grew from one group to four this year. To empower student leadership, two groups are co-led by students and two are entirely student-led, providing intentional spaces for deep theological reflection and peer discipleship.
- Student-Led Worship Leadership: A primary "God moment" this year was the transition of our student-led band. Miles, a sophomore, has stepped into a significant leadership role. Moving from music to leading public prayers and preparing to preach his first sermon, this story demonstrates how campus ministry serves as a laboratory for spiritual vocational growth.
- Cultivating Spiritual Depth: We are witnessing a profound deepening of faith as students move beyond mere attendance. They are engaging in vulnerable conversations about their calling, supporting one another through life's trials, and finding a spiritual home that sustains them far beyond Sunday nights.
- Relational Service: Our monthly breakfast for the food insecure, held in partnership with local congregations, continues to be a cornerstone of our communal life, helping us all understand that service is not a project to be completed, but relationships to be nurtured.

Objectives for the coming year:

- Facility Stewardship: We are prioritizing the continuation of facility renovations to ensure our physical building serves as a modern, accessible, and hospitable hub for student life and ministry.
- Expanding Student Liturgical Roles: Building on the success of the student-led band, we aim to create more opportunities for students to lead in preaching, prayer, and worship design.
- Freshman Formation: We plan to launch a robust small group initiative specifically for incoming freshmen to foster immediate community and long-term faith development.
- Deepening Local Church Ties: We seek to strengthen mutually beneficial partnerships with local United Methodist churches, connecting students with multi-generational faith mentors.
- Vocational Discernment: We will integrate more intentional opportunities for exploration vocation in all aspects of the ministry, including offering another seminary visit to learn more deeply about theological education and calling.

Action(s) required from the 2026 Annual Conference:

Columbia Wesley expresses deep gratitude for the continued prayerful and financial support of the South Carolina Annual Conference. No specific new action is required at this time, other than your continued partnership as we walk alongside this amazing group of Christian servant leaders.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

Student leadership is the heartbeat of our ministry. Whether through a "reverse service" encounter on the border, a student leading their peers in prayer, or the transition to entirely student-led small groups, we are witnessing a generation step grow in beautiful ways. Campus ministry provides students with the space to lead and the proximity to serve so that the work of God in their lives becomes a transformative force for both the campus and the world.

Narrative:

The transition of our band captures the essence of Columbia Wesley. Ian championed the band becoming entirely student-led and then handed off leadership to Miles.

Watching a student move from the quiet background to the front of the sanctuary, leading his peers in song, offering vulnerable prayers, and now preparing to preach, is a testament to the power of a community that says "yes" to student potential. This isn't just about worship; it's about a young adults discovering their voices and their calls in real-time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jad Taylor, Campus Minister & Director
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Francis Marion Wesley Foundation

Purpose:

Dedicated to a journey of love, we seek to deepen our devotion to God, embrace self-love, and to extend that love to our neighbors through faith and compassion, we aspire to build a community rooted in love. The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University welcomes and celebrates all students.

Key moments from the previous year:

The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University, also known as Alive in Christ Student Ministries, continues to provide a strong sense of community and meaningful spiritual support for students. The annual Wesley Winter Retreat, typically held at Asbury Hills Camp & Retreat Center, remains a favorite event. Students enjoy the opportunity to step into a new environment, be surrounded by God's beautiful creation, build new friendships, and grow deeper in their faith journey. Taking the treacherous hike to the cross at Mountain Chapel has become one thing returning students look forward to doing at Asbury Hills and new students are apprehensive about doing, because of its nickname. Our Monday night gatherings continue to connect with many students each week. These evenings are filled with laughter, meaningful conversations, learning, and moments to reflect on God and his love. We can't forget the great suppers we have each night. We are especially grateful for the churches that faithfully support our campus ministry by providing these meals on Monday nights and churches that provide monetary donations to help with the costs of doing campus ministry. Lucky Dog Rescue in Florence has become one of their favorite places to volunteer and a new favorite fun activity has been learning to play pickleball. All these events and activities help bring students into a sense of community and help to deepen their connection to their faith.

Objectives for the coming year:

We will continue to raise awareness of our group on campus. Our group is always interested in ways to serve and help others on campus and beyond and to welcome new students who are in need of a faith community.

Action(s) required from the 2026 Annual Conference:

Our ministry is dedicated to showering God's love upon each of our students and encouraging them on their faith journey. We are thankful for all of the support that we receive in various ways. We truly appreciate everyone that supports campus ministries.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

In closing I would like to share with you a word from one of our students.

