

Reference Guide for Bethel teams considering if they can request money from the Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

What is the Bethel Lutheran Church endowment fund?

The Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was established in 1993 to support good works in the name of Jesus Christ within Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester and the surrounding communities, and throughout the world.

Annually a percentage of the fund balance is made available. The amount made available does not exceed a pre-designated percentage of the Endowment fund. The amount is in addition to the funds approved by the Bethel congregation in the annual operating budget.

When should a Team consider requesting funds from the Endowment?

- For items or services not included in the approved annual operating budget for a Team.
- For items or services within the scope of one of these eleven defined purposes.

What are the eleven defined purpose?

1. Core – to support special church purposes or requests, not included in the Annual Church budget of Bethel. (NOTE: Previously referred to as “Undesignated”).
2. Adult Education – for support of Adult Education programs.
3. Scholarship - to support students from Bethel attending an ELCA college.
4. Youth Activities -to support Youth trips and other activities. The Youth Team of Bethel Lutheran Church will have the responsibility of overseeing use of these funds. Funds may be applied to either general Youth trip expenses (such as transportation or chaperon expenses), or for need-based assistance for participating youth.
5. Children's Ministry - to support ongoing activities of the children's ministry program.
6. Structure Improvement – to support structural improvement projects as determined by the Properties Team.
7. Spiritual Emphasis – to support congregational events having a spiritual emphasis theme.
8. Social and Global Mission – to support both local and global mission objectives. Special consideration is encouraged for the needs of children and for involving youth in mission work. Disbursement requests must be reviewed by the Social Missions Team.
9. Hirman Fellowship - to support enhancing current and future fellowship facilities, and for encouragement of fellowship activities; including special capital expenditures for improvements and costs associated with special events held for Bethel members.
10. Dale Mundahl Music Scholarship - to support music at Bethel. Funds may be used to support musical study with an emphasis for organ or church music programs of study.
11. Pastor Robert Onkka Pastoral Ministry Fund - This account may be used to support Bethel Lutheran members who attend a seminary of the ELCA and may be used for tuition, books, or auxiliary expenses.*

This account may also be used to supplement the Annual Fund related to the Personnel expenses of the Bethel called pastoral staff and/or contracted Pastor of Visitation. Use of this fund may also include additional pastoral coverage related to sabbatical support or pulpit supply.

**In the event funds are not expended for a period of three to five years for a Bethel member in seminary, Bethel could choose to support a student at Luther Seminary with preference given to a student from SE Minnesota who receives no congregational assistance. The students would be supported until such time Bethel students are in attendance.*

How does a team make a request from the fund?

- Complete the Endowment Fund Request Form and send it to the Bethel Business Administrator.
- Monthly the Bethel Endowment Team meets to determine if funds are available and to approve or not approve each request.