



# Giving Principles

Money, like anything of value, is a gift from God imparted to us for wise stewardship. As stewards of God's resources, Foundry United Methodist Church abides by the following principles to ensure that our giving does not create unhealthy dependency, engage in the destruction of human dignity, or harmfully taint the loving relationships into which God has called us. In formulating these principles, we are mindful of John Wesley's three simple rules for living: Do good; Do no harm; Stay in love if God.

1. Our giving is directed to institutions rather than individuals. We think that our gifts should be spread out among many rather than directed towards just a privileged few. While individual investment might be appropriate in some situations, those instances are limited to moments in which that investment leads to strategic capacity building within in the larger institution that we are supporting.
2. We will never do for folks what they can do for themselves. We respect the signature of the Divine indelibly stamped on each individual and uphold the dignity of folks to live lives free from unhealthy dependency that entraps them in unbalanced systems of power.
3. We recognize that money is not the most important gift we bring to any table. God has given each person gifts to share with one another—be it prayer, encouragement, discernment, music, etc. We are called first and foremost into friendship and communion with our brothers and sisters around the world, and it is only within this context that any exchange of resources makes sense.
4. Our sharing is intended to spur on the sharing of others. We desire to see our giving multiplied and maximized as it is coupled with the giving of others. Matching gifts—be it through money, labor, or other resources—are to be valued higher than giving that exists solely as a one-way transaction.
5. Our financial resources are not vehicles to curry favor with folks. We do not use money as a means of intimidation or unhealthy coercion.
6. We will be gracious recipients of gifts when they are offered to us. The grace of God's Kingdom empowers us to be thankful recipients when others are moved to bless us with their gifts and resources.
7. Our giving should be done in such a way so as to minimize jealousy, competition, or resentment among our brothers and sisters. We should avoid showing favoritism and be ready to give a clear explanation of why a gift was warranted for the betterment of our partners within a larger strategic context.