Designated and Undesignated Gifts Policy

Gifts that fit within the mission and purpose of _____ UMC will generally be accepted. (*See Gift Acceptance Policies for details on types of gifts accepted*.) Gifts that are counter to or beyond the scope of the mission and purpose of the Church will not be accepted.

The Permanent Endowment Fund *(or substitute Trustees or other)* Committee shall receive and administer bequests, devises and gifts made to the Church beyond those gifts given and designated to the annual operating budget. The Committee shall receive and administer all trusts.

All gifts will be reviewed by the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee *(or other specified committee)* for acceptability, resulting in specific recommendations for action.

- All **undesignated gifts** under $5,000 will be placed in the Memorial Fund.
- All **undesignated gifts** greater than $5,000 will be placed in the General Endowment Fund. This Fund will be administered by the policies and procedures described in the Endowment Charter and any subsequent policies approved by the Charge Conference.

Designated gifts specify instructions or limitations by the donor regarding the use of the gift. Prior to acceptance, all designated gifts will be reviewed by committee based:

- on the nature of the designation or proposed restriction, and
- on the fit of the donor's intent with the mission and purpose of_____.

The Committee will endeavor to honor donor wishes regarding the use of accepted gifts. Examples of gift designations include, but are not limited to:

- Use for an existing fund, project or program;
- Limitations or instructions regarding the use of the principal or corpus of the gift;
- Use for future ministries, projects or programs, considered within the vision and purpose of the Church.

If the limitations or conditions of an accepted gift become permanently inappropriate or impossible to administer, the Permanent Endowment Committee *(or substitute Trustees or other)* will recommend a solution that includes consideration of the donor's expressed intentions, for approval by the Administrative Council.

(Note: Many funds will indicate that a percentage of an undesignated gift goes to the endowment fund with the balance decided by the Endowment Committee, or a small group, i.e. the Pastor, Trustee Chair and Ad Council Chair or Lay Leader. For example, if the church is in the midst of a capital campaign, they may say that 50% of any undesignated bequest or gift would go to the capital campaign and the balance to the endowment funds.)

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