

## Why Do Christians Make Such Gifts?

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be an important part of our stewardship, even if our financial circumstances are limited. They provide a legacy to St. James for the continuation of Christ's work in the community.

## Who Can Answer My Questions?

You may contact a member of the St. James Endowment Committee or a Pastor through the St. James church office (763-537-3653, [office@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:office@stjamesincrystal.org)).

Additional information and forms can be found on the St. James website at: [www.stjamesincrystal.org/generosity](http://www.stjamesincrystal.org/generosity)

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

- 1 Peter 4:10

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**Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal**

9/2019

# St. James' Endowment Fund

*A legacy for the continuation of Christ's ministry  
in this community in the years to come.*



6700 46th Place North  
Crystal, MN 55428

## What Is An Endowment Fund?

An Endowment Fund consists of gifts or assets where the principal amount given is usually retained and only the income is spent to meet the fund's stated objectives.

## When Did St. James Start Our Endowment Fund, And For What Purpose?

The St. James Endowment Fund was established in 1991. The purpose was to enhance the ministry and outreach of St. James beyond what we do with our current operating budget.

## Who Manages The St. James Endowment Fund?

A committee of five members, appointed by the St. James Church Council:

- Manages the assets of the Fund
- Provides information on the Fund to the Congregation
- Solicits gifts for the Fund

The Senior Pastor and Treasurer are advisory members of the committee.

## How Is The Endowment Fund Structured?

There are five specific focus areas. They are:

1. Capital income used for capital improvements, debt reduction or building programs in the church.
2. Benevolence-income used for outreach programs not supported by our current operating budget.
3. Seminary scholarships— focus is on encouraging St. James members to become pastors and lay ministry professionals.
4. Youth ministries— focus is on children's education ministries. Help to develop strong Christian values, support parenting and to serve our communities.
5. Undesignated gifts— the purpose is to receive all Endowment gifts not given to any specific focus area listed above. Distribution of earning will be to one, or more of the above 4 focus areas based on requests and anticipated needs.

## Who Determines How the Money Is Spent?

The St. James Endowment Committee receives requests and suggestions from the congregation. The Endowment Committee awards funds based on these requests.

## How Does One Contribute to the St. James Endowment Fund?

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all gifts God has given, including accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources. Members are encouraged to participate through:

- **Outright gifts of cash**, securities, real estate or other personal property. Each packet of offering envelopes contains envelopes marked for the Endowment Fund.
- **Wills or bequests**. You can give a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or make a specific bequest of property such as securities, real estate or personal property.
- **Life insurance policies**. You may name St. James as the beneficiary or owner of an insurance policy.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts** or other trust agreements or charitable gift annuities.
- **Gift of home or vacation home** You may donate it and live in it until your death.

A proper will and an appropriate estate plan can be part of the stewardship of all Christians, whether married or single, wealthy or of modest means.

## Are Gifts Tax Deductible?

They may be based on your tax situation. Gifts to the Endowment Fund will be used for religious, charitable, and educational purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code.

Tax benefits from gifts of property whose current market value significantly exceeds the cost basis of such property may provide additional tax benefits. You should consult with your tax advisor or other qualified individual to ensure you maximize your tax benefits.