

The Place of Endowment Funds in the Local Church

“Dearly beloved, the Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time...” We heard these words when we knelt at the altar and were confirmed as members of the Church, and we have heard them in our Church as countless others have taken this important step in faith. If there was ever an organization that ought to think, talk, and plan in terms of permanency, it is the Church. If there was ever an institution that ought to be committed to long-range planning, it is the Church.

In many local Churches, when we are planning for the mission and ministry which the members and constituents are asked to support with their giving, we often look out no further than one year. When we are considering a major step forward, which calls for “long term” commitments through a capital funds campaign (such as a building program), we are willing to “stretch” ourselves out three years.

Since its infancy, the Church was always looking ahead, striving for its place in the future. Certainly the frontiers of today call for us to be committed to the Church that “will be preserved to the end of time...”

One way to provide for the future is the creation of an Endowment Fund. Webster’s Dictionary defines “endowment” as “the act or process of furnishing with an income.” If the Church is to remain on the frontier, it must plan for future as well as present mission and ministry. But unless these plans include ways of funding this mission and ministry, they may be only empty dreams. The concept of endowment funding says to the Church and to the community that the Church is here to stay... that it is both planning and funding for the future.

One thoughtful Church member reasoned, “Those persons who preceded me in this Church left a rich heritage. What will I leave as a heritage for future generations?” Is it possible that a part of that answer might be found in a carefully thought-out and designed funding plan that will address the future as well as present needs and opportunities of the Church?

An Endowment Fund is a good way for your Church to say:

- ❖ We believe in the future of this Church.
- ❖ We want to be guided in our stewardship by the belief that all we have is a trust from God
- ❖ We want to build a sense of permanence in what we do.
- ❖ We want to be good stewards as a “Church family” even as we expect each member to be a good steward.
- ❖ We want to “go the extra mile” in providing services and programs that, due to budget constraints, were only dreams
- ❖ We want to create a heritage that future generations can celebrate as joyfully as we celebrate our rich heritage today.

If you would like to establish an Endowment Fund for your Church, please call us at 1-800-272-0113. We’ll be glad to help!