

History: Emmaus Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Inc.

Emmaus Lutheran Church was formed as a daughter congregation from its parent St. Paul's Lutheran Church in April 1903. The new mission start was based on a growing parish and a wish to extend its worship boundaries to the "east" side of the near downtown area of Indianapolis. In its formative years, Emmaus had over 1,000 baptized members. The major emphasis was the elementary Christian education program. The school opened in September 1904 with the church dedication following in December.

Over time, the property required an ever-increasing number of repairs and maintenance. In prior years, member tradesmen performed these tasks without using outside services. As the congregation aged coupled with urban flight, the membership began to decline. In addition, more young persons were entering professional training versus the trades. As such, the emphasis on repairs fell more on the church "budget" creating financial issues.

In November 1990, several members were concerned over growing property maintenance and repairs. An idea was presented to form an endowment with the principal emphasis of providing for capital repairs and additions. The congregation in its official meeting agreed to establish "Emmaus Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Inc." (Hereinafter referred as "Endowment"). The corporation was established in the state of Indiana as a not-for-profit corporation and was approved as a 501c3 tax exempt entity by Internal Revenue Service. This status provided exemption from federal tax and allowed its donors tax deductibility for the donation subject to their individual status.

As a side bar, the congregation also approved a recommendation that allowed all future expectancies via wills and estates to be directed to its Endowment for management. The bylaws also allow the Endowment to manage other congregational funds to maximize their return on investment. The Endowment began with an initial \$5,000 contribution from the Kespohl family to establish the Kespohl Scholarship honoring an Emmaus scholar who will continue their education at Indianapolis Lutheran High School.

Shortly thereafter, the Endowment was made aware of a former member who remembered Emmaus in their will (Sept 1990). The Endowment received a total of \$4,880.00 in September 1991 as its first estate to manage. It was not until December 1996 when the Endowment received a second bequest of \$34,383.88. Following, the Endowment received an additional \$94,000 during the remainder of the 1990's.

All total, the Endowment has received over \$600,000 in gifts from estates as either undesignated or restricted gifts for its management and use.

The governance of the Endowment was established by Emmaus naming four members to serve on its board of directors along with Emmaus treasurer making a total of five members. The bylaws also allow the board of directors ("Directors") to name other members as may be beneficial to its future.

Expenditures have grown exponentially over the 27+ year history of the Endowment. The Endowment has expended funds that include boiler replacement (\$60,000); roofs various (>\$150,000) and parking lots (\$46,000). In total, the Directors have approved and granted over \$400,000 to Emmaus. These monies were granted via the board directed unrestricted gifts as opposed those wills and estates who designate restricted gifts. The Endowment has also been responsible for acquiring real estate contiguous to its property that has allowed for more green space for outdoor activities. The Endowment has also released thousands of dollars from donor restricted funds for school related scholarships and capital additions. These expenditures must be approved by the congregation prior to the release of funds.

The Endowment has engaged the services of a financial adviser from its beginning. Mr. Drew Gleaves, senior vice president, Mainstay Wealth Management Group, a subsidiary of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company has been an asset in assisting the board in its investment decisions. The Endowment has realized over \$200,000 in interest and dividends since its inception.

In its history, the Endowment has received gifts from 19 estates, one anonymous gift and an outside donor of physical property and cash. The cash value exceeds \$600,000 plus the physical value of the property received which was then transferred to the congregation.

G. H. Roesener, president

Board of Directors