

MISSION FORWARD

CREATING CHURCH FUNDS

What kind of church funds are utilized for ministry?

Churches have seen value in several types of church funds. Building, mission, scholarship, reserve, cemetery and endowment funds are the most frequently used instruments to promote healthy stewardship and sustainable ministry.

Why should a church establish such funds?

Your church has already been endowed with a heritage of faith, buildings, organizations and “story of ministry.” That legacy can continue through an “endeavor specific” fund. Giving to church funds, in life or at death, allows for targeted support of Christian ministry. Death is a great equalizer in that it makes a giver of all: family or loved ones. Gifts should be celebrated and recognized consistent with church culture and as a way to encourage future giving.

Should parameters be established around the funds?

Yes, church funds are best managed when they have church-established purpose and policies. This ensures the dollars are best stewarded for their originally intended use.

What logistics should a church consider when creating funds?

Sometimes, church resolutions creating the funds are helpful and necessary to make the purpose of the fund clear. Fund documents can be placed in the church archives while additional governance documents assist with purpose and policies.

How should church funds be managed?

Church funds are property of the church and should receive oversight from a qualified group of staff members and laypersons. In addition, the decision to deposit, invest or spend the dollars should be made with the fund’s purpose in mind.