

**Mission Endowment Fund Gift Policy**  
**RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**PURPOSE**

To provide a written policy to all constituents of our congregation that outlines what types of assets are acceptable as gifts to the Resurrection Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund, and the guidelines for the granting of funds out of the Mission Endowment.

This policy will answer 2 core questions:

1. How can I provide a gift to the Resurrection Mission Endowment Fund?
2. How will the Resurrection Mission Endowment Fund use my gift?

**ELEMENTS OF THIS GIFT POLICY**

- I. Mission Endowment Purpose
- II. Gift Acceptance
  - A. Defines who will decide if gift is accepted
  - B. Defines what gifts will be considered
- III. Mission Endowment Funds Grant Guidelines
  - A. Defines who will decide how gifts are used
  - B. Outlines guidelines that determine how gifts are used
- IV. Policy Distribution and Changes
- V. Ways to Make a Gift

**I. Mission Endowment Purpose**

- A. The intent and purpose of the fund is to make possible the extension of the various missions of Resurrection Lutheran Church within the congregation, the community, the nation, and the world apart from the general operation of the congregation. The scope of the Mission Endowment Fund has been defined so it can provide enough latitude that its funds can be used for a variety of purposes that all will, in one way or another, support and extend RLC's Holy Purpose and Core Values. Selection and membership of the Mission Endowment Fund team are found in the Mission Endowment Fund Charter.
- B. Funds should be granted to support an event, organization or individual that is significant and meaningful to the RLC congregation and to the recipient. Fundamentally, these funds should be used to strengthen our ability to conduct our wider mission. To this end, most "grants" will be meaningful and generally not of amounts less than \$500.

**II. Gift Acceptance**

Members are encouraged to consider blessing the congregation with gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund. A gift is defined as an asset that a donor has given to the Mission Endowment Fund without restrictions of its use within the defined grant guidelines of the Mission Endowment Fund as described in Section III.

(The Resurrection Lutheran Church Memorial Fund is available for those members, families or estates that wish to give restricted gifts to the church.)

- A. When an asset is offered to the Mission Endowment Fund through an estate, from a living individual, family, or other legal entity, the Treasurer and at least one member of the Resurrection Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Team will determine whether the gift will be accepted and make a recommendation to the Congregation Council for acceptance. All gifts will be considered

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on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the type of asset, gift transfer costs, the amount of effort to liquidate the asset, the overall value of the liquidated asset, legal complexities, restrictions, potential liabilities, and compatibility with the RLC Mission.

B. Gifts may be offered in a variety of ways. Our congregation is willing to consider the following types of assets:

1. Cash
2. Publicly traded securities
  - a. Stocks
  - b. Bonds
  - c. Mutual funds
  - d. Options/warrants
  - e. REITs (Real Estate Interest Trusts)
  - f. Other marketable securities traded on public exchanges
3. Life insurance (assignment of ownership) – permanent type with cash value
4. Real property
  - a. Residential
  - b. Commercial
  - c. Life Estate
5. Tangible personal property
  - a. Vehicles
  - b. Jewelry
  - c. Books
  - d. Art
  - e. Collections
6. Other property
  - a. Mineral rights/oil and gas interests
  - b. Royalties
  - c. Notes/mortgages
  - d. Copyrights/Patents/Trademarks
  - e. Bargain sales (congregation purchases an asset for less than fair market value)

C. Members and Donors should understand that in most cases the congregation will liquidate non-cash gifts as soon as possible and deposit into the Mission Endowment Fund. The value of tradable assets (stocks, Bonds, mutual funds, REITs) will be valued per IRS rules based on the average value on the day of the transaction. For non fungible/non tradable assets (cars, paintings, collections, etc), RLC will provide a description of the asset but will not assign a value for tax purposes. The donor will be responsible for determination of Fair Market Value for tax purposes.

D. After consultation between the Endowment Team, President of the Congregation Council, and or the Pastor, a determination is made to decline a gift, the donor or representative of the donor's estate shall be contacted by verbal notice followed by written notice on official letterhead, via U.S. Mail. Contact will be made by a member of the Mission Endowment Team.

III. Endowment Fund Grant Guidelines

A. The Endowment Team will review and recommend Grant approvals to the Congregation Council based on the following categories. These categories are to be used as guidelines for the intended

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use of the endowment but are not intended to be an all-inclusive list of possible funding areas for the endowment. For example, funds could be used to support the local food pantry, but not to support a field trip to a sporting event for the local public school. When in doubt of a category, refer to the purpose statement of the fund and also the Holy Purpose and Core Values of RLC. Does the use of the funds support the continuing mission of not only RLC but the church as a whole?

