

The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole (PCJH) Endowment Fund

For the Next 25 Years...and Beyond!

As PCJH has completed its first 25 years, we think it's fair to say – We're Here to Stay! This momentous occasion was marked by a significant milestone, emblematic of the long-term prospects for our church – the creation of the PCJH Endowment Fund.

What is an endowment fund?

Let's think about church finances in two ways – a checking account and a savings account.

We'll start with the checking account. Every year, PCJH has a stewardship program to fund the church for the coming year, offering members of PCJH the opportunity to return to God a portion of the bounty with which they have been blessed. Think of these gifts as the "operating" funds – they are monies that are used to operate the church during the year. For example, these funds are for salaries for staff, snow removal, office and kitchen supplies, and annual missions.

An endowment fund is like a savings account. It is different from the annual stewardship and budgeting process in that it provides support to the church NOT JUST for one year, but for many years to come. Unlike the operating fund, the monies in an endowment fund aren't spent right away. Instead, they are invested, and then a small portion of the fund is used each year to support the church outside of the annual budgeting process. The endowment fund is a savings account that can grow over time so that it can support the work of PCJH today, but also for many years to come.

Where does the money from an endowment fund get spent?

The Session of PCJH has established 3 main areas that will receive support from the endowment fund –

- A. The Capital Facilities Fund – the intent of this fund is to be used for special projects and capital projects that enhance the physical facilities, aesthetics, and overall safety of the church property, as well as improvements extending beyond the scope of the annual operating budget
- B. The Ministries Fund – the intent of this fund is to be used for ministries beyond the scope of the annual operating budget. Ministries may include, but are not limited to, worship, adult and children's Christian education, music, fellowship, and other ministries.
- C. The Missions Fund – the intent of this fund is to be used for mission work that is beyond the scope of the annual operating budget. Missions may include, but are not limited to, special programs, extended missions, extraordinary benevolence, disaster relief, and other missions.

Anyone who contributes to the endowment fund can direct their gift to any of the three underlying funds.

Who decides how the funds are invested and spent?

The Session of PCJH has the overall responsibility for the oversight of the endowment fund. It is the Session that makes the decisions on when and how any monies are spent. Session can delegate certain

responsibilities to the Finance Team, such as how the endowment fund is invested. Despite delegating some investment-related activities, Session receives reports from the Finance Team on the status of the fund, and retains the role as the primary group responsible for the fund.

Can anyone contribute to the endowment fund?

YES! One of the great things about an endowment fund is that it allows members and friends of PCJH an opportunity to return a portion of the financial resources that God has gifted to them where the impact will last well beyond the next year.

Another benefit of having an endowment fund is that it allows members and friends to include PCJH in their long-term gift planning. [Some of the ways to give to the endowment fund include: making a gift in honor of a loved one; utilizing a gift from an IRA; donating appreciated assets; naming the PCJH endowment in your will or other estate plans.](#) When someone updates their will, they can make a bequest to the endowment fund, which means that their gift will contribute to the work of God's kingdom for many years to come. [You may want to consult your financial advisor or estate planner if any of these gifting methods are of interest to you.](#)

If you have any questions about the PCJH endowment fund, please don't hesitate to reach out to the pastors, the Chair of the Session, or the Chair of the Finance Team.