

Capital Campaign -- Endowment Matching Grant

Double your gift !

Every dollar you give will be matched from the Endowment

---up to \$500,000---

beginning with pledges made September 14th or later.

We definitely want to make sure we tap the entire

\$500,000 !!

The purpose of the Endowment is to support the mission of the Church--to support the long-term financial security and well-being of the Congregation. The Endowment Committee reports to the Congregation and can make decisions to allocate funds if they have been requested by the Board of Trustees; however, there is a limit to this authority. The amount that was proposed to support the Capital Campaign required a congregational vote. And, the Congregation has voted to allow the Endowment to contribute up to \$500,000 to the Capital Campaign if requested by the Board.

The Endowment Committee believes strongly that supporting the Capital Campaign is fully in alignment with the mission of the Endowment. The maximum amount of \$500,000 was agreed based on best practices regarding the amount the Endowment should hold, at a minimum, to ensure that there are funds available should some extraordinary circumstance threaten the financial well-being of the Church.

The Endowment Committee is not making an outright pledge of \$500,000 to the Campaign. Rather, the Endowment will match the first \$500,000 of gifts pledged after the launch of the Capital Campaign on September 14th. The Endowment will make grants, approximately quarterly, as congregant's gifts fulfilling these pledges are received.

Do your part to make sure we receive the entire \$500,000 grant !!

Questions ??:

Why is the Endowment contributing? Supporting the Campaign is fully in alignment with the purpose of the Endowment to support the mission of the Church.

Why \$500,000? This is an amount that allows the Endowment to retain sufficient funds to weather a financial crisis caused by some unforeseen event. This is a primary purpose of the Endowment.

Why not just make a \$500,000 grant rather than doing matching grants? The Endowment Committee feels strongly that support for the Capital Campaign must come primarily from the Congregation. The Matching Grant approach ensures that the Endowment contribution is in balance with the Congregation's commitment. Also, it will, hopefully, be a factor that influences members to stretch when they consider their pledge.

When is the Endowment actually making the grants? The Endowment will match the gifts received from those who made pledges that were matched. This will be done approximately quarterly.

Will increases in pledges be matched? Yes, as long as there are matching funds still available.

Will increases to pledges made before September 14th be matched? Yes, the increase will be matched as long as matching funds are available.

What if we don't get enough pledges to claim the entire \$500,000 of matching funds? The Endowment Committee's commitment is only to match the gifts fulfilling pledges made after September 14th.

Who can I talk to about this or the Endowment in general? Send an email to endowment@uuwestport.org or talk to any of the Endowment Committee members.