

Westwood's Endowment Fund, Q&A

What is the Westwood Unitarian Endowment Trust Fund?

Westwood's Endowment Fund exists to provide a place for permanent legacy funds. It is administered independently of the regular church activities. It supports the mission of the church by financing special projects, while maintaining its principal (currently about \$53,000) in perpetuity. Interest earned from the principal goes to support special projects. Projects are approved by the congregation each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Where does the money in the Fund come from?

Mostly from individual donors. In the past Westwood's Board has also directed some other funds to the Endowment Fund, such as the previous Endowment and Building Funds.

What kinds of projects does the Fund support?

Special projects related to congregational growth or outreach. For example, some of the past projects supported by the Endowment Fund have included:

- Camp fYrefly for its programs
- UCE/Westwood Unitarian Universalist University of Alberta Chaplaincy Initiative for the purchase of brochures about UU faith, history and activities
- Westwood's Earth Centred Spirituality Group for purchase of material for costumes
- Westwood Board of Trustees to assist with the costs of the church administrator learning how to use the newly purchased Church Management Software Program and enter data

How can I contribute?

1. Make a contribution to Westwood indicating you want it to go to the Endowment Fund. Please ask a Trustee for a living donor document to sign, so Westwood can keep its tax paperwork in order.
2. Make a contribution to Westwood as a gift honoring someone else or an event (e.g. a birthday or an anniversary).
3. Include Westwood in your will. Bequests will automatically go to the Endowment Fund, to ensure they support the Congregation in perpetuity.
4. Make Westwood a beneficiary on a life insurance policy.

Talk to a Trustee if you'd like information or assistance about contributing to the Endowment Fund.

What do the Endowment Fund Trustees do? How can I become one?

Trustees manage, administer, and promote the Fund, solicit project applications and make funding recommendations to the Congregation, and report to the Congregation annually. Trustees are elected for a one-year term, and may not serve on the Board or the Finance Review Committee at the same time. Please let a Trustee or the recruitment committee chair know if you are interested in serving as a Trustee.

Who are the Trustees?

Linda Axley, Bruce McWhirter, and Margaret Harris

Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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