

ENDOWMENTS: OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

The Holston Foundation Endowment program continues to grow because more and more of our churches and individuals recognize the benefits of creating their own endowment funds. Some churches create the stewardship guidelines for targeted needs before any funds are in hand to attract designated and planned gifts from individuals in the future. Some individuals prefer to launch their own endowments to benefit a specific church program or ministry or to benefit several needs. Some individuals establish funds now so they can see them work, while others establish endowments through wills or charitable trusts. Why do these people choose to create or add to endowment funds for the church? Here are five reasons you may wish to consider:

1. DURABILITY

The idea of creating a perpetual stream of financial support makes sense to people who see a similarity between retirement funds and endowment provisions. They like the concept of a fund that is guarded and invested separately from other assets so the principal of the fund will stay in tact. Only the income or a percentage of the value will be used to support the chosen ministry.

2. POSITIVE LEGACY

When donors attach their names to an endowment fund or add funds to a church established endowment fund, they create an enduring legacy that will outlive them and influence succeeding generations. Other family members and friends will be reminded of the person's values and commitments. Endowment funds can also be used to honor the lives of others who have made a significant impact on the donor and/or the church.

3. PERPETUATE GIFTS

Many donors see an endowment fund as a means to underwrite their own regular giving. For example, an endowment fund of \$20,000 could create an annual gift of \$800 - \$1,000 forever. It's a great way to "leave your mark" and strengthen the church or a specific area of ministry.

4. FIRM FOUNDATION

Endowments should be properly invested in a diversified long-term mix of socially responsible assets to provide maximum return and minimal risk. Written guidelines should be in place to provide appropriate stewardship. Annual payouts from endowment funds permit a church or ministry to plan more confidently for the future. A church or ministry with a strong endowment is simply more stable financially.

5. PERSONAL SATISFACTION

There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing something good that lasts, something that really makes a difference. Other kinds of giving are important, but creating or adding to a fund that will benefit others for centuries is truly satisfying.

CONTACT THE HOLSTON FOUNDATION

If you would like to learn more about creating or supporting an endowment, personal estate planning, creating and implementing an endowment program at your church or would like a speaker to come to your church, contact Holston Foundation executive director Paul Bowman at paulbowman@holston.org, 865.690.8124, www.holstonfoundation.org.

25 ENDOWMENT IDEAS

An endowment is money that is given or set aside as a permanent fund to meet special, designated or emergency needs not met through current income. An endowment is meant to last in perpetuity and only the income or a specific percentage of the market value should be expended each year. An endowment can be named in honor or memory of a loved one and designated to support one or more general or specific uses. For example:

1. Scholarship support for Seminary students who will return to serve the Holston Conference.
2. Support for retired minister's pensions and healthcare.
3. Annually provide Bibles to new members joining the church or a Confirmation class.
4. Establish or support a food pantry for those in need.
5. Sponsor a music fund to support a choir retreat, new music, choir robes, new hymnals, special music, musical instruments, etc.
6. Sponsor children to attend Conference Camps or upgrade camp facilities.
7. Seed money to launch or support a new community or global mission initiative.
8. Sponsor a special lectureship/education program for pastors/lay leaders, youth, etc.
9. Continuing support for drug and alcohol abuse and recovery programming and other youth issues.
10. Support an annual program on family issues, health issues, senior citizen issues, women's issues, parenting issues, or men's issues, stewardship, etc.
11. Scholarship for students in your church or community to attend Holston Conference Colleges.
12. New Church Development in the Holston Conference.
13. Maintenance & Upgrade of church buildings, equipment, grounds, cemetery, etc.
14. Sunday school supplies, toys, etc., for children's program/nursery.
15. Funds for special memorial garden, artwork, etc.
16. Upgrade and maintenance of parsonage.
17. Grants to worthy church-related or community charities.
18. Acquisitions & equipment for church library.
19. Support special programs for specific purposes like Support special programs for specific purposes like Holston Home, Emerald Youth Foundation, Change for Children, Resurrection, Conference Disaster Relief Fund, Wesley Foundations (campus ministries), Wesley House Community Center, Project Crossroads, UMCOR, The Upper Room, Conference Camps, Crossroads Medical Mission, Partners in Crisis, Appalachian Service Project, Morgan-Scott Project, Youth Mission Fund, Conference Colleges, Church and Community Workers and others.
20. Area of greatest need to be determined by church, the Conference, the Foundation Board or others.
21. Handicap ramps and home repair assistance.
22. Create a named Family/Donor-Advised fund.
23. Evangelism and outreach.
24. Funds to provide clean drinking water, dig wells, etc.
25. Seed money to start or support a new ministry that you are passionate about.

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The Holston Foundation is available to assist you and your financial advisor(s) in establishing a named fund in order to steward your charitable intention for your church. Together we will ensure that your gift will be properly invested and utilized as intended. To begin a conversation, contact Holston Foundation executive director Paul Bowman at paulbowman@holston.org, 865.690.8124, www.holstonfoundation.org.