

ENDOWMENT

Planned Giving at the First Congregational Church of Holliston

1 Chronicles 29:12-14

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?

Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

What is Endowment?

Endowment is money and other assets put into trust to be used for the ongoing maintenance of the church's ministry, operations, missions and physical structure. Endowment, together with the annual stewardship appeal and capital campaigns, form the three main sources of church financing. Endowment is different from stewardship and capital campaigns in that a relatively small portion of the funds are distributed each year giving endowment a long time horizon that benefits not only the current congregations but future generations as well.

What Funds Make Up Endowment?

The church's endowment dates back to 1829 when the Eames Ministerial Fund was established for the "maintenance of a minister". The endowment has grown to include many funds. The largest group of funds is general endowment funds to be used as the church may request. The second largest group is for major repair. Other groups include charitable/mission funds and education funds. A complete listing of the funds is published annually and is available at the church office.

How has Endowment Benefited the Church Recently?

The largest distribution from Endowment recently was \$21,300 from the General Major Repair fund to replace the Ed Wing heating plant in 2005. A distribution of \$5,000 was made from the unrestricted endowment general funds to the church's general fund in 2006. Additional distributions were made to the Deacons and the Outreach Committee.

The Endowment Trustees determined that the distribution policy of the unrestricted funds was too conservative and outdated. At the 2006 annual meeting the Trustees proposed and the membership approved a new Endowment Policy which allows for 4% of the 3 year average September 30 value of the unrestricted funds to be distributed. This will result in a larger and more predictable distribution to the church's general fund. It is anticipated that the distribution for 2014 will be \$10,000. This can increase as we receive more endowment gifts and the overall performance of the fund continues to increase.

How Are the Funds Managed?

Approximately 84% of the Endowment money is currently managed by Fidelity Investments as part of over \$4 billion of Endowment money they manage. About 70% of the Fidelity managed money is invested in 17 stock funds and 30% is invested in 6 bond funds. The allocation is intended to let us benefit from an upswing in stock values while being protected from a downswing.

The 16% balance of funds is managed through the UCC. A little over one half is in a conservative bond fund large capitalization stock fund with the balance in large capitalization stock fund.

How Can I Give to Endowment?

There are many way to give to Endowment. Two general categories of giving are gifts and bequests. Gifts are money, stocks, bonds, other financial instruments or real property given during the lifetime of the donor. Bequests are made through the will or trust of a deceased donor. Would you consider looking at your will or insurance policy, and allocating an amount to the UCC? You can also consider outright gifts (see named funds below)

Gifts can take many forms. Gift annuities allow the donor to receive income and tax advantages. Recent legislative changes allow charitable organization to receive distributions from IRA's. Please talk to an Endowment Trustee about the option that is best for you.

What are Named Funds?

Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones may be used to establish a Named Fund. A minimum of \$1,000 is required for an Unrestricted Named Fund within the General Endowment Fund. Gifts of less than \$1,000 in the aggregate will be placed in the General Endowment Fund.

A minimum of \$5,000 is required for a Named Fund with a designated purpose and restrictions such that it would not be part of the General Endowment Fund.

Why Give to Endowment?

As Christians we are taught that all that we have comes from God as a blessing. We are commanded to share our blessings and give generously. Giving to Endowment allows us to give back to God a little of what God has given us and helps insure the continued ministry and missions of our church.

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

“Help build our church of tomorrow, by planning today.”

Endowment Trustees – Todd Keiller, Jerry McCue, Bruce Chapin, Garth Fondo, Mark Klevanosky

Current Balance of the Endowment Fund: \$654,522

To discuss a bequest or gift to the Endowment fund, contact:
endowment@hollistonucc.org