



The Wesley Foundation

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Rev. Deborah E. Lewis, *Director & Campus Minister*

October 28, 2016

Dear Friends,

For many years, the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia included talented and passionate volunteers who were deeply committed to our mission but lacked the vision and confidence to offer truly effective leadership. We tried several approaches to board development, but by far the most helpful was inviting Rev. David Hindman to lead us through an intentional period of reflection and visioning.

Over the course of an academic year, David met monthly with our board, helping us celebrate the rich history and vital ministry offered at Wesley; reflect on the role of our board in offering full and fruitful support of our students, director, and staff; and explore ways to do our work more efficiently and effectively. David's broad experience, in both campus ministry and local church leadership, as well as his gifts of wisdom, discernment, and humor, made this a rich and rewarding experience for all of our members.

Specifically, David helped us articulate a vision that is faithful to the kind of community we believe God has called us to be and responsive to the spiritual needs of those we hope to serve. He then engaged each of our committees, helping them establish specific and measurable goals that will enable us to implement this vision. We have already begun seeing the fruit of this work, through a revised board structure in which members are serving in their areas of interest and expertise, new board-led initiatives and fundraisers, and increased publicity and communication.

Throughout this process, David has also worked "behind the scenes" as a trusted mentor, advocate, and cheerleader for both of us. He has encouraged us to wrestle with difficult questions about what is working—and what isn't—in our ministry; to become more connected with the university and community around us; and to embrace the challenges and blessings that come with this new vision.

When we consider why David's leadership helped us so much more than our previous attempts at strategic planning and visioning, the difference is that David invited us to think seriously about the "big picture" direction of our program, while also insisting that we remain committed to concrete, practical expressions of ministry here and now. This kept our conversations rooted in the sacred call we share, held us accountable for the commitments we've made, and inspired us to share God's dream in ways that will change our community and the world.

For all of these reasons, we wholeheartedly recommend David as a resource for your campus ministry. If you would like to talk with us about the things that have worked here, and David's role in them, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Deborah Lewis Campus Minister and
Director The Wesley Foundation at UVA

Rev. David Vaughan Board of Directors
Chair The Wesley Foundation at UVA



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