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Jeri Krentz
Associate Director of Communications
The Duke Endowment
704.927.2260
jkrentz@tde.org
www.dukeendowment.org

The Duke Endowment Awards More than \$8 million in Grants

Feb. 16, 2017 – Trustees of The Duke Endowment in Charlotte have approved more than \$8 million in new grants to United Methodist organizations in North Carolina.

The Duke Endowment is one of the largest private foundations in the Southeast. Its work in North Carolina and South Carolina focuses on four program areas: Child Care, Health Care, Higher Education and rural United Methodist churches.

The 24 grants approved at the Trustees' February meeting came through the Rural Church program area. They include:

- \$250,000 to Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, N.C., to strengthen missional outreach in rural churches.
- \$226,533 to Duke University to adapt a stress management training for clergy and plan its delivery and evaluation.
- \$151,000 to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church to train church leaders through language and culture immersion.
- \$329,174 to UNC Charlotte to examine rural-urban connections for economic renewal.

The Duke Endowment's Rural Church program area focuses on enhancing congregational vitality, deepening spiritual formation, and fostering community impact. Candidates for grants include United Methodist churches that serve rural North Carolina communities, the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences and districts of the United Methodist Church, and Duke University Divinity School.

The Duke Endowment has distributed more than \$3.4 billion in grants since its inception in 1924. The foundation shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but they are separate organizations.