

CHRIST  CHURCH
at Grove Farm
ENDOWMENT
FUND

THE CASE STATEMENT FOR AN ENDOWMENT FUND

It is ironic that most of our members faithfully support our church during their lifetime but do not consider a gift to the church from their estate after death. Many tithe, give gifts and pledges to capital campaigns and give offerings to the church when the spirit moves them during their lives. Yet provisions are made through their estates for schools they attended, the local library or hospital or their favorite charity - without considering a gift to their church - from their estate, after death.

How can this be? The answer may simply be that our church has not asked for a gift from their estate. We have not made it easy for our members to consider such a gift. We have not even encouraged consideration of such a gift. While our church has remained silent concerning estate planning, others organizations actively solicit gifts through mailings and brochures.

In an effort to address this situation, Parish Council approved on September 21, 2009 the Christ Church at Grove Farm Endowment Fund.

Our members have been generous in supporting our annual operating funds, in supporting our capital campaigns and in making offerings for various ministries and requests for gifts. Our operating budget in 1995 was under \$500,000 - in 2010 it was over \$2,500,000 - a five-fold increase. Our capital campaigns had gifts and pledges of \$1.9 million in 1996, \$750,000 in 1999, \$6.4 million in 2004 and \$1.5 million in 2007. Our long-term debt in June 2004 was \$750,000 from the balance of two 1996 mortgages (for the purchase of Grove Farm and to build the original sanctuary building). Our goal is to retire the church long-term debt by July 23, 2010 or as soon as possible.

This is the history of support for our ministries. We have been fiscally responsible. Our members have been faithful in supporting the operating budgets and capital campaigns of the church. Our prayer is that the Lord is pleased with our stewardship and our members know the joy of supporting His work through our ministries.

When members receives a windfall or consider how to manage their estate, they should be encouraged to consider a perpetually managed gift to the church Endowment Fund. This may be the most important gift our members can give to their church. *It helps ensure the legacy we have created on Grove Farm during our lifetime and continues the Lord's work through our church ministries, even after our death.*

September 21, 2009



Christ Church at Grove Farm

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