

BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)



WE ARE...

Beargrass Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Part of a movement for
wholeness in a fragmented world.

Guided by the love of God
And a commitment
to an Open Table,
We worship with hope,
Grow together as a
community of faith,
And serve with generosity
and a passion for justice.

CONTENTS

*	4	INVITATION
*	6	PURPOSE
*	8	WHY GIVE
*	10	TYPES OF GIFTS
*	11	WHAT CAN I GIVE
*	12	CURRENT FUNDS
*	14	NEXT STEPS



INVITATION

All of us at Beargrass Christian Church benefit greatly from the legacies of those who have come before us. Today, we are each growing a legacy of faith that will enrich all who come after us.

Perhaps your legacy will be one of teaching, music, outreach, or service. The example of your vibrant faith might be a gift you leave to future generations. But, have you considered that your legacy can also have an important financial component that will impact Beargrass Christian Church forever?

Through planning, you can translate your love for Beargrass into a legacy. All gifts, large and small, will help support the ongoing work of Beargrass Christian Church. As you prepare to update your financial plan, estate plan, or will, we invite you to consider including Beargrass Christian Church.

Contact Beargrass Christian Church office for more information on how to make your gift and one of the Endowment Board members will contact you.

Beargrass provides no tax or legal advice.
Please consult a qualified professional whose
advice is valuable to you.

GIFT OF A LIFETIME

beargrass **FOREVER**

"BUT EACH OF US WERE GIVEN GRACE ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF CHRIST'S GIFT...TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST..."

- EPHESIANS 4:7, 12



KEITH WILSON

"Beargrass has had a huge impact on my faith and life. I wanted to give back to the church that has done so much for me and my family by including them in my end of life plans. Anyone can give and any amount is important."



DR. SHARON KERRICK

"For me, it's all about continuing the cycle of love. I want to see Beargrass continue to perpetuate love for others long after I'm not here. Beargrass is named in our end of life plans. Consider the things in your life that are your foundation. What are the things that are good in the world that you want to perpetuate when you're not here? For me, that's Beargrass. I'm happy to support the church that has loved and supported me so much!"



REV. STEVEN STRAUB

"Beargrass was a safe and nurturing place for me throughout my childhood. I want to ensure Beargrass continues to be that for generations to come. That's why I decided to name Beargrass as the beneficiary in my life insurance policy."



PURPOSE

The purpose of **beargrass FOREVER** is to strengthen the ministry, outreach, and mission of Beargrass Christian Church by growing a legacy of faith through gifts to Endowment Funds. These gifts provide a way for members and friends of the congregation to give a monetary gift which will help develop and sustain our ministries.



GROW A LEGACY OF FAITH

beargrass FOREVER is designed to help you and your family in growing a legacy of faith. A portion of your gift, up to 5%, is distributed annually to the designated cause you choose. This ensures your gift will provide a lasting, positive impact for years to come. Including Beargrass Christian Church in your estate plan is a simple way to provide ongoing resources to support our church and our mission.



Extend the outreach of the Church



Leave a legacy for generations to come



Be a good steward



Experience the joy of giving



Provide an example of Jesus' love

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

**“ALL SHOULD GIVE
WHAT THEY HAVE
DECIDED IN THEIR
HEARTS TO GIVE, NOT
RELUCTANTLY OR
UNDER COMPULSION,
FOR GOD LOVES A
CHEERFUL GIVER.”**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



There is no greater joy than knowing you have made a positive difference in your lifetime.

A gift to **beargrass FOREVER** expresses your lasting love and faithfulness to Beargrass Christian Church. Each of us will be remembered by what we shared - our life, our love, our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Beargrass Christian Church encourages our members to think not only about annual support of the church but also about how we can help maintain the church's ministry in the long term and participate in growing a legacy of faith for future generations.

We believe the endowment funds are one of the resources given to us by God to serve God and our neighbors. Our funds have been built by the gifts of faithful church members to strengthen the work and ministry of the church for years to come. These donors recognized the opportunity to give a gift that keeps giving because investment returns magnify the impact of the original gift.

You can make your designated gift today! The Endowment Board and staff at Beargrass are happy to discuss the impact your donation, pre-planned estate gift, or deferred gift will have on the church's mission and ministry.



TYPES OF GIFTS

01

Future Gifts

Gifts set up in advance can establish your legacy of faith today and are received by Beargrass Christian Church at a future time. Because of their flexibility and tax advantages, many of these types of gifts can allow you to meet your goals and family obligations while making a more significant contribution to Beargrass than otherwise would have been likely.

