

Richmond Presbyterian Church - Undesignated Gifts Policy

13 January 2020

Context

There are three main areas of funds for the congregation of RPC.

1. Operational income
 - a. This includes offering, use of facilities income, interest income and other miscellaneous income.
2. Designated gifts
 - a. These are gifts that are given for a specific purpose, such as for a new piano, for stained glass windows, etc.
3. Undesignated gifts
 - a. These gifts can be either “planned gifts,” meaning that they are given while the donor is still living, or they can be “legacy gifts,” received by the congregation after the death of the donor.
 - b. These gifts can be in the form of money, property, stocks, etc.

This policy deals with the category of undesignated gifts to the congregation.

RPC Undesignated Gifts Policy

Preamble

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.” (Ps 24:1a). Our Creator has been generous in his gifts, not only love and grace, but also talent and material blessings. All that we have is ultimately his, we are called to be stewards. The work of his Church is carried out under the guidance of the Holy Spirit by his people with this understanding. Part of stewardship is the wise use of all his resources in our hands, part is returning a portion to him in thanksgiving.

Regular support for God’s work comes through our tithes and offerings, and our participation in worship and ministries. The intent of such giving is clear to all. From time to time, special offerings are made in response to an articulated need. Once in a while, however, a gift is made without any particular ministry specified. These are a double blessing, in themselves and in the surprise. We want to be ready to put such gifts towards Kingdom work without delay or indecision.

The intent of this policy is to provide a scriptural, transparent, and agreed-upon process to handle undesignated gifts which God may provide through his peoples’ generosity.

Policy

The following policy applies to undesignated gifts with a value of \$1,000 or more. Gifts under \$1,000 will be included in general offering when received. The following policy will be considered effective as of July 1, 2019.

Any undesignated gift to the congregation of RPC over \$1,000 will be handled in the following way:

- 70% of the gift will be placed into an Endowed Fund (to be named) that annually generates income for the general revenues of the congregation.
 - Any interest/dividends from the Endowed Fund will be considered as revenue for RPC with the amount being available for the general use of the congregation.
 - Any capital gains from the Endowed Fund will be reinvested into the Endowed Fund.
 - Any changes to the Endowed Fund and its use by the congregation of RPC will need to be approved by a 2/3rd majority of the members of the congregation present at a duly called congregational meeting for that purpose.
- 30% of the gift will be placed into a “New Initiatives Fund” (name to be confirmed by Session/Board) which will not be an endowed fund.
 - There will be three major areas supported by this New Initiatives Fund.
 - Mortar, including church building and other new capital initiatives.
 - Ministry, including all aspects of ministry within RPC, including new initiatives such as worship, music, Christian education (children and adult), etc.
 - Mission, including ministry initiatives of RPC that pertain to ministry outside the regular focus of RPC.
 - Up to 10% of the principal and all interest/dividends/capital gains generated in the New Initiatives Fund by calendar year end can be spent by the congregation in the following year
 - If 10% of the principal and interest/dividends/capital gains is not used in any particular year, the unused funds will be reinvested into the New Initiatives Fund.
 - The Session and Board will meet annually to determine the areas of new initiatives that would receive the available funds.
 - Any decision around funding new initiatives from the Fund will need to be supported by the congregation through the adoption of the annual congregational budget for RPC.
- The Board, or a designated committee of the Board, will be responsible for the oversight of the Endowed Fund and New Initiatives Fund, ensuring that they are properly managed and invested.
- The Session and Board will revisit the terms of the Policy Around Undesignated Gifts three years after it is approved and implemented by the congregation.