

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

NEBRASKA SOUTH DISTRICT

Endowment Fund

Gift Acceptance Policy



LWML Nebraska
South District
Endowment Fund

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is
from above, coming down from the
Father of lights, with whom there is no
variation or shadow due to change.*

James 1:17

LWML NEBRASKA DISTRICT SOUTH

Endowment Fund Gift Acceptance Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

III. VISION STATEMENT

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Nebraska South District leaders and members solicit and accept gifts for purposes that will help the organization further and fulfill its mission. The following policies and guidelines govern acceptance of gifts made to LWML Nebraska South District Endowment Fund. (herein referred to as Fund)

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. All gifts that the Fund accepts will conform to applicable laws and regulations, especially those governing nonprofit organizations and charitable giving.
- B. All gifts offered to the Fund will receive serious consideration. However, the merits of a particular gift may sometimes require extensive evaluation by appropriate LWML Nebraska South District leadership and/or, when necessary, outside advisors.
- C. The Fund will not accept gifts that are too restrictive in purpose. Gifts that are too restrictive are those that require expenditures beyond the LWML Nebraska South District's available resources, gifts that are too difficult to administer, or gifts that are for purposes outside the mission of the LWML. This determination shall be made by the recommendation of the Fund Committee and approved by the Executive Committee.
- D. Gifts received by the Fund *must* not inhibit it from accepting gifts from other donors.
- E. The Fund Coordinator will maintain a permanent log of all donor gifts received and the original remitting documents so that knowledge of donor intent and restrictions, legal fiduciary responsibilities, and retention of archival records is maintained.

- F. The Fund Committee will seek the advice of legal counsel and/or the LWML Gift Planning Counselor relating to acceptance and processing of gifts when appropriate. Examples include:
1. Contracts or other documents requiring LWML Nebraska South District to assume an obligation;
 2. Securities;
 3. Real estate;
 4. Transactions with potential conflicts of interest;
 5. Transactions with potential tax implications or other IRS concerns;
 6. Trustee involvement; and
 7. Other instances that are deemed appropriate by the President and/or Executive Committee.
- G. Gifts from anyone known to the LWML Nebraska South District to be engaged in clearly illegal activities will not be accepted. The Fund Committee also reserves the right to refuse gifts from any person or organization that publicly espouses a position that is contrary to the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.

VI. ACTIVITIES AND TYPES OF GIFTS:

A. Cash, Checks, Credit Cards & Electronic Funds Transfer

1. Gifts by cash, checks, credit cards or electronic fund transfer will be accepted by the Fund. All gifts must be payable to LWML Nebraska South District and earmarked for the Endowment Fund.
2. Matching gifts will be accepted.

B. Securities (publicly traded)

1. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate acceptance and liquidation of the asset for a gift to the Fund.
2. If the LCMS Foundation processes a gift of securities, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.

C. Closely Held Securities (non-publicly traded)

1. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate possible acceptance and liquidation of the asset for a gift to the Fund.
2. If the LCMS Foundation processes a gift of securities, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.

D. Real Estate

1. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate acceptance and liquidation of the asset for a gift to the Fund.
2. If the LCMS Foundation processes a gift of real estate, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.

E. Life Insurance

1. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate gifting life insurance policies to the Fund.

2. The LWML Nebraska South District has no objection to being designated as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of a life insurance policy in which the donor retains ownership.
3. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted life insurance gift will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO, for the Gifts of Love ministry.

F. **Tangible Personal Property**

The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate acceptance and liquidation of the tangible personal property for a gift to the Fund following the guidelines below:

1. Gifts of tangible personal property will be used by or sold for the benefit of the the Fund. The LWML Nebraska South District will make no representation to the donor of a gift of tangible personal property regarding the length of time the gift will be held by the LWML Nebraska South District.
2. No property which requires special display facilities or security measures will be accepted by the Fund without consultation with the Executive Committee.
3. The Fund Committee may require the donor to obtain an appraisal before agreeing to accept the gift.
4. If the LCMS Foundation processes a gift of tangible personal property, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.

G. **Other Property**

Gifts of other property of any description such as mortgages, notes, copyrights, royalties, licenses, and easements will be accepted only after favorable evaluation by the Fund Committee and the District President, and as necessary, outside advisors.

H. **Planned Gifts**

1. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will promote and accept the remainder value from the following planned gift options:
 - Bequests;
 - Charitable Gift Annuities;
 - Charitable Remainder Trusts;
 - Beneficiary Designations; and
 - Gifts of Remainder Interest.
2. Planned gifts are deferred receipt gifts, whether revocable or irrevocable, in which the donor retains an interest. Donors of planned gifts will be asked to disclose, in writing, information regarding the nature and size of the gift. This information will be used for internal accounting purposes and will not be binding on the donor.
3. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will provide prospective donors with information about planned giving options through the Gifts of Love gift planning ministry but will always urge them to discuss specific planned giving options with legal and financial advisors of their own choosing.
4. **Bequests**
 - a. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will encourage donors and other constituents to make bequests/beneficiary designations to the Fund through their wills, codicils to their wills, their living trusts, and/or retirement accounts/annuities.

