



## **Leaving a permanent legacy of support for God's ministries**

The Permanent Endowment Fund at Suntree United Methodist Church provides a way for persons to give gifts that provide for the long-term future of our church. The principal of these gifts is held in perpetuity with the investment income made available as needed for ministries of the church. In addition to your weekly, monthly, or annual giving, which provides for budgeted ministries and mission, consider giving or leaving a portion of your estate to the SUMC Permanent Endowment Fund for long-term support of those ministries for which you have a special passion. Investment of endowment funds yields income to help our ministries and missions for unbudgeted needs. Your contribution will provide a legacy so that future generations may carry on the ministries and mission of your choosing as King David's legacy did (1 Chronicles 22 and 29).

### **Why an Endowment?**

The Suntree United Methodist Permanent Endowment Fund was established to provide church members an opportunity to leave a legacy of continuing financial support of church ministries about which they feel passionate. The interest earnings from these financial gifts—which may be cash or other assets—are used to maintain the facilities and ministry support. See the Fund categories listed below.

Endowment funds strengthen our church finances, assuring ministry support even in difficult economic times. Because only the interest earnings are distributed for use, each gift will make a lasting contribution to God's kingdom throughout the life of Suntree United Methodist Church.

### **Giving to the Endowment Fund**

An endowment gift may be made at any time just by writing a check to Suntree United Methodist Church with "Permanent Endowment Fund" clearly written on the memo line. However, many church members choose to leave a tithing portion of their estate to the Fund. These gifts are frequently made in honor or memory of an individual or as part of an estate plan.

You may make your gift to the General Sub-fund within the Permanent Endowment Fund or any of the specific sub-funds listed below. In the case of honorary or memorial tributes commemorating special persons or events, acknowledgments are mailed to donors and honorees or to the families of those who are memorialized. Gifts are also accepted without naming an honoree or person memorialized.

Types of gifts include cash, publicly traded securities, closely held securities, real property, tangible personal property, other property, bequests (wills), charitable remainder trusts, life estate gifts life insurance, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), gift annuities, and retirement plans.

## **Permanent Endowment Fund Categories**

Investment accounts provide necessary financial support for specific ministries within the church as outlined below. You may designate your giving plans to any of these sub-funds.

Endowment Sub-funds:

- **General:** A sub-fund for church emergencies in any area of church life or operations for which a critical need arises and for which budgeted funds do not exist; also used for grants to church ministries upon application.
- **Adult Ministries:** Bible studies, small groups, workshops, speakers, marriage ministry, singles ministry, and much more.
- **Capital Improvements and Unbudgeted Property Maintenance:** Critical repairs, replacement, and upgrade of church facilities and grounds.
- **Children's Ministries:** Resources and events that support our children's spiritual, social, and educational growth.
- **Missions:** Missionary support, mission trips, local community outreach, disaster response.
- **Music, Worship, and the Arts:** Support for choir, drama, communion, special events, sound-light-video, multimedia, banners, and other areas that enrich our worship experience.
- **Scholarships for College and Seminary:** Financial support for SUMC college students and SUMC seminarians in need.
- **Youth Ministries:** Youth camp, missions, social activities, Bible studies, and other programs that strengthen the faith of our students in middle school and high school.

## **Investment and Administration of Funds**

The Endowment funds are invested with the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. which insures that gifts to the Endowment are invested according to the social principles of the United Methodist Church. The Suntree United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee reviews and approves the investment policies. Income from each Endowment sub-fund shall be available for distribution by the Committee according to the purpose of each sub-fund.

Investment accounts and distributions from the Suntree United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund are administered by the Committee under authority granted by SUMC Church Council.

SUMC Permanent Endowment Fund brochures titled "A Final Gift of Love" are available in the lobbies of the sanctuary and worship center and in the church office for guidance on estate planning and planned giving. Another excellent resource is provided by the Florida United Methodist Foundation Planned Giving website, which provides information on wills and estates, gift annuities, charitable trusts, and donor-advised funds. You can access the Foundation's Planned Giving website at <https://www.fumf.org/ways-to-give/>. The Foundation can also be contacted by phone toll free: (866) 363-9673.

For more information or help in leaving a legacy of support to Suntree United Methodist Church, please contact the church office or Richard Turner, Chair of the SUMC Permanent Endowment Committee. Richard can be reached at 321-259-1646 or by email at [seastar5@cfl.rr.com](mailto:seastar5@cfl.rr.com).