02

Endowment Gifts

The Beargrass Christian Church Perpetual Endowment Fund has a mission to ensure the stability and continuation of Beargrass, its mission, and its programs, and to promote and facilitate its ministry. Funds are disbursed based on the By-laws. Right now, the income created by the legacy of others contributes up to 5% of each year's operating budget.



USE OF FUNDS

New contributions can usually be incorporated into existing funds. The Endowment Board will review any gifts that include restrictions or designations as well as those that may entail liability. Establishment of a new fund requires a commitment of at least \$25,000.

WHAT CAN I GIVE?

- 01 **Bequests** allow you to name Beargrass in your will or revocable living trust as a beneficiary. Your estate will receive an income tax deduction for the value of your bequest. A bequest written in a will or revocable living trust can be made for either a percentage or an amount.
- 02 **Retirement Accounts** such as your IRA, 401(k) or other qualified retirement plans, permit you to name Beargrass Christian Church as a beneficiary. Amounts remaining in your plan, free of income and estate tax, will transfer to Beargrass.
- 03 **Life insurance** policies afford you the opportunity to name Beargrass Christian Church as a beneficiary of part or all of your policy. You can also choose to make Beargrass the owner of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed. With the Church as the owner, you may receive a tax deduction for the amount of premiums you continue paying each year. If the policy is whole life, you may receive a tax deduction for the cash value amount immediately.
- 04 **Qualified Charitable Distribution** allows you to distribute directly from your IRA to Beargrass Christian Church up to \$100,000 and exclude the contributed amount from your gross income for tax purposes if you are over 70-1/2 years old. This amount can be counted towards the IRA's annual required minimum distribution.
- 05 **Appreciated stocks and mutual funds** are a great way to maximize your giving because you receive an immediate income tax deduction for the full fair market value of securities you transfer that you've held for at least one year. You also pay no capital gains tax on the difference between the fair market value and your cost.
- 06 **Real estate gifts** at the request of the donor may also be accepted, depending on the circumstances. You can maximize your tax savings by giving appreciated real estate to Beargrass Christian Church before the property is sold.

ESTATE PLANNING ALLOWS BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE ALL OR A PORTION OF
YOUR ESTATE AFTER YOUR LIFETIME.

ENDOWED FUNDS

beargrass **FOREVER**

Perpetual Endowment Fund

This fund was established to provide an ongoing opportunity for unrestricted gifts and bequests to amass on behalf of the Church. **Your unrestricted gift to the church will help grow this fund.** Funds are disbursed based on the By-laws, which currently state that the annual distribution will be as follows:

- 50% will be designated for support of the operating budget, to be used according to the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Team with the confirmation of the Official Board.
- 30% will be designated for the retirement of outstanding debt on Church properties or for major capital improvements to Church property. If there is no debt, then these funds will be distributed to the Church's Finance and Budget Team to be used for building and maintenance.
- 20% will be designated for outreach causes to be determined by the Church's Outreach Mission Support Team. The Outreach Mission Support Team shall report how the funds were dispersed to the Official Board by December 31 of the year the funds were distributed from the Endowment Fund.

Raymond Fund

This fund was established by a gift from Anne and Ollie Raymond. The terms of their bequest defined how the funds were to be expended. A portion of the monies was utilized for a significant renovation project for the activities building in 1998. A portion of the remaining balance is to be disbursed to the Church annually, to be used for the following purposes:

- 25% will be allocated to support or supplement any ministerial program to enhance Church growth, to be determined by the Senior Minister with the assistance of the Church staff.
- 25% will be allocated for special projects relative to new or existing programs within the Church, at the discretion of the approval by the Official Board of the Church.
- 25% will be allocated to help those in need in the Church to provide assistance to members on an interim basis. The Senior Minister will be responsible for making these grants.
- 25% will be allocated to scholarships for worthy students through the VanNostrand Scholarship or the Beargrass Scholars at the Lexington Theological Seminary.

The funds are disbursed at the direction of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer of the Church.

Mission Projects Beyond the Walls

This fund was established by a gift from an anonymous donor for the following purposes:

- Financially encourage and support participation in both youth and adult mission trips through scholarships granted to Church members. The purpose is not to reduce the overall cost of the trip to the whole group, but to defray or eliminate the cost to individuals who otherwise would not be able to participate.
- Financially support or provide seed money for establishing NEW “Beyond the Walls” mission projects, with emphasis on the local community. The funds are not intended to maintain project operations into subsequent years. Examples of how the funds could be used include:
 - o creating a community garden in the food desert
 - o building affordable housing in low-income areas
 - o purchasing children’s books for a summer reading program
 - o opening a used clothing store
 - o other diverse ministries designed to benefit underprivileged individuals or areas in the local community

In January 2022, the Beargrass Finance Team voted to move the balance of the Elsie Calvert Outreach Seed Fund to the Mission Projects Beyond the Walls Fund for two key reasons: 1) the intent of the Calvert Fund matched well with the purpose of the Beyond the Walls Fund and 2) this serves as a lasting way to honor a long-time member of Beargrass and her generous bequest.

