



ROCKY RIVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ENDOWMENT
MINISTRIES

2020 Endowment Report





Message from the Senior Pastor

Rev. Dan Bogre

Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

When I first came to Rocky River United Methodist Church, one of the things that amazed me most was this church's generosity. It was not just that all of you were so generous, but that you had created a very vibrant culture of generosity within the church family. It was very apparent and widely understood and accepted as part of this church's DNA. That is not very common in most churches around the country. Most churches keep the talk of money quite secret and close to the vest. It is not something discussed openly or comfortably at any time in the church year, let alone the time of stewardship. For RRUMC, that is not the case.

Our Theo & Belle Moll Society is one of the most brightly shining examples of legacy giving within the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our culture of generosity was best made evident when Theo and Belle Moll gave the initial funds to get this endowment off the ground in the mid-1990s. Since then, that spirit has become contagious and more and more of our people continue to get caught up in it as it spreads throughout this amazing congregation.

The main purpose of these endowment funds is to defray some of the major costs that come along with running a building this size and all the ministries that take place within it and around it. By absorbing those major plant costs, the operating budget is able to function at full capacity, without having to redirect dollars to those plant costs. Since I have come to this church in July 2011, we have tackled some major plant upgrades and repairs. For example, we have completely renovated the church steeple. We have completely repaved the parking lot. We have put in two brand new boilers. Our church has put in a new chiller. The sanctuary and the hallway outside the chapel have had new carpeting installed. The exterior of the building has been repainted. All this does not

include some of the less expensive projects that have been completed over the last ten years. In total, we have spent more than one million dollars in the last decade to address necessary church plant repairs and upgrades. It is because of the generosity of the people of this church, through the Theo & Belle Moll Society, that we have never had to divert money from the operating budget or conduct a capital campaign to keep our facility in tip top shape.

Obviously, 2020 was quite a year for everyone. It was also a very volatile year for the church's endowment funds. We watched the overall value drop substantially when COVID-19 hit in the first quarter of 2020. However, because of our Trustees, our Endowment Investment Committee, the wealth management company that handles our portfolio, and an incredible bounce back in the market as 2020 progressed, we were able to see our endowment funds not only regain its previous losses but grow substantially. I thank God for all those people who have joined the Theo & Belle Moll Society, as well as our Director of Endowment Ministries, Mrs. Lisa Sierk, who worked so tirelessly to engage new members of the Theo & Belle Moll Society.

Our mission and vision at RRUMC remains the same. "It's All About the Story. We exist to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story." I know that, because of the generosity of this congregation and the way it gets lived out through the Theo & Belle Moll Society, we will be able to accomplish and live into that vision for generations to come. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done, are doing, and will do for many years to come to help that mission and vision live on for future generations.

With a thankful heart,
Rev. Daniel F. Bogre

Message from the Board of Trustees

We are grateful to everyone for your faith in Rocky River United Methodist Church and its mission and vision.

The year 2020 brought a deadly pandemic to the world, resulting in enormous economic losses everywhere. As trustees of Rocky River United Methodist Church, we were challenged in our stewardship role for the endowment funds. The volatility of the financial markets, particularly early in the pandemic, demanded that we be conservative in our decision-making regarding capital improvements.

We focused largely upon necessary maintenance of the church building, property and two parsonages. We also continued without interruption the church's commitment to provide college scholarships to church youth who demonstrated a strong engagement with their faith and with this church, and to support a United Methodist missionary in Africa.

Our decisions were guided by this church's mission and vision "to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story." Throughout it all, we were reminded always of the deep faith and commitment expressed for this church by Moll Society members over many decades. By also providing an annual perpetual tithe from Theo and Belle Moll to the church's operating budget, the endowment funds reflect an unwavering belief in this church and its role in the future.

This report highlights some of the projects that were made possible by the endowment funds. The largest task involved reinforcing portions of the building foundation on the Detroit Road side and repairing and enlarging the surrounding sidewalk areas. Inside, you may have noticed fresh paint in the church's stairwell, rotunda, gathering area and café. At the Riverwood parsonage, two windows were replaced, interior painting was done, and a fairly significant waterproofing project was completed – followed by new carpeting in the basement and some landscaping.