- b. Bequest gifts mature after the death of the donor and when the administration and settlement of the donor's estate has been completed. The Fund Committee will work with the donor's personal representative and/or other fiduciaries, as necessary and appropriate, to assist in a timely and accurate estate administration and settlement.
- c. The LWML Nebraska South District or the Fund Committee will not serve as personal representative for the estate of a donor.
- d. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted bequest gift will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO, for the Gifts of Love ministry.

5. **Charitable Gift Annuities**

- a. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will encourage donors to establish Charitable Gift Annuities as a method of making a gift to the Fund.
- b. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation regarding establishing Charitable Gift Annuities for donors.
- c. The LWML Nebraska South District will make no representation that could be interpreted as marketing Charitable Gift Annuities as an investment.
- d. LWML Nebraska South District or the Fund Committee will not act as administrator of the gift annuity program. Charitable Gift Annuities will be administered by the LCMS Foundation or another company of the donor's choosing.
- e. If the LCMS Foundation administers a Charitable Gift Annuity for an LWML Nebraska South District donor, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.
- f. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted Charitable Gift Annuity gift will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO, for the Gifts of Love ministry.

6. **Charitable Remainder Trusts**

- a. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will encourage donors to establish charitable trusts as a method of making a gift to the Fund.
- b. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation regarding establishing Charitable Remainder Trusts for LWML Nebraska South District donors.
- c. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee recognizes that charitable trusts are established by the donor in consultation with his or her own estate planning attorney.
- d. Charitable Remainder Trusts can be managed and/or administered by the LCMS Foundation or by a commercial trust company of the donor's choosing.
- e. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will not serve as trustee or co-trustee of a donor's charitable trust.
- f. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted Charitable Remainder Trust gift will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO, for the Gifts of Love ministry.

7. Beneficiary Designations

- a. The LWML will encourage donors to name the Fund as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of their retirement plans, commercial annuities, payable-on-death accounts, life insurance, and other financial assets as a method of making a gift to the Fund.
- b. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted beneficiary designation gift will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO for the Gifts of Love ministry.

8. Gifts of Remainder Interest

- a. Life estate gifts are gifts of real property in which the donor retains use of the property during the donor's lifetime.
- b. Life estate gifts are quite complex. The LWML Gift Planning Counselor will coordinate with the LCMS Foundation to facilitate acceptance of the asset for a gift to the Fund.
- c. If the LCMS Foundation processes a life estate gift for an LWML Nebraska South District donor, they will provide a gift acknowledgement and thank you letter to the donor with the gift details.
- d. Ten percent (10%) of each unrestricted gift of remainder interest will be given to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, MO for the Gifts of Love ministry.

VII. GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- A. The LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will be responsible for stewardship of any gifts it receives from donors and will maintain accurate records and provide appropriate receipts and documentation to permit donors to avail themselves of all tax benefits to which they are entitled.
- B. Gifts will be acknowledged by the Endowment Committee Coordinator within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the gift with appropriate letters of gratitude.
 1. Gift acknowledgments will state the amount of the gift, the date of the gift, and whether the donor received goods or services in exchange for the gift.
 2. The date of the gift for income tax purposes is determined according to IRS regulations. (For further information, see IRS Publication 526.)
- C. When a donor makes a gift to the Fund in memory of a deceased individual, the Fund Coordinator will notify the family of the deceased or other designated individuals of the gift, when requested by the donor.
- D. When a donor makes a gift to the Fund in honor of an individual or occasion, the Fund Coordinator will notify the honoree of the gift, when requested by the donor.
- E. The District President will send a personal note of thanks to donors for gifts over one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- F. All Endowment donors will be invited to enroll in the LWML Gifts of Love Legacy Circle by the Fund Coordinator. Donors will be provided with a Gifts of Love Legacy Circle brochure with an enrollment form. District leaders are encouraged to contact LWML Gift Planning Counselors for additional information and current resources regarding the LWML Gifts of Love Legacy Circle.

VIII. ETHICS

- A. The LWML Nebraska South District will not accept gifts that are inconsistent with its mission.
- B. Individuals representing the LWML Nebraska South District will be circumspect in all dealings with donors and prospective donors in order to avoid the appearance of an act of self-dealing or conflict of interest
- C. LWML Nebraska South District and the Fund Committee will urge prospective donors to seek the assistance of their own personal legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts and the resulting tax and estate planning consequences.

IX. AMENDMENT

Procedures set forth in this policy can be modified only with prior approval from the Fund Committee, Executive Committee and a majority vote of the Board of Directors.