

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN FUND DESIGNATIONS BE CHANGED?

These funds were created by the congregation and can be changed by the congregation. When the funds were created the congregation also voted to require a supermajority –two-thirds of those voting at a properly called meeting with a quorum present – to make changes. The intention is to only make changes if there is a radical change in the congregation's circumstances.

HOW WILL SPENDING BE DETERMINED?

The congregation has designated these funds to function as endowments. In other words, preservation of the purchasing power (inflation adjusted amount) of gifts is a goal. Therefore, annual spending will be limited to 4.5% of market value, with market value averaged over time to smooth market volatility. As with the fund designations, the goal to maintain purchasing power and the spending formula can only be authorized by a supermajority vote of the congregation. Please see the spending policy for additional details.

HOW WILL SPENDING BE AUTHORIZED?

The funds will create annual revenue for the church which will be incorporated into the financial plans and budgets presented to the congregation for approval. Ultimately, the congregation has oversight and control over all of these funds.



IS THERE A MINIMUM DOLLAR AMOUNT REQUIREMENT TO MAKE A GIFT?

No. Gifts of all amounts will be gratefully received.

CAN I CREATE A NEW FUND?

Yes. Please talk to a member of our Planned Giving Working Group to make arrangements that fulfill your wishes. There are minimum gift amount and other requirements for creating a new fund.

WHAT IS THE BEST FUND TO GIVE TO?

The best fund to give to is the fund that makes your heart sing! Donors should take into account that a gift to the Foundational Fund is a "gift twice over." That is, in addition to the gift of assets, it is a gift to give the congregation the freedom to discern how to best make use of the gift. Our congregation is almost 300 years old. Just as it is highly unlikely that anyone would have been able to anticipate current needs, challenges and opportunities over 200 years ago, and so too it is unlikely that we can anticipate the needs, challenges and opportunities far into the future. If you trust future generations to be as wise as you or wiser, a gift to the Foundational Fund should make your heart sing!

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS ON THE TYPE OF GIFTS?

Virtually any asset can be given to the church and donors should consider giving retirement accounts (which will provide tax benefits for your estate), life insurance policies, and property. Non-monetary (non-liquid) gifts will be subject to review before being accepted by the Church Council, including real estate and interests in closely held companies. Please see the Gift Acceptance Policy for additional details.

SHOULD I/WE DISCUSS OUR PLANNED GIFT TO UCC SOUTHBURY WITH FAMILY MEMBERS?

This is a personal decision and what is wisest will depend on circumstances. If a planned gift to UCC Southbury makes your heart sing, we hope that you will share this song with others: with those you love, so that they can understand and appreciate the joy that this brings to you; and with others, including the members and friends of the congregation, so that they can share your joy and perhaps also be inspired to make their own gifts.

DO I HAVE TO DISCLOSE MY GIFT?

No. If you prefer to keep your choice private, we respect your choice. We hope that you will consider the potential benefits of sharing your decision with others when you make your choice.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?

In most cases, planned gifts are revocable. However, most life-income gifts and some other forms of giving are irrevocable. You should review your planned gift choices with your professional advisors.



Growing God's Bounty

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

PLANNED GIVING



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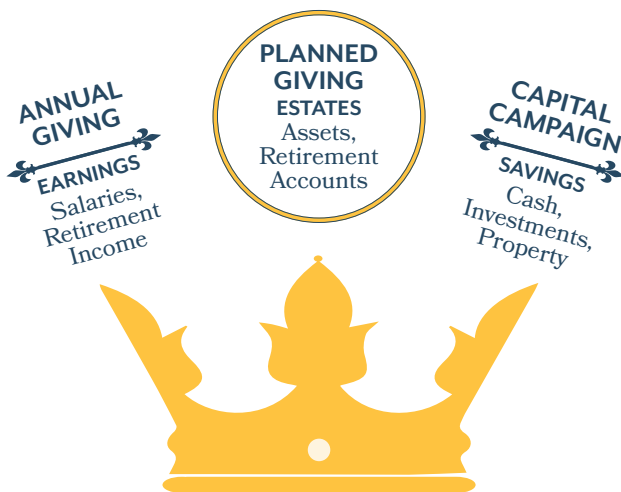
A VITAL CHURCH COMMUNITY

We believe that we need a vital church community in order to be all that God intends – people who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Blessedly, we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and built the loving Christian community known as The United Church of Christ, Southbury.