While necessary maintenance and upgrades might not be very dazzling, they are critical to maintaining the church's ability to function and to serve.

We are grateful to everyone for your faith in Rocky River United Methodist Church.

2020 Board of Trustees

Mark Bacon
Paul Biacsi
Eric Birch
Rev. Dan Bogle
George Cadwallader
Herb Harpster
Andy Henton
Gary Lanzen
Cynthia Schafer
Karen Weger

Trustee Funds

Major Maintenance and Improvements

Our properties require both short-term and long-term projects to keep them not only functional, but beautiful as well. The Trustee funds, which help us do this, also help relieve our annual budget from being overwhelmed with the steady need for capital projects and maintenance.

People and Programs

The people who gather to discover Jesus Christ in the midst of their story at RRUMC find a variety of programs to help them accomplish this goal. Our church seeks to assist everyone to find a place to meet Christ. From Core Groups to Upward Basketball and Cheerleading, from choir to Bible study, there's a place and program for everyone thanks to these funds.

Fulfilling the Needs of Others

These funds allow us to meet a variety of needs in our church, community, and the world through both traditional and new outreach ministries. The ministries seek to help people meet Christ in the midst of their stories such as the support of an overseas missionary and higher education scholarships.

Apportionments

- Income used to supplement the current operating budget in any year the Church is unable to meet its Conference and District Apportionments

Benevolence

- Income used for causes that extend the outreach ministries of the church
- Can be used to augment non-annual major capital improvements and/or major repairs to the sanctuary organ

Capital Development

- Principal and income may be used to provide for major future changes to the church's property, including land and building improvements

Centennial

- Income used for improvement, maintenance, replacement, or repair of any property item believed to have a long-term useful life of more than ten years

Dean

- Income used to support church programs

Education

- Income used for higher education scholarships awarded to members each year

Memorial

- All memorial funds given to the church that do not request a specific purpose are directed here
- Principal and income may be used
- Also used for altar flowers and special equipment and furnishings as needed

Trustee Discretionary

- Principal and income used to cover necessary projects as directed by the Board of Trustees

Music

- Principal and income used to maintain and enhance the music program

Twice Blessed Free Store

- Principal and income used to provide for the ministries, capital expenses, and operation of the Twice Blessed Free Store campus

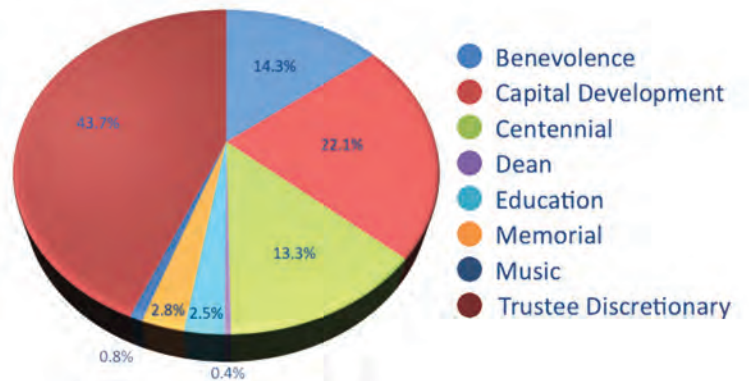
Financial Report

Endowment Report for RRUMC – For the year ended December 31, 2020

Five Year Financial Summary

Beginning Balance on 1/1/2016	\$3,716,841
Receipts	
Annual Gifts	74,989
Special Gifts	369,214
Total Receipts	444,203
Growth	
Interest, dividends and market appreciation (net of fees)	2,130,963
Distributions	-1,232,773
Ending Balance on 12/31/2020	\$5,059,234

Spending by Category 2016-2020



Spending by Year



Endowment Cash and Investment Balances



Projects and Accomplishments in 2020



Support for a United Methodist missionary in Africa



Gutters cleaned and trees were trimmed to assure overall maintenance of the main church building



Scholarships given out to RRUMC youth active in their faith.



