

# PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

Grace Avenue United Methodist Church



**“As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God’s glory.”** *2 Corinthians 4:15*



**GRACE AVENUE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends,

William James once wrote: “The greatest use of a life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” We know this to be true in so many areas of our lives as we consider those who have gone before us and left a legacy of love, inspiration and generosity. We stand on their shoulders to see the horizon of an even brighter future. Nowhere is this truer than in the church. Profound faith combined with sacrificial giving offers each new generation of Christ’s followers a hope they could not acquire on their own. What the church can become in the future is shaped by people who will envision and endow that future. This is why the Permanent Endowment Fund at Grace Avenue United Methodist has been created. It gives us the opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations. We do not know the specifics of their opportunities and challenges in the future, but we want them to know of our commitment to them that is lasting and permanent. This is what an endowment is all about; permanence that can create and generate new visions and bold action for God’s kingdom. I invite you to read carefully through this document and prayerfully consider the ways you can be a part of this initiative. Remembering that seeds are small when they are planted, let us not be afraid to offer ourselves and our gifts to a future designed by God who allows even the smallest seed to produce a great harvest.

With you on Grace Avenue,

*Billy Echols-Richter*

Billy Echols-Richter



# Grace Avenue Permanent Endowment

Grace Avenue is a multiple site church with campuses currently in Frisco and Grace Chapel on the 380 Corridor.

The Permanent Endowment was created in 2017 as Grace Avenue looked to the future not only for its' current congregations, but for those individuals and families we haven't yet met or embraced. The Endowment Fund serves all of Grace Avenue sites including those that may be established in the future, and has been built by the gifts of faithful church members to strengthen the work of the church. These donors recognized the opportunity to give a gift that keeps giving, because investment returns magnify the impact of original gifts. Just as annual stewardship giving is a chance to return to God a portion of our annual income, contributions to the endowment provide a means to share the accumulated gifts which God has given us as durable support for Grace Avenue's ministry.

The mission of the Permanent Endowment is to provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to Grace Avenue that will become a part of the financial support and a living memorial, not associated with the operating/capital budget process of the church. Gifts to the church may be received and used to carry out the Christian ministry and mission of Grace Avenue United Methodist Church.

Income distributions to the Permanent Endowment will be made through a grant process, managed by the Endowment Committee, and confirmed by church leadership. A contribution to the fund is a gift that keeps on giving. You might call it a "perpetual pledge." Even beyond your lifetime, earnings from your Legacy Gifts are spent to complement and support the vision of Grace Avenue and its mission to "eradicate homelessness in whatever forms it presents itself." The Endowment Fund will not be used for ongoing expenses of the church, but for special non-budgeted opportunities for mission work in the following areas:

## General Fund

Supports all the causes that make up the vision of Grace Avenue.

## Spiritual Home Fund

Supports the needs of our church's ministries as we continue to open our church to create a community of faith.

## Emotional Home Fund

Focuses on easing the suffering of people experiencing emotional and/or psychological needs.

## Physical Home Fund

Supports not only physical structures but also supplies and donations to individuals and groups that assist in natural disasters and untimely accidents, as well as rebuilding structures and providing homes.

As it grows, the Permanent Endowment Fund of Grace Avenue will provide our congregation with a perpetual source of income in support of the church's ministries and missions.

As we each continue our own personal spiritual journey, the Permanent Endowment Fund provides a way that we can leave a permanent legacy ... a Legacy Gift that will support Grace Avenue's mission for future generations.

Learn more about the Permanent Endowment at [www.GraceAvenue.org/endowment](http://www.GraceAvenue.org/endowment)

## Grace Avenue Permanent Endowment FAQ

Whether you are just learning about endowment funds or if you are comparing giving options, there are many resources available to guide you through the process. Visit the Texas Methodist Foundation's gift planning website: <https://giftplanning.tmf-fdn.org/>. We also recommend that you consult with a financial planner when deciding which planned giving option is best for you.

### What makes a Permanent Endowment gift different from other forms of church giving?

Our Endowment Fund is a permanent fund and only its earnings will be spent. When funds are available and distributed, they will support one of the funds that you have designated.

### Can I designate a special type of gift?

Specially designated gifts are a great way to show others how much you care about them and your congregation. These can include: Memorial gift in remembrance of a family member or church member. Tribute gifts recognize special occasions such as anniversaries, achievements, retirements, baptisms, promotions, confirmations, or graduations.

### What is a planned gift?

A planned gift to the church is a financial gift structured to serve the needs of the church as well as the giver, such as: -Charitable gift annuities, which provide payments for life, tax benefits and ultimately benefit our permanent endowment fund. -Gifts through wills, also known as bequests. -Charitable remainder and charitable lead trusts to support our Permanent Endowment Fund.

### What kind of gifts can be made to our endowment fund?

There are many types of gifts that could benefit our Permanent Endowment Fund. Examples include cash, real estate, personal property, stocks and bonds, life insurance, planned gifts.

### Is my gift too small?

Because gifts are merged together in the fund, they have a cumulative effect making even the smallest gift significant. Every gift contributes to the overall growth of the principal amount, which compounds the return on investment.

### Who administers the fund?

The Permanent Endowment Fund Committee oversees the distribution and monitoring of funds.

### Are endowment fund gifts tax deductible?

Yes. Your gifts to Grace Avenue United Methodist Church Endowment Fund are deductible for federal income tax purposes. Bequests, life income gifts and other donations of value are generally exempt from federal estate and gift taxes.

### ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE:

The Endowment Fund is managed by a ten person committee hand selected by church leadership. Our endowment fund investments are managed by the Texas Methodist Foundation (<https://tmf-fdn.org/>)

Guided by Scripture, and the written by-laws and policies of the Endowment Fund, the committee seeks to make investments that will protect the principal of the fund and produce income at a reasonable rate. Each year the Endowment Fund Committee will review the return on the past year's investments, decide how much to keep for continued growth of the fund, and how much would be available for projects to support the vision of Grace Avenue and its mission to "eradicate homelessness in whatever forms it presents itself." The Endowment Fund will not be used for ongoing expenses of the congregation, but for special non-budgeted opportunities for mission work in our four specified funds.

### REQUESTING AN ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT:

Members of the congregation are invited to submit requests for funding from the Endowment Fund. All requests for the calendar year must be submitted via the grant request form to [finance@graceavenue.org](mailto:finance@graceavenue.org) by October 15 of the year prior. Requests should be completed by the individual or church ministry group seeking project funds. The Endowment Fund Committee will review all requests and award grants based upon the Endowment Fund Committee by laws.