The St. Michael's Church Legacy Fund

Objective

To maintain the physical church structures/operation and thus preserve both the physical and spiritual presence of the church in perpetuity.

Structure of the Fund

It is recognized that, from a bookkeeping and administrative perspective, that the Fund will have several existing funds operating under guidelines with common investment disciplines to be reviewed on a regular basis. by the Finance Committee and Vestry

Goal

To reintroduce the Legacy Fund as part of a larger long-term concept of year-round Stewardship to enable future generations to lead lives filled with God's love and the Holy Spirit.

It is uniformly agreed by the current Wardens and Vestry that, while St. Michael's is relatively stable in terms of congregation and short -term financing, specifically by way of annual pledging, that additional steps should be taken to create a more stable financial security for the preservation and maintenance of the church. To this end, we envision a series of actions which include, but not limited to:

1. Creating an awareness that planned giving is not in conflict with annual pledging and has a vital function in preserving the long -term stability of the church.
2. Creating a structure, organization and documents that make it easy for parishioners to provide planned giving of bequests and donations which are separate to annual pledges which are intended for annual operating expenses.
3. The Finance Committee shall oversee the administration of the Fund in coordination with a professional wealth advisor.

How will the Fund work to preserve the Church?

Over time, the Fund will be grown to a significant size that generates an annual investment result approximately in line with annual building and maintenance expenditures for the church. The Treasurer and Finance committee, at their discretion, may use the annual investment returns from the Legacy Fund for building and maintenance of the Church, thereby freeing up funds, which would currently come from pledging, for use in other purposes. The concept is that a large principal Fund will remain in place, in perpetuity, thus providing a continuous revenue stream to support the Church, in perpetuity,

Who will be responsible for the Growth and Activities of the Legacy Fund?

Initially, Gwynne Johnston, Liz Gabis and David Waring have volunteered, together with support from Fr. Ralph Osborne, to start the activities. Additional volunteers may be added.

What has to be done to make this concept a reality?

1. Definition of stewardship: Responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving
2. Engage Fr. Ralph for support
3. Stewardship Ministry umbrella encompasses planned giving to the St. Michael's Church Legacy Fund.
4. See Intention to Donate Form for options
5. Year-round approach – Stewardship timeline is being developed. Includes a Sunday Brew to be hosted on 11/2/25 on the topic of using RMD's for charitable tax saving strategies. This is a unique opportunity for a soft start in 2025, followed by a more formal start in Lent, 2026.
6. Target market is active parishioners, former parishioners with historical ties, and corporate fundraising.
7. Conversations with donors will be subject to confidentiality and personal sensitivity.
8. Feedback loop for the Vestry
9. Recognition efforts, as appropriate, for those who wish to be recognized, or not.