I joined Alive in Christ my freshman year of college, after meeting Mrs. Lou at First Friday. I was nervous at first about joining a new group, but ever since that first meeting, I've loved it and never missed a Monday. This group has helped me come out of my comfort zone more and has helped me to grow closer to God. One of my favorite memories of the group will always be the Wesley Winter Retreat because it was fun getting to know everyone and also just taking a break from classes. I also enjoyed going to the different UMC churches and the guest speakers we had. This group has become my safe space, and it sucks that I have to leave, but I will miss it so much and will be forever grateful for this group and Mrs. Lou. As some of you still have a lot of time left here, please cherish the moments now because they do go by fast. — Samareyah Butler, Charleston, S.C.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Lou Jordan, Campus Director
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Furman Wesley Fellowship

Purpose:

The mission of Furman Wesley Fellowship is to serve the Furman community in the United Methodist Church's values of forming disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. We also seek to be "A Place to Be, Belong, Connect, & Engage" for the Furman community.

Key moments from the previous year:

Our year at Furman Wesley has been amazing. We have welcomed another class of students who are eager to make their mark on the Furman experience and excited for all the ways they can positively impact our Wesley Fellowship. We have gone on retreats, hosted events to express hospitality to our campus, continued our regular weekly events, and partnered with organizations around Greenville to give back to our community.

Some highlights of our year:

- Our Weekly Activities included: Worship Gathering, Wesley Lunch in the Dining Hall, Freshmen Group, and Bible Study. We hosted small groups monthly for each class focused on topics relevant to their journey at Furman.
- Participated in 4 retreats this year, including our State Wesley Retreat.
- We hosted our annual hospitality event, Warm Up w/ Wesley, in which we gave out coffee, hot chocolate, and doughnuts to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of December.
- We partnered with Cole's Victory Lap, which provides support for pediatric oncology patients.

There are great things happening at Furman Wesley and even though there is the constant transition happening in campus ministry, we are well positioned to meet these changes!

Objectives for the coming year:

Obviously, our continued priority is finding ways to stay connected to our students. Our students' lives are busy and they get pulled in competing directions; Wesley provides space for acceptance and love, and rest. Other priorities and projects include:

- Finding ways to support other campus organizations. We are partnering with our Office of International Student Engagement to assist with their work. We continue working with Heller Service Corp, providing mission opportunities both on and off campus.
- Finding ways to connect with all our wonderful students at Furman. We have a diverse campus, and it is important for us to live into the whole of United Methodism. This is happening by supporting all the many great things that happen on our campus.
- Finding ways to continue leadership development and vocational discernment. It is our desire to help all our students identify their gifts and discover the ways God can use them for the kingdom.
- Finding ways to provide a sustainable ministry at Furman University. We are blessed with gracious supporters for our ministry. However, we recognize the importance of being proactive in the ever-changing environment of the UMC and the world in which we live. Our Wesley Board is continually looking at ways to remain a healthy and vibrant ministry.
- Finding ways to engage the larger Greenville and UMC communities. We recognize the connective nature of our church, and honestly our world, and desire to reach beyond the walls to give back to the people who are so gracious in supporting our ministry.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

The ministry at Furman Wesley Fellowship, and all our collegiate ministries across the connection, is some of the most important work we do as an Annual Conference. Our Furman Wesley Fellowship desires to pour into the lives of young people, and we ask that our Annual Conference join our collegiate ministries mission by making ministry with young adults a priority.

Narrative:

Choosing to be a part of the Wesley Fellowship at Furman was the best choice I have made for my future as a Furman freshman. It wasn't just about finding a group to belong to; it was about discovering a community that deeply resonated with my personal and spiritual growth. The transition to college can be overwhelming, but having a built-in support system made all the difference. The people I met through Wesley quickly became my good friends and confidants. We share similar values and a desire to explore our faith, which creates a strong bond. We engage in meaningful discussions, explore different perspectives, and challenge each other to grow, which helped me gain a better understanding of myself and the world around me. Wesley provides a sense of belonging, a supportive community, and opportunities for personal growth that greatly enrich my college experience. I'm grateful for the friendships I made and the lessons I learned, which continue to impact my life at Furman today. — Mary Mac Rux, Fairhope, AL

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Edward Lovell McCutcheon
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Other ministry members:

The names of our Furman Wesley Board are listed in the nominations portion of the Journal.

The Wesley of Orangeburg (W.O.O.)

A Place to Belong. A Place to Grow. A Place to Lead.

At The W.O.O., students are not just attending events—they are encountering God.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to create a space where students can discover their purpose, grow in their faith, and experience authentic Christian community. Here, they are welcomed just as they are and challenged to become who God has called them to be.

Moments from the Previous Year

- **Homecoming Lunch & Prayer at Claflin University**

During Homecoming Week, we hosted a lunch-and-prayer gathering at Claflin. This powerful time of connection brought together students, staff, and faculty in meaningful support and fellowship.

- **Participation in Prayer Shield Day**

The Wesley Foundation was honored to be invited to participate in Prayer Shield Day, strengthening our partnership with the broader campus community.

