

Foundation Board

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Chair-elect

Matt Preston
Vice-Chair-elect

Karla Twedt-Ball
Secretary-elect

Cindy Edge

Nancy Pink

Dawn Radack

Steve Ryon

Tom Sears

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Rev. Sherrie Ilg
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Brad Colton
Church Council Chair

Garr Hintz
Church Business Administrator

[Open]
Ministry of Finance Chair

Executive Director

Jerry Oakland

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Getting a Grip on YOUR MONEY!

Life is not about money — but how you deal with money has a huge impact on your quality of life, your family’s life, and the life of your community. When you have sound information and strong skills, you can make your money work for you and for your future.



Register now for a series of three sessions focused on financial basics for families – how to budget, what about credit, and managing expenses. Classes are at St. Paul’s UMC from 6:00 – 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings, January 30 and Feb. 6, 13, and 20 (allows for a snow day!). Registration cost is \$30; scholarships are available for those who need. For families involved in St. Paul’s ministries, cash back coupons will be available for those who successfully complete the course.

Families may participate in the TGIW meal at 5:15, with the cost covered by the Foundation. Children and youth are invited to participate in child care or other activities while parents attend classes. Our instructor is Susan E. Taylor, who is a Family Finances Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.



Complete the registration form found on-line at www.stpaulsumc.org. “Getting a Grip on YOUR MONEY!” is sponsored by St. Paul’s Foundation, St. Paul’s Stewardship Ministry Team, and the directors of SPRINT, ELC, FOCUS, and Pathfinders, with additional financial support from a generous neighbor.

Shop on Amazon?

Then Give to St. Paul’s through Amazon Smiles

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. You may give to St. Paul’s by going to www.smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com; then choose “St Pauls United Methodist Church of Cedar Rapids Foundation”.



Mission Statement

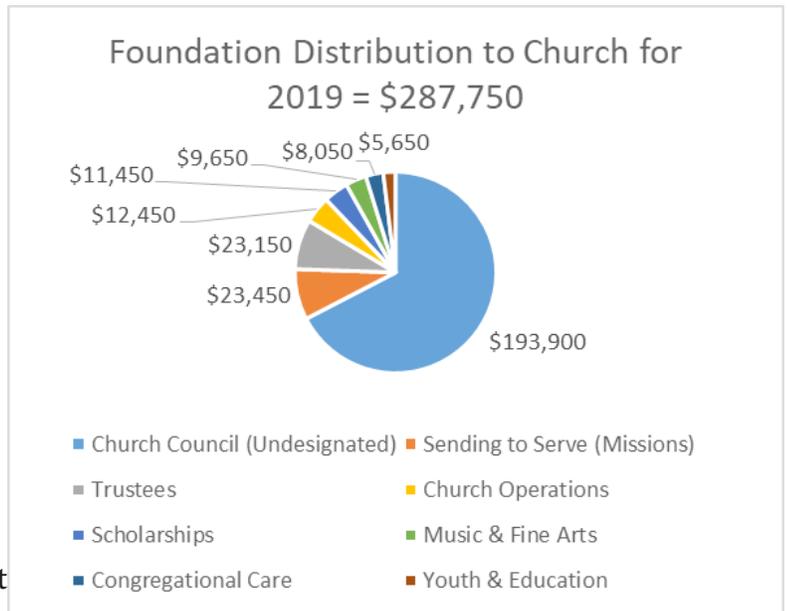
Foster a vibrant spirit of Christian Stewardship and generosity to create a perpetual source of earnings, which strengthens the financial capabilities of St. Paul’s UMC and assists the church in fulfilling its stated mission “St Paul’s United Methodist Church: a people GATHERED, FORMED, and SENT by God’s Grace.”

Distributions to St. Paul's UMC in 2018 Exceed \$300,000

During the week before Christmas, St. Paul's Foundation wrote a check to St. Paul's UMC for \$277,000 representing funds available for distribution by the Church in 2019. The Foundation retained \$10,750 to grant directly as scholarships.

In addition to the distributions by the St. Paul's Foundation, during the year \$13,570 had been received by the Church from funds at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

It is through the generosity of countless persons that these distributions are possible. Most of the funds have grown through the estate giving of persons who care about leaving a legacy to secure a solid financial future for the church. At the same time, there are several funds that have been established by persons during their lifetimes, restricted for ministries about which they have been passionate during their years with St. Paul's.



St. Paul's Foundation's Undesignated Funds Provide Multiple Benefits

By Lois Mather, Foundation chair (2017-18) and member of Church Council

Each year the St. Paul's UMC Foundation makes a distribution from its Undesignated Fund and each of its funds designated for missions, youth, music, etc. How distributions from the Undesignated Fund are placed into ministry is a decision of the Church Council. The Council put their 2017 funds to many creative uses, from helping to fund the Forward in Faith building project to using the funds for media marketing of St. Paul's. A few other uses of the funds are highlighted below.

The undesignated funds allowed staff and lay persons to attend the "Curious Church" Conference in Des Moines, a national training event where new ideas were gleaned for Christian Education ministries. Participants were urged to be discoverers, answer-seekers, doers, and ground-breakers in the area of faith formation, including the use of multi-generational groups.

With the encouragement and seed money from the National Fund for Sacred Places, the undesignated funds allowed St. Paul's to embark on a media campaign to promote St. Paul's as a place of love where all are welcome. The media used includes a TV ad during the evening news, billboards, and digital media. Be sure to check out Courtney Ball's video developed for this promotion on the St Paul's website.

