



# A NEW CHAPTER

A graphic of four stacked books in 3D perspective. From top to bottom, the books are colored light green, orange, red, and dark green. The text is overlaid on the red book.

Foundation offers new scholarship to  
pastors pursuing theological education  
through Course of Study.

Spring 2018

[www.stegallscholarship.com](http://www.stegallscholarship.com)

# A NEW CHAPTER

The Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation is excited to announce a new chapter in its support of seminary students. Full-time, licensed local pastors who attend Advanced Course of Study on seminary campuses for one month in the summer will now receive a minimum \$1,000 annual scholarship. There are over 70 full-time local pastors presently serving churches in the Alabama - West Florida (AWF) Conference, many of whom may be eligible for the scholarship.

The inclusion of these full-time local pastors among the foundation's scholarship recipients is one way the board of directors hopes to encourage those seeking to serve the church. "The Stegall Foundation is so appreciative of our dedicated donors," says Dr. Paulette Thompson, foundation board member and scholarship committee chair. "It is because of their faithfulness that we are now able to support this group of clergy as they pursue their studies and live out their calling."

The *2016 Book of Discipline* established provisions whereby full-time local pastors who complete courses on a seminary campus for one month during the summer may be included in a process that leads toward ordination as an elder.

All choosing this path are required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and complete the Advanced Course of Study (ACOS). ACOS includes 32 seminary hours of specific graduate courses taught on campus at United Methodist-approved seminaries. Expenses for these full-time pastors include tuition,

fees, books, travel, meals and housing.

"Some of the most effective pastors within the AWF Conference throughout the years have been our full-time local pastors," said Dr. Karl K. Stegall, foundation volunteer president. "As a matter of fact, the AWF Conference, as we know it today, would not exist without the deep commitment of so many wonderful full-time local pastors." Yet, for many of these pastors, the opportu-



nity to complete their theological education in the traditional on-campus seminary setting is not a possibility.

In 2017, 11 full-time local pastors from the AWF Conference took courses at either Candler School of Theology or Duke Divinity School, and a comparable number will be taking courses on campuses this summer.

One of those pastors is Chip Oakley, a full-time licensed local pastor currently appointed to and faithfully serving both St. Paul United Methodist Church in Hartford, Ala., and Westside United Methodist Church in Geneva, Ala. Oakley, who will attend summer courses on the Candler campus, is furthering his theological education because he feels that "unless I continue to grow as a pastor, it will be impossible for me

to lead any church I serve into growth - spiritual or otherwise; these courses are fundamental to my ministry."

When Oakley decided to answer the call to ministry, he felt drawn to the United Methodist Church, but initially felt the church's requirement for formal theological education was a barrier, both in terms of time and finances. He then discovered the Course of Study option for pastors, allowing him to "defer much of the financial strife." Oakley says that the new scholarship he receives from the Stegall Foundation is "like manna from heaven!"

"This scholarship makes the financial burden surrounding the pursuit of theological education much lighter," says Oakley, who was spending a significant portion of his annual income attending the summer courses. "The Stegall Founda-

tion assistance is a dream come true; the fact that others are willing to invest in me in such a meaningful way challenges me to also invest in myself." With some of the financial burden lifted, Oakley is now able to continue his educational pursuits by attending seminars that develop leadership skills that assist him in his pastoral duties. "The scholarship is a tangible sign that I am valued as a developing pastor, and I hope each donor knows how much his or her gifts are appreciated" he says.

"I feel very, very good about expanding our scholarship assistance to these course of study students," said Dr. Stegall. "These pastors are already actively engaged as leaders within our local churches and we want them to know that they have our full support."

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**The Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit foundation, and all gifts are tax deductible. Gifts for our Seminary students should be mailed to Dr. Karl K. Stegall, Seminary Scholarship Foundation, P. O. Box 241661, Montgomery, Alabama 36124-1661.**

# COACHING TO WIN

## Off-Court Discipleship is Built Upon Seminary Student's On-Court Coaching

BY JAGGER EASTMAN

One of the great blessings of my experience as a student at Asbury Theological Seminary has come through an unexpected opportunity on another campus. Being an avid basketball fan, upon my arrival on campus I reached out to Will Shouse, Head Men's Basketball Coach at Asbury University. Coach Shouse listened to my interest, and then brought me on board as a volunteer. That volunteer position later transitioned into my being named a Varsity Assistant Coach and Junior Varsity Head Coach.



