

MISSION FORWARD

CREATING CHURCH FUNDS

What kind of church funds are utilized for ministry?

Churches realize 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 is 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. Gifts should be celebrated and recognized as 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 include a church-established purpose with policies. These help ensure that the dollars are stewarded as originally intended.

What logistics should a church consider when creating funds?

Sometimes, church resolutions creating the funds are helpful and necessary in clarifying the purpose of the fund. 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 should be made with the fund’s purpose in mind.