With help from the Easter offering, St. Paul's undesignated funds permitted some Johnson STEAM Academy students to choose summer reading books through "Take 10". The results of the program, which was coordinated with community partners, show the students did not lose reading skills over the summer break.

Lastly, a small amount of 2017's undesignated funds from the Foundation enabled St. Paul's to pay its apportionments (first mile mission) in full for the first time in ten years. This accomplishment empowers St. Paul's to begin the process of erasing its apportionment debt. The undesignated funds from St. Paul's Foundation have allowed St. Paul's Church to move forward both within the church as well as serving others in the community and the world. These funds continue to provide a rich legacy from those who contributed to the Foundation's undesignated fund.

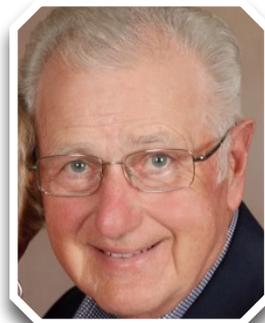
New Board Members Welcomed Aboard

Four new members joined the Foundation Board of Directors in January, after having been elected at church conference in November.



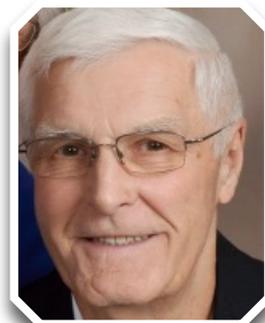
STEVE RYON is filling an unexpired term. You can usually find Steve on Sunday morning at the piano, helping lead the children's Sunday school classes learn their songs to joyfully sing. He has played organ and keyboard for many of the children's Christmas programs, and in years past, has played for many of the communion services led by Lloyd Brockmeyer. He says, "I look forward to serving on the board, and learning more about how it functions and works with the other parts of St Paul's United Methodist church."

GARY SPEICHER returns to the board after a two-year hiatus. He is a long-time St. Paul's member who with his wife, Sue, helped establish both the Youth and Music Funds for the benefit of our Church. Their four children are Chris, Amy, Matt, and Sarah. They have one grandchild, Sennah. Gary continues to provide retirement planning education for a fee along with tournament Walleye fishing for fun!



NANCY PINK has worked at MidAmerican Aerospace Ltd as the Director of Finance since 2003; however, she has worked with the same owner since 1986; facilitated a sale of former company to Rockwell and assisted with the start-up of MidAmerican Aerospace. She writes, "I have two grown sons, both who grew up at St. Paul's, and five grandchildren. My hobbies include country dancing, working out, and socializing with Blair House friends." She serves as a member of the Staff-Parish Relations committee and belongs to Martha circle.

KEITH WILLIAMS joined St. Paul's UMC in 1991. He begins a three year term on the board, along with Gary and Nancy. Keith is an "Iowa farm boy" from Lime Springs, Iowa. In 1964, he graduated from ISU as an electrical engineer and worked in Minnesota and Florida for 13 years. In 1978 he began working for Rockwell Collins as a Product Manager in Gen Av and retired in 1999. He says, "My travels in the USAF, with Rockwell Collins, and as a small-plane pilot and flight instructor have permitted me to see the beauty of God's world and people from a unique perspective." He and Pat have been married since 1974 and have two granddaughters and two great-granddaughters, all in Minnesota. This is their 14th consecutive Winter in Texas.



Board Officers to Be Elected

At the January Board meeting, officers will be elected. Those nominated are Dave Mahlke, chair; Matt Preston, vice-chair; and Karla Twedt-Ball, secretary. Board members have quarterly meetings as well as serving on one of the board's committees: executive, investment, scholarship and outreach. If you have interest in serving on the board, please contact Executive Director Jerry Oakland or one of the current board members.

Nothing to Give? Think Again!

Sometimes people say, “My estate is so small, I’ll have nothing to leave to my church. I don’t need to make estate plans.” Be careful. That may not be true.

There was a news article just recently that spoke about an unfortunate accident which brought about the death of an elderly person. The estate was awarded \$500,000 because of that accident. Suddenly the estate had more value. If the deceased did not make plans on how his/her assets would be distributed, then the state’s plan would be utilized. The question is, does the state’s plan match your wishes?

Give Generously – But Give Wisely

Did you know that if you have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA that you can authorize a payment to be made directly to St. Paul’s UMC or to St. Paul’s UMC Foundation? This payment does not count as part of your income and therefore you may find that you benefit as you calculate your taxes.

If you make a gift of stocks, you avoid capital gains taxes even as you claim the value of the stock as a charitable contribution.

Consult with your tax attorney or financial advisor if you have questions about these, or other ways, to make your gifts to support the ministries of St. Paul’s.

Have You Done Your Estate Planning Yet?

As Executive Director of the Foundation, Rev. Jerry Oakland spends time visiting with church members about their estate plans. Some persons want to know more about naming the Church or the Foundation as a beneficiary of their life insurance policy, their IRA, or their annuity. Others wonder about giving appreciated stock or other assets. Some want to establish a special named fund or contribute to a fund that matches their passion for ministry. What is important is that your “intentions” to do this someday get transformed in “actions” before it is too late for you to make such decisions.



If you are ready to talk about these matters, please contact Jerry at the Foundation Office at the church, 319-363-2058, or by emailing him at joakland@stpaulsumc.org.

Be Careful – Don’t Get Scammed

Here are some web-sites to use for helpful information:

- FTC.gov/scams (Federal Trade Commission)
 - AARP.org/money/scams-fraud
- NCOA.org (National Council on Aging)