Examples of Categories of Gifts

1. Service/Outreach Ministries
  - a. Service projects directly involving RLC disciples locally, nationally, or outside the US:
    - i. Service events/projects/mission trips directly involving RLC youth and/or adults.
  - b. Support of Service events or organizations directly involving RLC disciples, but where the church has not directly partnered with the institution, such as the Inter-Church Food Pantry, Bridges of Johnson County, etc.
  - c. Support of Service events or organizations where RLC is not directly involved, but the mission of the event or organization is in alignment with that of RLC's.  
For example:
    - i. National or International Organization addressing Hunger, Shelter, or Health such as Food for the Poor, Heifer Project, etc.
    - ii. Organizations supporting protection of women and/or children such as the Julian Center.
    - iii. Local Food Pantry or Homeless shelters
    - iv. Organizations supporting inner-city families and children
    - v. Organizations supporting the disadvantaged, mentally or physically challenged
2. Education
  - a. Scholarships for those in Seminary
  - b. Student loan debt relief support for those in Seminary or graduated
  - c. As a means of supporting Lutheran higher education, scholarships for those RLC members attending undergraduate Lutheran Colleges or Universities.
  - d. Scholarships for special High School programs that provide the student with expanded spiritual and/or leadership growth.
  - e. Special support material or equipment for youth or adult education
3. Continuing Education
  - a. Support of specific training programs that enhance the capabilities of our staff or adult leaders (i.e. Spiritual or Leadership growth of Staff or Adults)  
NOTE: Financial support for Pastoral Sabbaticals should be funded from the RLC Sabbatical fund and not the Mission Endowment Fund.
4. Endowing Annual Gifts
  - a. An annual ongoing gift to support missions in which RLC disciples are directly involved.
  - b. An annual ongoing gift to support organizations where RLC is not directly involved, but the mission of the organization is in alignment with that of RLC's
  - c. See III. 1. a., b. & c. above for examples
5. Other - There are always needs that cannot be anticipated or are unique in their requirements. This category would cover purposes such as:

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- a. Disaster relief
- b. Special needs that are unique and not recurring
- c. Matching gifts for special fund raising programs that fit within the scope of the Endowment intent
- d. Funds to support Youth Gatherings/Missions
- e. Satellite church startups
- f. ELCA Synod & Churchwide ministries and programs
- g. ELCA related organizations
- h. Charitable organizations

IV. Policy Distribution and Changes

- A. Congregation Council shall review this Congregational Gift Policy at least every two years for updates and revisions. Notice of changes shall be made to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting through the packet of reports. This policy shall be available on the RLC website.

V. Ways to Make a Gift

- A. Cash, check, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), etc.

- B. Beneficiary designations – primary or secondary/contingent

- 1. Retirement Accounts
  - a. IRA
  - b. 401(k)
  - c. 403(b)
  - d. Annuity
- 2. Individual or joint bank/brokerage accounts
  - a. Transfer on death
  - b. Payable on death
- 3. Life insurance
- 4. Distribution from donor advised fund or named endowment
- 5. Living trust
- 6. Will
- 7. Real estate - Transfer of deed on death

- C. Asset transfer

- 1. Transfer securities from your brokerage account directly to our congregation's brokerage account, or use the ELCA Foundation to facilitate the transfer.
- 2. Transfer a title or deed to our congregation.
- 3. Assign ownership of life insurance to our congregation, or ELCA Foundation, FBO (for benefit of) our congregation.
- 4. Anonymous gifts can be transferred to the ELCA Foundation directly and then deposited into the Mission Endowment.

- D. Deferred gifts or Planned Giving

- 1. Charitable gift annuity

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2. Charitable remainder trust
3. Donor advised fund
4. Named endowment
5. Life estate
6. Bargain sale - Sell an asset to our congregation below fair market value.

VI. Documentation of Gifts

Donors are strongly encouraged to provide documentation of beneficiary designations, asset transfers, and deferred gifts or planned giving to the Endowment Team. If there is any question of the provenance or origins of a non-cash gift, the Endowment Team will consult with the appropriate experts and or authorities on the origins of the gift and the appropriateness of either liquidating, refusing, or repatriating the item.

RESOURCES

The ELCA Foundation, through Regional Gift Planners, offers gift planning services at no charge to this congregation and their donors. Visit [www.elcafoundation.org](http://www.elcafoundation.org) or call 800-638-3522.

Donors are also encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisor, estate attorney and/or financial advisor for specific tax, legal, and investment information. This congregation and the ELCA Foundation do not provide any tax, legal, or investment advice.

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## **Resurrection Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund**

### **Our HOLY PURPOSE**

It is our holy purpose as Resurrection People to respond to God's grace by being a beacon of vitality and transformation in our surrounding community. Blessed to be a blessing, we will utilize our expanded ministry facilities as a center and launching pad to serve others in the name of Christ. We are called to welcome all people, nurture them in faith, and equip them for the shared work of ministry, that all may know God's love.

### **Our CORE VALUES**

Everything is Grounded in Grace

Vibrant, Liturgical Worship

Faith Formation for All Ages

Being Resurrection for Our Community

Serving from Giftedness