Photo by Anna Eastman (Eastman pictured far left)

Alongside my work as an Asbury University assistant basketball coach, my wife, Anna, is the head cheerleading coach. Our joint desire to be in relationship and community with student athletes has helped shape us in deep and meaningful ways. Asbury University is a Christian institution, so Coach Shouse also welcomed me as a spiritual leader for the team. I have been given countless opportunities to not only coach basketball on the court, but lead workouts, create scouting reports, schedule games, and more. Yet even with these great opportunities, I have been more fortunate to lead in ministry off-court through small groups, devo-

tionals, prayer, scripture reading, and team fellowship.

The 2016-2017 season with the men's basketball team was more than I could have ever imagined, as we played the University of Kentucky in historic Rupp Arena on the SEC Network. The opportunity to match up with a basketball giant such as Kentucky was truly an experience I will never forget. However, as amazing as meeting Coach John Calipari, many future NBA players, coaching in front of 20,000 people, and being on national television was, it didn't compare to what happened after that game.

Our coaching staff emphasizes that everything our team does is to honor and glorify God, because God is the one who blesses us with talents and opportunities. At the end of each game, our team huddles together at half-court to pray and thank God for all He has done, and the game at Kentucky was no different. Following a tough loss, we were still able to get a "win," as our team huddled together at half court to honor and glorify God through prayer.

While I do consider my work as a coach as important and vital, I also know that the most valuable work God has placed before me is to be a spiritual leader and example for these young men. My classes at Asbury Theological Seminary are equipping me with the knowledge that I need in order to build relationships, disciple, and develop other spiritual leaders. We are all blessed with opportunities to be examples of



Photo by Asbury University Sports Information Department (Eastman pictured in purple sport coat)

God's love to this world, and serving the basketball team is a unique opportunity with which I have been blessed.

I wish to thank each person who contributes to the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation, as you have not only



Photo by Anna Eastman (Eastman pictured far right)

contributed to my seminary education and my future ministry, but are an important partner in true seed-sowing within the Asbury University Men's Basketball Team. Without your love, prayers, and support I never would have been able to attend Asbury or have God open this door of basketball ministry. My wife and I are eternally grateful for the ways that you have blessed our family and have allowed God's calling on our lives become a reality.

*Jagger Eastman, 24, is a third-year student at Asbury Theological Seminary and graduate of Huntingdon College. He is a member of Millbrook (Ala.) United Methodist Church and intends to pursue ordination as an elder upon graduation.*

### Congratulations to our Spring 2018 Graduates!

#### ASBURY:

Chelsea Jones Brown  
David Garvin  
Nancy Hammond  
Joel Sigler

#### DUKE:

Kelli Hitchman-Craig  
Sarah Jones Leonard  
Matthew Montgomery  
Harden Spencer

#### CANDLER:

Jayde Rasband  
Micah Wright



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## SACRIFICES: LARGE AND SMALL

James William Lambuth was born in 1830 in the small community of Forkland, Alabama, eleven miles north of Demopolis. When he was a young man, James gave his life to Jesus Christ in the little Forkland Methodist Church. Soon afterwards, he answered the call of God upon his life to become a missionary. He was a member of the first graduating class at the University of Mississippi in 1851. James married a teacher, Mary Isabell McClellan in 1853, and the following year, they left for the mission field in China. It was on May 6, 1854, that James and Mary Lambuth set sail from New York to China. They arrived at their mission station in China on September 17, 1854, four months and 11 days later.

James Lambuth served for 38 years as a missionary to China and Japan. He and Mary came back home to the United States only twice during those 38 years. When James died in Kobe, Japan in 1896, the young Christians at

the Kwansei Gakko College asked his family if they might pull his hearse through the streets of the city as a testimony of the high esteem that they felt for this devoted servant of Jesus Christ. People called Methodists back home here in the United States had such great admiration for the Lambuth family that they chose the name Lambuth College for a church-related college in Jackson, Tennessee, and the name, Lambuth Inn, for a hotel at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

There is an interesting little verse of scripture found in the Gospel of John, "Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor" (4:38).

I would not dare claim that our seminary students today are called upon to make sacrifices like James and Mary Lambuth made over 150 years ago. However, on a much smaller scale, I see firsthand, every single day, sacrifices that our seminary students make when they answer God's call upon their lives to become United Methodist min-



**BRENDA AND KARL STEGALL**

isters. There are no United Methodist seminaries within Alabama and northwest Florida, and so they are asked to move to unknown places to them like Decatur, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; and Wilmore, Kentucky. Their spouses and children make great sacrifices to support them every step of the way. Without exception, they make these sacrifices for Jesus Christ gladly, knowing that "others have labored and they have entered into their labor." Thanks for "standing in the gap" with them during their time of need!

*Karl K. Stegall*