



Over the next several weeks, the Stewardship Committee will be offering informative articles about Trinity's Endowment, Expenses, and Income.

Trinity's Endowment

Trinity members have asked "Why are we so concerned about giving when we have a large Endowment that can be used to support the budget?" This will require a little bit of explaining, so please continue reading...

Trinity has been blessed with many donations from members and non-members that are held in our Memorial Bequest Funds (our "Endowment"). Many of these donations have stipulations on what they can support, e.g., Education, and some do not allow spending of the original principal. Trinity's current Endowment is approximately \$2 million. A gradually increasing percentage of the church's budget has been supported by funds from this Endowment. In 2021, this support totaled approximately 28 percent of the budget, or about \$166,000. Endowment funds will probably be expected to be relied upon to support a portion of the budget for many years to come, although hopefully the percentage reached during the past couple of pandemic years will decrease.

We need to be good stewards of our Endowment. We should not hesitate to use the Endowment funds as necessary to support our ministries and missions. It would be tragic to have Trinity wilt away because we cut our staff or ministries due to lack of financial support to the budget, while still having Endowment monies left unused. However, the Endowment funds need to be used with care so that they are still available to support those ministries and missions as needed for many years into the future.

As with any good investment, the Endowment generates money through investment gains. The more money remaining in the Endowment, the more additional money that will be generated. Therefore, we constantly need to look at not just how much money is currently available, but what impact the spending of that money will have on the future of the Endowment.

In summary, we should view our Endowment as a blessing which allows us to continue our ministries – through good years and through pandemics. *Although we have a sizable Endowment, we must use it with care, and we still have a commitment to support Trinity to the best of our collective abilities through our offerings of time, talent, and treasures.* Thanks be to God for those who have gone before us and given to Trinity's Endowment to support our ministries. Supporting Trinity's ministries and missions without the Endowment would be much more difficult!

The Stewardship Committee

