



**Ambassador**  
*Nurturing the life of the Institute*

# Ambassador Update

## Institute for Discipleship

*Ambassadors nurture the life of the Institute for Discipleship through their prayers, advocacy, and financial support, advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide.*

### May 2023: Growth

Dear fellow Ambassadors,

Sometimes it is hard to see life's steady growth day to day. But when we step back, we are often amazed. This is so true with the Institute for Discipleship. For our Board meeting this April, we did a recap of the last 10 years. Here are some highlights:

- From a dream to a reality. The BeADisciple Study App, which started with a conversation two years ago, is closing in on its July launch. I invite you to click on [BeADiscipleApp.com](https://BeADiscipleApp.com) and take a look around. Perhaps you know of persons who are interested in providing a ministry of small group Bible study facilitation. Or maybe your congregation is looking to provide Christian education in a digital format. The number of people aware of this work is growing and you can help by sharing the site with them. Thanks for helping us grow.
- On April 22, the IFD launched a capital campaign to support the app. The goal to be raised is \$500,000. We are excited that this is a matching grant campaign so every dollar raised will be matched with a dollar from our generous founder Bishop Richard Wilke. If



you have not made a gift in 2023, please go to the Ambassador page for all the information you will need to make a gift today.

- Help us grow with more Ambassadors. Our goal is to have 100 Ambassadors by the end of this year. We are 25% there. Please email [steve.wilke@sckans.edu](mailto:steve.wilke@sckans.edu) if you have a contact you would like for me to get in touch with or a conversation you would like to have regarding others who might wish to join.

Every donor, leader, and participant helps us grow!



Steve Wilke  
Executive Director

P.S. We are now 25% toward our goal of having 100 ambassadors!

**[Information About Being an Ambassador](#)**

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### **Cheryl Rude Joins IFD Leadership**

Dr. Cheryl Rude will join the administrative team of the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship on July 1, 2023, transitioning from a distinguished academic career that has made her a national leader in service learning studies.



Rude will become the Institute's director of campus programming and operations following her retirement from the Southwestern College faculty at the conclusion of this academic year

In her new position Rude will coordinate the Institute's on-campus programs, serving as liaison with campus personnel and alumni groups. This will include oversight of the Visiting Scholars, Bishops Scholars, Summit Youth Academy, Builders in Ministry, and Bridges to the Future conference. She also will work with college faculty and staff in areas of collaboration, as well as supporting church relations efforts with the United Methodist Church and its clergy.

Cheryl joined the college in 1991, and was professor of leadership studies and academic director of leadership. Leadership Southwestern, a service learning curricular activity developed under Rude's guidance, was named the top leadership program in the nation in 1997.

Steve Wilke, executive director of the Institute for Discipleship, announced Rude's appointment.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Rude join our Institute leadership team," Wilke

says. “Cheryl is a proven outstanding administrator and has a wonderful grasp of the ministry-related programs in which the Institute partners with Southwestern College.”

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