



Specifying Gifts to the BMPC Church or to the BMPC Foundation

By John Huffaker

Many potential donors to the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church or Foundation have specific purposes in mind for their gifts. If the purpose is to augment the current budget, the gift should be to The Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. If the gift is a permanent endowment or for purposes that envision spending in the future or spending over a period of year, the gift should be to The Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Foundation.

The Trustees of the Foundation are scrupulous in using the funds as directed, and independent auditors certify that the funds are being used as directed by the donor. Presently the Foundation has 34 special funds that are restricted as to the use of the income or principal in addition funds that can be used as the church decides. Funds unrestricted as to use contribute 25% of the annual church budget.

If you are considering a gift to the Foundation for a specific purpose, you may want to think about the following:

- Do you have a clear purpose in mind for your gift? Do you want your gift distribution to be income only or income and principal? The percentage of distribution is determined by the Trustees on a year-to-year basis (known as the Spending Rule).
- Do you want your fund to have a name? You may obtain a list of existing Funds from the Director of the Foundation. Keep in mind that a fund may already exist that meets your criteria. The addition of your gift would not only add value to this existing fund and to the life of the church, but administrative expenses would be avoided.
- Many donors have been impressed by the Sanctuary built with the gifts of those who came before us and each Council budget is larger because of past gifts. Consider how you want your gift to influence potential donors.
- Keep in mind that many of the current needs were not apparent a few years ago and a current need may become obsolete. Consider giving the Foundation the flexibility at a future time for your restricted gift to become unrestricted when the original purpose no longer exists or church policies and/or missions to use the fund has changed.

If you want information contact Foundation@bmpc.org or call any member of the Foundation Development Committee.