

April 2, 2015

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Simpkins
101 South Twin Lakes Road
Cocoa, Florida 32926

Jill Simpkins
544 Riverside Drive
Ormond Beach, Florida 32176

Dear Bernie, Lavonn, and Jill:

I wanted to write and thank you again for the generous donation of another \$100k to the Simpkins Wesley Study Retreat. This gift will make it possible for us to continue providing an annual Study Retreat to John Wesley's England for our Florida Conference Clergy. I am working on several grant proposals through my office to hopefully build upon your foundational gifts that fund this amazing experience.

At your request, I asked Craig Smelser, our Florida Conference Controller, to speak with The Florida United Methodist Foundation regarding their fees, if we were to transfer the Simpkins Wesley Retreat investments into their balanced growth fund. They quoted us a fee of 115 basis points. From what we can tell from the Morgan Stanley year-end statement, the Simpkins Wesley Retreat fund is paying 100 basis points in fees. The Conference is in the midst of transferring many of its investments to a new money manager in the second quarter of this year at a negotiated fee of 75 basis points. If this meets with your approval, they will extend that fee to the Simpkins Wesley Retreat Fund. I will keep you updated as I receive additional information regarding the transfer of the fund.

I also wanted to bring you up-to-date on the Simpkins Wesley Study Retreat plans for 2015. We have confirmed travel for four couples and two single clergy from July 21-30, 2015. Our travel group will include:

Wayne and Ramona Wiatt, Tour Hosts, (Clergy Excellence and First Lakeland)
John and Terri Gill (First, Cocoa)
Fred and Kaye Ball (First, Titusville)
Art and Faith McClellan (First, Sarasota)
Ted Wood (Casselberry, Orlando)
Barry Andrews (Faith, Jacksonville)

Our tentative itinerary will include a tour of the Epworth Rectory where Samuel and Susanna Wesley raised their children, Memorial Church, St. Andrews Church at Epworth, Stratford on Avon and Coventry Cathedral, Holy Trinity Church, Oxford, Harris Manchester College, and Lincoln College (Holy Club), Bristol (home of Charles Wesley), The New Room, Bath, City Road Chapel, Wesley's home and grave in London, Aldersgate Street, Canterbury Cathedral, Windsor Castle, and London's West End.

I have also enclosed a complete listing of the Simpkins Wesley Retreat Participants since its inaugural year in 1993 and a summary of the retreat posted on our website, which includes the parameters for all participants. Including this year's trip, 155 clergy and spouses will have had the opportunity to experience John Wesley's England as a result of your generosity and vision for this Study Retreat.

Thank you again for providing such a powerful experience of our Wesleyan Heritage for our Florida Conference Clergy.

With Grateful Appreciation,

The Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt
Director, Office of Clergy Excellence

Copy: WSR Board of Directors
Enclosures: WSR Participants, Web Page Posting