

Matthew 25:40 Fund

History of the Matthew 25:40 Fund

In the late 1980's the Matthew 25:40 fund was established by the anonymous gift of \$10,000 to Crestwood for the "use and benefit of needy persons in Central and Eastern Kentucky". The fund was named Matthew 25:40 by the donors and the Seekers Sunday School Class was designated to serve as an ad hoc committee to fulfill the responsibilities as trustee of the fund. It was the desire of the donors that this gift will "encourage personal involvement by the congregation . . . in meeting the needs of the poor, the homeless & the hungry." Further the donors hoped "that the Seekers and other members of Crestwood will see fit to continue their admirable efforts with direct involvement and support this program by working directly with the poor and financially supporting the continuation of the Trust Fund". A copy of the original Trust Agreement is available in the church records.

Since its establishment, numerous individuals have been assisted with assistance ranging from funds for rent, utilities, gasoline, medicine and other needed help. The use of the funds has been expanded when deemed appropriate by the Seekers class beyond Central and Eastern Kentucky. The original intent of the donors has remained constant in that funds are used to assist individuals or families in need with whom a member of the congregation has a personal involvement.

Current Guidelines and Procedures for Matthew 25:40 Fund

In keeping with the intent and direction of the original Matthew 25:40 Trust Agreement,

And whereas the Seekers Class believes that it continues to be important for the members of the class and all members of Crestwood to be personally involved with individuals and families in need,

And whereas the Seekers Class continues to serve as trustee for Matthew 25:40 Fund,

The following is a statement of Matt 25:40 Guidelines and Procedures.

Guidelines

The fund shall be used to encourage and financially support the personal involvement and efforts of the members of Crestwood with individuals and/or families in need or crisis.

1. An ad hoc committee composed of the members of Seekers Class and other members of the congregation who wish to serve shall act as trustee of the fund. The trustee shall establish such procedures and policies as the trustee, in its sole and absolute discretion, shall deem necessary or proper to administer the fund consistent with its purpose. The Seekers Class reserves the right to name a different trustee at anytime.
2. The fund shall be used, given, or loaned by the trustee for the use and benefit of individuals and/or families in need or crisis, for food, clothing, housing, utilities, gifts, transportation, or such other financial assistance that the trustee decides to give to assist individuals and/or families in need. The trustee shall have the absolute power and sole discretion, with the

absolute power to invade the corpus of the Fund to its complete exhaustion for the benefit of the individuals and/or families in need.

3. The trustee shall give or loan the funds to benefit directly individuals and/or families in need or crisis, not to any other agency or organization, it being the intent to encourage personal involvement by members of Crestwood and to financially support the works of the members of the congregation, not merely to write checks to other agencies. However the trustee may use other agencies as a resource for identifying individuals and/or families in need or crisis.
4. Donations to the Matthew 25:40 Fund are not intended to replace pledge donations.

Procedures

1. The Seekers class acts as trustee of the fund. The Seekers class functions as a committee of the whole in administering the fund.
2. Requests for use of the fund can be made in writing or in person to the Seekers class by any member of the Crestwood congregation. The individual requesting the funds must be personally working with the person or family in need.
3. Approval for use of the funds is given by the Seekers class. A quorum of the class is defined as all class members present on any given Sunday when the request is presented for consideration. In emergency cases, a request can be approved via an e-mail vote of the majority of the class members. This procedure is used only if a time-sensitive request is received which must be approved before the class meets on Sunday.
4. At the beginning of each calendar year, the Finance Ministry Team and the church bookkeeper will be notified in writing by the Seekers class as to the class members who are authorized to request distribution of funds from the Matt 25:40 Fund. Three class members will be designated each year. The approval of any two of these three members is necessary to request distribution of funds. Approved church forms and procedures will be used to submit the request to the church bookkeeper for distribution.

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