- **“Matters of the Heart” Panel Discussion**

Our Bible study group hosted a thoughtful and engaging panel discussion addressing issues that deeply matter to students’ spiritual and emotional well-being.

- **Largest Campus Retreat Attendance**

This year marked our highest student participation at the Campus Retreat, demonstrating growing engagement and spiritual hunger among our students.

- **Facility Improvements**

We are grateful to report the installation of a much-needed new roof and HVAC system at the Wesley Foundation building, ensuring a safer and more comfortable ministry space.

But the most important milestone cannot be measured in attendance numbers or building improvements.

Students are engaging deeply with the Word of God. They are stepping into leadership. They are responding to God’s call.

Looking Ahead: Building the Next Generation of Leaders

In the coming year, we will:

- Launch a new **Emerging Leaders Program** to disciple and equip student leaders.
- Expand awareness of ministry opportunities on campus.
- Create seminary visit opportunities for students discerning vocational ministry.
- Strengthen fundraising efforts to sustain and grow this vital work.
- Train our Board of Directors to become stronger advocates and partners in mission.

Why Your Support Matters

College is a pivotal season. It is where faith is either strengthened or forgotten. At Claflin University and South Carolina State University, students are choosing to deepen their faith. They are saying yes to leadership. Yes to service. Yes to God.

Now more than ever, they need your prayerful and financial support.

Your investment fuels:

- Discipleship
- Leadership development
- Retreat experiences
- Outreach and community impact
- A safe and welcoming ministry space

Narrative Summary

The Wesley of Orangeburg continues to serve students at Claflin University and South Carolina State University by developing emerging leaders who are equipped to lead their peers in mission and ministry. Students are actively engaging in Scripture, worship, and service, and are demonstrating spiritual growth and leadership potential. We remain committed to strengthening this ministry through prayer, partnership, and financial support. Together, we are not just funding a campus ministry. We are shaping future pastors, leaders, missionaries, and faithful disciples. Thank you for partnering with The Wesley of Orangeburg as we continue to equip emerging leaders to reach emerging leaders – all for the glory of God.

Rev. Shirley Peterson Gordon
Director and Campus Minister

Winthrop Wesley Foundation

Purpose: The Winthrop Wesley Foundation serves as a ministry to and with students at Winthrop University, York Technical College, and Clinton College. We are committed to openness, authenticity, and community-building.

This year was one of continued thriving at Winthrop Wesley! We had over 40 unique students attend Winthrop Wesley in the 2025-26 school year, a 60% increase from our involvement last year. And, 90% of those students have attended more than one event. We celebrate with 10 of those students graduating this year, and we have a vibrant group of 5 student leaders to lead us into the 2026-27 school year.

We also started a monthly worship service, as was part of our objectives in our 2025 report. Called "Soup and Soul Care" (a nod to John Wesley's "How is it with your soul?"), it has become a staple of Winthrop Wesley's calendar. Each month, our service offers dinner, check-ins, music, liturgy, a preaching moment, and communion.

Another key moment has been the gradual improvements we've been able to make to the Wesley House, which provides 4-6 students with affordable housing. With the help of folks from local churches, we addressed critical needs in the house to help make it safer and more livable.

As we look ahead, we are listening to students and seeking to both meet their needs and empower their visions for this ministry. We've had requests to build in some "deeper dive" Bible studies, in addition to our current after-dinner Bible study, so we will be incorporating that into our regular programming. We will also be focusing new efforts on outreach, particularly to York Technical College and Clinton College, an HBCU.

We will also continue to address deferred maintenance at the Wesley House as well as the main Wesley Foundation building to ensure that both buildings will be able to serve our students for generations to come.

This year, Winthrop Wesley saw exciting growth in our ministry, deeper development in student leadership, and an increase in relationships between our students and local church members. Our students continue to take our mission outside of our building, as well, by showing up for one another, for the churches they're involved with, and for the issues they care about.

As the Director and Campus Minister of Winthrop Wesley, I have been deeply encouraged by the outpouring of support from the South Carolina Conference for the ministries with young people. From the Jeremiah Team on Missional Priorities, to the support of Connectional Ministries and Congregational Development, to the investment of local churches in our ministries, there is something special happening in the work we are doing as a conference.

Because we as Campus Ministers fundraise for the entirety of our programming and building funds, we rely heavily on local churches who pour love and support into our ministries. I would be remiss not to offer my deepest gratitude to the churches of the Rock Hill District. To the church members and pastors who have supported Winthrop Wesley: thank you for showing up for this generation in financial giving, in Monday night dinners, in volunteering for our work days, and so much more. Each one of you makes this ministry not only possible, but a reality!

Submitted by: Rev. Laurel Fraser, Director and Campus Minister