

The Endowment Fund of Christ the Lord Evangelical Lutheran Church Brookfield, Wisconsin

Statement of Purpose

The mission of our congregation is to “give joy-filled glory to God” in all that we do in our Savior’s name. The Endowment Fund has been established as one way that we can give glory to God in the management of the financial resources he has entrusted to us.

The Endowment Fund is designed to provide an additional opportunity to fund our church’s ministry. The primary funding of our shared work as a congregation of believers comes from the setting aside of “first fruit offerings.” First fruit offerings are the monies we take “off the top” of our incomes as an expression of gratitude to God for his blessings and as a statement of faith that we believe he will continue to provide what we need for our daily lives.

The Endowment Fund deals with one aspect of “special gift offerings.” Special gifts are those gifts which are provided over and above our first fruit offerings, if a person is able to do so. Special endowment gifts fall into two categories: 1) those given while a person is alive, and 2) those given in a person’s will or estate. Special gifts typically allow a congregation to carry out projects or to fund ministry opportunities that are not part of the congregation’s regular budget, or they may at times supplement the congregation’s regular budget. The Endowment Fund is intended for those occasions when it is desired that the income from a gift be used for ministry purposes, while generally the principal of the gift remains intact.

The Endowment Fund provides an orderly process through which special gifts of endowed funds may be received and administered, whether they are cash or non-cash gifts.

Administration

The Endowment Fund will be administered by a committee. The committee will be composed of three (3) members of the congregation. Committee members shall be appointed to serve for three (3) years. A liaison member of the church council and a pastor will serve as advisory members of the committee.

The Endowment Fund may be administered with the aid and counsel of professional financial and/or legal services as deemed appropriate. Fees for professional services will be paid at the expense of the Endowment Fund income.

The committee will have power to hold, rent, lease, reinvest and in all other respects to handle, manage and control the assets of the Endowment Fund or any part thereof, according to their judgment and discretion.

The Committee shall:

- Inform the congregation of the Endowment Fund’s purpose and periodically arrange for members to meet with committee members or professional counselors in the areas of charitable giving, wills, and bequests;

- Have responsibility for investing the assets of the Endowment Fund;
- Accept or reject gifts;
- Manage funds according to an adopted investment policy;
- Oversee expenditure of the funds according to adopted policies and donors' designations;
- Provide a full and complete account of the administration of the Endowment Fund to the Church Council.

The committee shall annually conduct an analysis of needs and opportunities regarding the distribution of funds, seeking Church Council input. Then, the committee will provide/establish priorities and make specific recommendations to the Church Council for their approval. In no case will a distribution to the operating fund of the congregation exceed 10% of the annual operating budget.

The committee shall not be liable for any losses which may be incurred upon the investment of the Endowment Fund, except to the extent that such loss shall have been caused by gross negligence on the part of the committee members. No member shall be personally liable as long as he/she acts for the good of Christ the Lord Lutheran Church with ordinary prudence and due diligence. No committee member shall be liable for the acts or omissions of any other committee member, or of any accountant, agent, attorney, or custodian selected with reasonable care.

Endowment Fund Income

As the congregation receives special gift offerings of endowed funds, they will be transferred to the Endowment Fund. Non-cash gifts (including bequests, estates and other non-cash gifts) will be liquidated, as deemed appropriate. An acceptable gift policy will be developed by the committee for adoption by the Church Council.

Endowment Fund Distributions

Annual distributions will be made in the following manner:

- Undesignated Funds: Annual distributions, after expenses will be four percent (4%) of the average fund value as of the end of the prior three years.
- Designated Funds: Annual distribution, after expenses, shall be distributed as directed by the donor; or if not donor directed as determined by the committee.
- In the event that Christ the Lord Lutheran Church no longer continues in existence, the balance of the Endowment Fund will be turned over to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod for its mission and ministry.