



**California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation**

**Local Church Endowments**

**For Small Churches as Much as For Large Ones!**

**Benefits to individual donors:**

1. Provides a wonderful vehicle for leaving a legacy, as an annual reminder of the faith and witness of each donor.
2. Multiplies the donor's gift by putting it with others' money so it grows. Puts assets under professional financial management (such as the U.M. Foundation) instead of relying on rotating classes of local-church volunteers.
3. When paired with a planned-giving program, encourages people to think about all God has entrusted to them in life. They may choose to endow their annual pledge, tithe their assets, or give some other percentage of the whole of what they have received over a lifetime.
4. Shows potential donors that the local church knows how to use major gifts for ministry in a way that's financially accountable and focused on ministry.
5. Frequently matches the source of the gift, since most major gifts and bequests represent a lifetime of accumulation, and donors appreciate that such gifts won't be spent "all at once."
6. Gives church members and friends the opportunity to give the largest gift of their lives to support favorite ongoing ministries which match their personal priorities.

**Benefits to the congregation:**

1. Provides a receptacle for gifts in such a way that the gifts is less likely to overwhelm the congregation or discourage ongoing stewardship giving.
2. Provides income for even large projects, and the church still has funds for future ministry, too.
3. Sets up the church leadership to be intentional and pro-active with the focus of present and future ministries. Saves the congregation from funds set aside for now-obsolete items or programs (such as an Elevator Fund for a new, one-storey church facility).
4. Offers a welcome alternative to a major gift without restrictions, and the conflict that can come from it as the local church struggles over how to spend or save it. Dramatically reduces the pressure to "pick a project" when the congregation receives a major gift from someone in the congregation or in the community (including "out of the blue" bequests).
5. Offers stability and hope of a future for a congregation on the edge of survival.
6. When matched with a capital campaign, provides a way to support the maintenance of the new building or long-term support of a new ministry.