

building on our foundation

Oklahoma State Wesley Foundation

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student testimonies

Emily Hays

Throughout my time at OSU, I have attended a local Methodist Church. However, going to church every Sunday isn't always enough to stay connected with God.

This semester I have helped lead Sunday School at the Wesley Foundation. We have been doing a study called Living the Questions, which has forced me to learn more about my beliefs and myself. I have been able to develop my leadership and communication skills through helping lead discussions in the class.

I've grown spiritually, and as an adult through the Sunday School class. I've expanded my beliefs and values as well as my relationship with God. I no longer rely on my parents or others for answers. I'm held accountable and treated as an adult. I'm excited to see what my journey of faith has in store, and I'm blessed to have the Wesley Foundation to support me in my journey.

OSU Junior • Ponca City First UMC

Gerard Nsabimana

As I prepare my mid-terms for my second year of Seminary education, I am delighted to share with you all that I am daily reminded that without the Wesley Foundation, I am not sure whether I will be where I am today. I remember very well how I planned going to Oklahoma State University and hoped to return to my home country and help in any ways I could as I put in good use my degree in Agricultural Economics. I did not know that God had much more in store for me.

Soon after I got to Oklahoma State University, I was blessed by a warm welcome from the Director of Wesley Foundation and his family and later on from the students involved at Wesley Foundation. I found that I had more brothers and sisters than I thought I had. The Wesley Foundation provided me with a place where I could call "Home away from home."

When I graduated and was not able to return to my home country right away, the Wesley Foundation continued to show me how I was a member of their family and provided with a golden opportunity to work with International Students. The ministry with international students opened my eyes to the brokenness in our world as I interacted with students from all over the world.

I am very thankful to the Wesley Foundation for helping me to discern my call into ministry as I was consistently reminded of what my baptism means and how God calls me specifically as one of his beloved children. Thank you God for the Wesley Foundation and I pray that many lives continue being nurtured in the same way that I was nurtured by the Wesley Foundation.

Duke Divinity Student • Stillwater First Church

Katie Southard

The Wesley Foundation at OSU was the first place I was able to call "home" my freshman year of college. It was a place where I could listen, participate, learn and grow spiritually that I could not have found anywhere else around campus.

Through my time at the Wesley Foundation, I was able to understand what a calling was and realized I was being called into ordained ministry. Now, on my way through the candidacy process, I have opportunities to grow and be stretched weekly at the Wesley Foundation.

I look forward to attending seminary in the fall, but know that my accomplishments there will be due, in part, to my grounding and formation from my time at the Wesley Foundation at OSU.

At the Wesley Foundation, I've become involved in many facets of ministry. From washing dishes after Tuesday's Table to being part of a church visitation team, I learned that ministry isn't just found on Sunday mornings, it's how you live.

One joy of participating at the Wesley Foundation is being part of people's lives you wouldn't have otherwise, such as international students from Korea, Ukraine, Romania, and Zambia. I have also traveled to work with others in need, both in the United States and internationally. From building chicken coops in Arkansas to painting a church in a border town of Mexico to playing with children in orphanages in central Mexico, I learned that mission work isn't always what my preconceived notion told me it was going to be, that it is work beyond myself in service to others for what they need most.

OSU Senior • Ponca City St Pauls

