

From the Planned Giving Committee:

The Planned Giving Committee asks for your support to change the purpose of our Endowment from a 'special projects' fund to one that can be used in whatever manner best supports the mission of the Fellowship. There will be a congregational vote at the June 4th Annual Meeting to remove the restrictive language surrounding the Endowment that limits the use of earnings to special projects.

In 1998, as a result of the foresight of dedicated Fellowship members, a plan to establish an endowment was conceived. Those who have donated to the Endowment or have included the Fellowship in their estate plans are members of the Acorn Society. Money donated to the Endowment is a “forever gift”: it remains in the Endowment forever - only the earnings can be spent. Over the years, many have generously contributed to this important vision – to have an endowment that supports the mission of the Fellowship. Currently, these earnings can only be used for “special projects” and cannot be used for general operating.

As we get closer to being able to use some of the earnings from the Endowment, the limitation of using the fund for special projects has become evident. Issues such as what defines a special project and how these projects are prioritized can be problematic. Through our research and consultation with the UUA we have learned that UU congregations across the country commonly have their endowment contribute toward general expenses. This provides their congregations with a consistent annual income source. It is a way to make a “forever gift” truly serve the mission of the Fellowship. We agree with having the flexibility of using the earnings from the Endowment for general expenses as well as special projects.

Therefore, we move that the purpose of the Endowment be expanded to include special projects as well as general operating expenses to further the mission of the Fellowship. Attendance of at least 25% of the congregation is needed to make this change.

Thank you for your interest. Contact any of the Planned Giving Committee members with questions. Please try to attend the annual meeting June 4th!

Erin Chudacoff, Jennifer McGuire, Pat McQuillan, Eric Riggers (Treasurer) and Marta Weldon

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