The reach of our influence extends through the members and families who have joined our mission, both past and present, to the wider community, state, country and world in which we serve.

Your gift will help us perpetuate our efforts to be living embodiments of Christ's love, making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

THREE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



WHY PLANNED GIVING?

Because we can, because we should, and because we want to build upon the foundation that was laid for us so as to benefit those who will come after us!

It begins with recognition of the bounty that God has provided in our lives;

It continues with an understanding of God's call to use a portion of these gifts to serve others, both spiritually and materially;

It culminates in our desire to fulfill the purpose God intends for each of us and for this Body of Christ, The United Church of Christ, Southbury.

AN ENDURING BLESSING

Through God's providence we have accumulated resources throughout our lives. These resources have helped build our lives. As good stewards, we have used some of these resources to support our church's ministries and missions. Through our church, we have planted seeds of faith and service and watched them grow, blossom, and bear fruit. We have helped people find and grow closer to God; we have developed a Christian foundation in our youth which will provide direction and bear fruit in years to come; we have helped others in need and less fortunate than us through our mission outreach.

Through the ministry of Planned Giving, your accumulated resources will plant seeds and bear fruit in future generations, leaving an enduring, positive blessing on our church and world.

FOUNDATIONAL FUND

This fund will provide support for all congregational activities, as directed by the congregation. This is the "go anywhere, do anything" fund that will result in gifts being used where they are needed most. Donors who intend to endow their pledges are encouraged to direct their gifts here.

WORSHIP FUND

Worship inspires greater reverence and devotion by creating an environment and experiences that open the hearts of worshipers to the presence and purposes of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Worship also strengthens the resolve of worshipers to live as disciples of Jesus throughout their days, travels, and encounters with others. This fund is designated for supporting all congregational worship, whether in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings or at other places and times. Income can be used for clergy, musicians, other artists, as well as other staff and resources that contribute to creating worship environments and experiences.

DISCIPLESHIP & PROGRAM FUND

Discipleship is living the Way of Jesus Christ by applying his teachings in our personal and public lives. The church equips people to be disciples, through education, experience, and encouragement. Often discipleship is developed over a lifetime through a wide range of faith formation and spiritual growth ministries as well as opportunities to engage in service and learning (mission) programs. The Discipleship Fund is designated for supporting all initiatives that encourage people to live the Way of Jesus. Income can be used for clergy and other staff, programs and program resources, and for scholarships that allow members, friends, and other people to participate in service and learning opportunities, both at the church and outside of the congregational setting.

BUILDING & PROPERTY FUND

A community church is a local portion of the Body of Christ gathered together. While it is not necessary to have and maintain buildings and property to be a church, our congregation has, through the generosity of our forebearers, inherited a congregational home and supporting facilities. The Building & Property Fund is designated for the maintenance and improvement of facilities and grounds, including expansion and capital improvements. Income can be used for any expenses associated with buildings and property, including staffing, utilities, insurance, and other items routinely included in budgets for buildings and property.

MISSION & OUTREACH FUND

Mission & Outreach includes charitable, philanthropic, and justice-seeking spending, generally outside of the congregation, in seeking to be co-creators with God of a more compassionate, just, and peaceful world. The Mission & Outreach Fund is designated for additional initiatives beyond that included in the ordinary operations of the congregation. Further, it will not be a substitute for designating a portion of annual revenue for mission & outreach spending as a faith practice of the congregation.



"Well done thou good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21