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Church Council Manual

Section: Guidelines	Bequests
Effective Date: 2018-Jun-27 Reviewed/Revised Date: 2026-Feb-25	CC #03: Undesignated Monetary Bequests

Policy

The Financial Secretary or another member of the Stewardship Committee will acknowledge undesignated monetary bequests in *Crossroads* and in the *Annual Report* without the dollar amount shown. Church Council will determine the use of the undesignated monetary bequests. Care should be taken that the designations made by Council ***align with the congregation's ministries, as stated in the current Vision and Priorities or other strategic plan that has been drafted with congregational input.*** The Congregational Council is encouraged, when determining how the funds will be spent to consider that some of the funds be used to support ministries external to the congregation (e.g CLWR, refugee settlement, Shelbourne Community Kitchen etc.)

[NOTE: Undesignated monetary gifts that are not bequests as well as donations in memory of a deceased person are not covered by these Guidelines.]

Purpose

To recognize, intentionally plan for, and report the use of undesignated monetary bequests to the congregation.

Procedure

1. Upon receipt, undesignated monetary bequests will be placed in the Memorial Fund.
2. The Church Council at one of their meetings in the fall will discuss the total of all undesignated monetary bequests received during the past year and how the funds might be allocated
3. The Church Council may consider holding a dialogue session wherein members of the congregation can give feedback as to their highest priorities for projects/ministries in concert with the Vision & Priorities statement. The Congregational Council will make the final decision on the disposition of the funds.

If council determines that some of the funds be used to support ministries external to the congregation, a letter may accompany the donation informing the recipient that Lutheran Church of the Cross is sharing a portion of money received in bequest.

The congregation will be notified of Council's decision regarding the disposition of the undesignated monetary gifts in *Crossroads* and/or in the *Annual Report*.