Lawrenson Library Fund

This fund provides ongoing operating support of the Walter E. Lawrenson Memorial Library of the Church. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Library Team.

The fund is named for Walter E. Lawrenson, who served as Senior Minister from 1931 through 1964, and continued as Minister of Evangelism until 1969. He was instrumental in expanding the Sunday School program, initiating the Boy Scout program and establishing the music ministry. However, his greatest gift to the church was his never-ceasing evangelism.

King Music Ministry Fund

This fund was established to support the overall music ministry of Beargrass, which is an integral part of weekly worship services and special worship services. In terms of this fund, the music ministry includes vocal choirs at each of the services, the handbell choir, and the musical instruments that support the choirs and the services in both the Sanctuary and the Chapel. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Worship Ministry Center.

Bolstered by a planned gift from June King in 2021, this fund was named in her honor. While June chose law as her profession, she had a lifelong engagement with music – the piano in particular - and later at Beargrass as a member of the Handbell Choir.



RWVN Scholarship Fund

These funds are contributed by members in memory of Rev. Dr. Will Van Nostrand. From these contributions, amounts are available for scholarships granted to young people who are actively involved at Beargrass and exemplify Christian values. The scholarships are awarded at the direction of the Mission Support Team.

Rev. Dr. Will Van Nostrand, Jr. served Beargrass for 40 years, beginning his career as an associate minister and director of youth in 1953, and later serving as the Senior Minister from 1964 until his retirement in 1993. He was one of the founders of the St. Matthews Area Ministries, a trustee for Lexington Theological Seminary and active in the Boy Scouts of America for 55 years.

Crawford Memorial Fund

This fund was established to provide for the continuing education of the ministers of the Church. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Senior Minister.

Rev. Dr. Norman Crawford was the Minister of Evangelism at Beargrass from 1970 until his death in 1982. This fund was established to recognize his service to the Church.

Bentley Children's Ministry Fund

This fund is intended to provide annual support for Beargrass' burgeoning Children's Ministry. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Children's Ministry Team.

This fund was established by the Gift Commission in 2021 from Memorial Gifts honoring Malcolm and Joanne Bentley, who were long-time members of Beargrass. Malcolm was fondly referred to as Mr. Beargrass, who greeted everyone entering the church. He was a long-time Sunday School teacher of the fifth-grade class.

Youth Ministry Fund

This fund is intended to provide annual funding for Beargrass' Youth Ministry. Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Youth Ministry Team.

This fund was established by the Gift Commission in 2021 from Memorial Gifts honoring Jean Crosier and her son, Carl Crosier. The Crosier family were long-time members of Beargrass.

Knopf Scholarship Fund

This fund was established to provide college scholarships for young people active in the music programs of the Church, in memory of Keith Knopf. The scholarships are awarded at the direction of the Mission Support Team, with input from the Music Department.

John Keith Knopf, the son of Dan and Eljean Knopf, was very musically talented and active in the Music Department at Beargrass, where he sang in the choirs. The scholarship was established in Keith's name when he died in 1977 at the age of 16.

Boy Scout Fund

These funds are not owned by the Church. They are deposited with the Church to maximize investment earnings and are spent by the Boy Scouts at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or Treasurer of the troop. That said, the scout program is an important extension of the Beargrass Children & Families and Youth ministries into the local community.

NEXT STEPS

1. Imagine your impact on the ministry, outreach, and mission of Beargrass Christian Church when you give a gift to **beargrass FOREVER** and help in growing a legacy of faith.
2. Prayerfully consider your gift amount and fund options.
3. Check with your attorney, accountant, or other tax advisor for additional information on which gift options are most compatible to your situation.
4. Contact the Beargrass Christian Church office for more information on how to make your gift at 502-896-1161 or completing the enclosed card.
5. Ensure the future ministry, outreach, and mission of Beargrass Christian Church through a gift to **beargrass FOREVER**. Visit www.beargrass.org/beargrassFOREVER

*"BUT EACH OF US WERE GIVEN GRACE ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF
CHRIST'S GIFT...TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR
BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST..."*

- EPHESIANS 4:7, 12





www.beargrass.org

4100 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40207
502-896-1161