



### What is an endowment fund?

An endowment is a permanent fund in which gifts are invested. The income from the fund is then used to meet increasing gospel ministry expenses year after year.

### Options

- **WELS endowments:** These established WELS endowments provide regular support and stability for synod ministries.
- **Donor-designated endowment:** An individual or family can start an endowment through WELS Foundation to provide ongoing, dependable support for the benefit of ministries that touch their hearts.
- **Congregation/organization endowment:** A church or WELS organization can establish an endowment through WELS Foundation to benefit local and external ministry efforts. A WELS Christian giving counselor can assist with setup and help churches with promoting gifts to the fund.

### What are the features?

- **Gift size:** Minimum of \$25,000 to establish an endowment. Once established, additional gifts may be added.
- **Personalized:** Give to or establish an endowment fund to benefit the ministry you want to support.
- **Invested with WELS Investment Funds:** WELS Investment Funds provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios for WELS, WELS subsidiaries, congregations, and WELS-affiliated organizations.
- **Distributions:** Distributions will be made annually to the WELS ministry you determine for your endowment.
- **Lasting legacy:** Endowments provide support for years to come.

### What are the benefits?

- **Joy:** Arrange to benefit the area of the Lord's work closest to your heart.
- **Flexibility:** Give cash, appreciated assets, or a planned gift, such as through a will, trust, beneficiary designation on a retirement account, or insurance proceeds.
- **Encouragement to others:** Additional gifts may be added to an endowment by family or congregational members.
- **Predictable support:** The WELS ministry you designate in your endowment can plan to receive annual distributions.
- **Easy:** WELS Foundation provides the necessary administration.

**Frequently Asked Questions →**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## about Endowments

### ▶ How is my endowment invested?

Your endowment is invested in the WELS Endowment Fund portfolio of WELS Investment Funds. The WELS Endowment Fund seeks long-term capital growth with some current income. It has a target asset allocation comprised of 75 percent equity and 25 percent fixed income and has a long-range investment time horizon.

### ▶ When are the funds from my endowment distributed to ministry?

Funds from your endowment will be distributed each July to the ministry you have designated.

### ▶ How is my endowment distribution calculated?

The amount distributed from your endowment to ministry is currently 4% of the prior 16-quarter (or since inception) rolling average market value of the fund as of June 30 each year. Contact us at [WELSFoundation@wels.net](mailto:WELSFoundation@wels.net) or **800-752-8940** if you have questions about your annual distribution.

### ▶ When will I get a statement about my endowment?

You will receive a statement for your endowment each January.

### ▶ Can I (or others) make additions to my endowment?

You can! In fact, the more additions that are made to your endowment, the more it will benefit ministry. Contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor (**800-827-5482; [mcg@wels.net](mailto:mcg@wels.net)**) or WELS Foundation to help you with any additions to your fund.

### ▶ I'd like to update the purpose and history of my endowment in your records. How can I do that?

We'd love to help you with that! Updating (or adding) this information in your endowment records can help convey the purpose of your endowment to others and even encourage them to set up a similar endowment. Contact [foundationmarketing@wels.net](mailto:foundationmarketing@wels.net) to do this.

### ▶ What are the annual expenses of my endowment?

Funding Asset	Min. Initial Gift	Annual Administration Fee*	
Cash	\$25,000	First \$50,000	0.50%
Marketable Securities		\$50,001 to \$1,000,000	0.20%
Illiquid Property ( <i>board approval required</i> )		More than \$1,000,000	0.10%

\*Admin fees processed quarterly

### MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact WELS Foundation at [WELSFoundation@wels.net](mailto:WELSFoundation@wels.net) or **800-752-8940**.