

Let's Get Started!

Step 1: Leadership Development

- Introduction of an Endowment Fund Program to your pastor and church leaders
- Identification of the benefits of an Endowment Fund to the future of your church and church members

Step 2: Vision Casting Team Meetings

- Clearly defining and forming of an Endowment Fund Committee
- Casting a clear vision of the ministry and mission to your church

Step 3: Endowment Plan

- Communication document development that states the purpose, use, administration, and investment of the Fund

Step 4: Congregational Communication

- Promotion of the Endowment Fund through brochures, newsletter, workshops, and speakers
- Program resources and materials for continual education provided for free by the Foundation

If you need help to begin an endowment fund program at your church, contact us!

20 Endowment Ideas

1. Scholarship support for Seminary students who will return to serve the WI Conference.
2. Bibles for Baptism, 3rd graders, or Confirmation.
3. Establish or support a food pantry.
4. Sponsor a music fund.
5. UM Camp fund.
6. Seed money to launch or support a new community or global mission initiative.
7. Sponsor a special lectureship/education program for pastors/lay leaders, youth, etc.
8. Support an annual program on family issues, health issues, senior citizen issues, women's issues, parenting issues, or men's issues, stewardship, etc.
9. Scholarship for a high school student.
10. New Church Development in WI conference.
11. Maintenance & Upgrade of church buildings, equipment, grounds, cemetery, etc.
12. Sunday school supplies, toys, etc., for children's program/nursery.
13. Upgrade and maintenance of parsonage.
14. Grants to worthy church-related or community charities.
15. Acquisitions & equipment for church library.
16. Area of greatest need to be determined by church, the Conference, or the Foundation.
17. Handicap accessibility.
18. Create a Good Samaritan Fund.
19. Evangelism and outreach.
20. Funds for mission.

ENDOWMENT FUND

EQUIPPING CHURCHES FOR THE FUTURE



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What is an Endowment?

An endowment is money that is given or set aside as a permanent fund to meet special, designated or emergency needs not met through current income. An endowment is meant to last in perpetuity and only the income or a specific percentage of the market value should be expended each year. The endowment is a lasting legacy by members or friends of the church to continue their giving after they're gone for the ministry of the church.

Planned gifts, such as bequests, life income arrangements and gifts of real property or other appreciated assets, can grow into substantial endowment funds that nourish and sustain local church ministries well into the future.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Matthew 13:44

Five Ways Endowment Programs Help Churches Grow:

1. The church receives increased gifts to fund its various ministries
2. Members begin including planned gifts as well as current gifts in their stewardship response
3. Members are educated as to many expanded gift opportunities for mission and ministry through their church
4. Current contributions given in support of the ongoing annual budget are freed up to strengthen and even expand existing programs
5. The church and its various ministries and institutions begin to receive major planned gifts that have previously been directed to other causes where endowments are already in place

Mission

The mission of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is to assist the ministries of United Methodists in Wisconsin through lifelong financial stewardship.

An Endowment Fund Says That Your Church:

- Believes in its future
- Wishes to be guided in stewardship by the belief that all we have is from God
- Wants to build a sense of permanence
- Desires as a church family to be good stewards even as we expect each member to be a good steward
- Wishes to go the extra mile in providing new services and programs
- Wants to create a legacy for future generations

How the United Methodist Foundation Can Help Your Church?

The United Methodist Foundation can help your church start an endowment fund program and promote your existing fund through leadership development, vision casting team meetings, and communication to your congregation.

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is here to help your church receive and manage these gifts to enhance the stewardship program of the church.