Maintenance of two parsonages



Painting - stairwell, rotunda, gathering area, Jean & Jan's Café



Sixmo completed a necessary engineering study to determine critical work on the foundation of the church building

Planned Giving Opportunities

The Theo & Belle Moll Society members witness to their faith by indicating their desire to remember the RRUMC Endowment in their will, or with a planned gift.

It is a testimony to our trust in God and faith in providing the church with additional resources that will give in perpetuity. Anyone who has a plan to give through their estate, regardless of the amount, is considered a member. Those who have indicated their intentions are listed here by name, or anonymously. The Theo & Belle Moll Society is named in memory of our first donors to the endowment. Each member continues this legacy of generosity and faithful stewardship as witnessed by Theo and Belle Moll.

Please contact Lisa P. Sierk, Director of Endowment Ministries, to learn more about planned giving opportunities, such as:

- Gifts by bequest, will or codicil
- Retirement plan assets
- Life insurance
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Gifts of personal property: land, art, collections
- Bequeathing IRA
- Other

Message from the Director of Endowment Ministries

Only weeks following my first Moll Society Sunday celebration, and as I looked forward to my first anniversary with RRUMC in March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and schools and businesses began to close their doors, and all in-person worship services at Rocky River United Methodist Church were suspended.

Lisa P. Sierk



As we all wondered what the coming days would hold, I admit that I was deeply concerned with what the potential impact would be on philanthropy. The stock market was volatile, and the endowment funds hit their lowest in the year I had been privileged to serve as your Director of Endowment Ministries.

As we each navigated those early days, weeks and months, I looked for Jesus Christ in the midst of our story. I learned the Zoom platform – and spent so much of my days connecting virtually. And I began writing notes and sending cards, to complement my outreach on the phone and through email. While we maintained physical distance, I worked to connect in old and new ways. I am thrilled to share that as the year came to an end, I again witnessed the strength of the philanthropic culture at RRUMC.

I learned early in my tenure that the commitment Theo and Belle Moll made was to assure that RRUMC's beautiful steeple would stand strong on Detroit Avenue in Rocky River, Ohio for generations. The commitment of the Trustees, who provide oversight for both the income and expenses from the endowment funds, along with each member of the Theo & Belle Moll Society, assures RRUMC's bright future. In one of the most challenging times, I remain grateful for the opportunity to be part of these amazing ministries.

With gratitude,
Lisa P. Sierk
Director of Endowment Ministries



Theo & Belle Moll Society

Anyone who indicates their intention to include Rocky River United Methodist Church as a part of their estate is recognized as a Theo & Belle Moll Society member.

Our sincerest gratitude to the following members:

Jane Amata
Carol* and Wayne Anderson
Mark and Cindy Bacon
Courtney and George Benson
Lillian Bily*
George M. Borato*
Kristen Buchs
Don and Barbara Burney
John and Donna Clifford
Nancy Edmondson*
Liz* and Chuck* Emrick
Anne and Don* Esarove
Jim and Sue* Evans
Bob and Vicki Foster
Larry and Jean Gilbert
Bertha Goodworth
Lynn Gorton
Chuck and Nancy Gustafson
MJ* and Wally* Hagen
Al and Diane Herstrum
Dr. Robert* and Elaine Hibbard
Brad and Laurie Hoover
Herb and Joanne* Hoppe, Jr.
Dave Huller
Betty and Henry Jacques
Don Jones
Tom* and Anne LaMotte

Gary and Betsy Lanzen
Jessica Loucks
The Lydrickson Family
Rev. David F. and Jeanne E. Martin
Jack and Paulette McGreevey
Carl McKenna*
Marian McKinney
Bill* and Norma* McMeekin
Donald* and Eileen* Morrison
Lois Palmer*
Michael J. Parry
Marion Paugh
Tom* and Jane* Peeling
Lori and Tom Poe
Dick and Mary Lou Sanders
Cynthia Schafer
Janet and Warren Sowers
Karen Tolhurst
Melinda Tomlin-Murray
Kathryn Usiak*
Nancy Wamsley*
Robert* and Suzanne* Weber
Patricia and Barry Wilson
Chris and Chari Zito
Anonymous (4)

* deceased

Bold & italicized indicates New Member