

Endowment Committee Operating Policy

Effective August 2017

Permanent Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee-

P2534: A charge conference may establish a local church permanent endowment and planned giving ministry committee. The purposes for establishing such a committee include the responsibilities to:

1. Administer all bequests made to the local church; shall receive and administer all trusts; and shall invest all trust funds of the local church in conformity with laws of the country and state.

P2533.5 The committee is encouraged to invest according to the guidelines stated in the Book of Discipline regarding socially responsible investments and to report annually to the charge conference regarding its carrying out of this responsibility.

2. The charge conference shall adopt guidelines for endowment and planned giving as developed by the permanent endowment and planned giving ministry committee. Subject to direction and supervision of the charge conference, the committee shall fulfill its responsibilities in administering the planned giving and/ or permanent fund. Following each General Conference, the charge conference shall update and required changes in the planned giving and /or permanent endowment fund documents.
3. Emphasize the need for adults of all ages to have a will and an estate plan and provide information on the preparation of these to the members of the congregation.
4. Stress the opportunities for church members and constituents to make provisions for giving to Wesley UMC by means of wills, annuities, trusts, life insurance, memorials, and various types of property.
5. Arrange for dissemination of information that will be helpful in pre-retirement planning, including such considerations as establishing a living will, a living trust, and the need for each person to designate someone to serve as a responsible advocate should independent decision-making ability be lost.
6. The Endowment committee members are directed by the charge conference to follow the guidelines and actions initiated by the charge conference, overturn any transaction that the charge conference may deem excessive, and remove any committee member who does not carry out the directions of the charge conference. Careful attention will be given to the election of committee members to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. Following each General Conference, this policy shall be brought into line with any changes in the Discipline.
7. Other responsibilities as determined by the charge conference.

8. Resources for these tasks may be secured from conference and/or area UM foundations and development offices, the National Association of the UM Foundations, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Council on Finance and Administration, and other appropriate sources for program assistance and direction.

Additional expectations specific to Wesley United Methodist Church:

- The endowment committee will meet at least quarterly
- The committee will educate Wesley members and friends of the importance of their financial support, and encourage them to include WUMC in their will/bequest, or encourage donations to Wesley Church in lieu of flowers, etc.
- The endowment committee will oversee the work of the permanent endowment treasurer.
- The endowment committee will review our investments in the United Methodist Foundation to determine if that is the best place for our money.
- The endowment committee will regularly review restricted funds to evaluate if they would be more suitable as unrestricted, pending permission from the State of NH Attorney General.