

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

A. An endowment is a permanent charitable fund that is invested to produce annual income. Gifts to the fund comprise the principal, and only the interest earned is available to spend; the original gift amount, the principal, is never tapped.

Q. WHO WILL MANAGE THE FUNDS?

A. Lakewood United Methodist Church's endowment funds are placed with United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) for administration and investment. UMFA, the fifth largest of 52 United Methodist Foundations in the country, has more than \$100 million in assets and has been managing funds for churches and individuals for 30 years.

Q. CAN I GIVE A CONTRIBUTION IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE?

A. Yes. In fact, this is one of the most popular reasons for contributions. These gifts can be made at any time — on an anniversary, a birthday, or at the time of a specific event.

Q. HOW WILL THESE SPECIAL GIFTS BE ACKNOWLEDGED?

A. Lakewood United Methodist Church will send an acknowledgment to the person honored and to the family of the person whose memory is honored if you provide the contact information.



Q. HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO GIVE? IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT?

A. There is no minimum amount: ANY amount is acceptable and welcome! As the saying goes, "No gift is too small." Generally, smaller gifts are added to an existing endowment fund. Larger gifts can be used to establish a new named fund.

Q. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR GIVING?

A. There are many ways to give, and the best gift for you depends upon your goals and personal circumstances. Potential gift options include:

- **Outright gifts, including cash, property, stocks, and bonds.**
- **Wills or Trusts.** In your will or trust you may name the endowment as the direct beneficiary of specific assets, a portion of your estate, or your residual estate.
- **Real Estate.** A primary residence, farm, business, or vacation home may be given, subject to acceptance by the church.
- **Life insurance, Individual Retirement Accounts, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified plan.** Naming Lakewood United Methodist Church's endowment as a beneficiary of part or all of proceeds is a meaningful gift that doesn't involve modifying your will or trust.
- **Life Income Gifts,** such as charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities.

Q. CAN I DESIGNATE MY CONTRIBUTION FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE?

A. Yes. Lakewood has many vital ministries that could benefit from a gift to the endowment fund. You may select a favorite program of the church or leave your gift undesignated. Because the future will hold opportunities and needs that we can't imagine at this time, unrestricted gifts are encouraged. This will allow Lakewood to use your thoughtful gift where the need is the greatest at the time it is received.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A FUND THAT'S NAMED FOR OUR FAMILY?

A. Yes. Individually named funds within Lakewood United Methodist Church's endowment are possible. Please check with us for details.

