Provisional Presbytery Policy for Assets
Approved by the Presbytery at its meeting on 9.21.24
Updated by the Shepherding Council on 9.8.25
Updated by the Shepherding Council on 6.15.26

Enduring Witness Fund

"God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature.
God blessed them: 'Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible…'"
(Genesis 1:28 The Message)

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required."
(Luke 12:48)

"Think of us this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.
Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."
(I Corinthians 4:1-2)

Introduction/Theological Statement

As servants and stewards laboring in the vineyard known as "The Presbytery of Long Island," this provisional policy will be guided by scriptural values of community and covenant, prioritizing building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and demonstrating reparative action for marginalized peoples. This policy and any future changes to this policy will be grounded in the principles of accessibility, transparency and equity, in maintaining our commitment to one another as a connectional church.

This provisional policy may be adjusted as necessary by action of the Shepherding Council at any of its stated meetings in order to remain faithful, effective, and relevant to the vision, mission and ministry needs of the Presbytery of Long Island.

Recognizing the Presbytery of Long Island is actively engaging in a season of discernment to clarify its stated purpose, mission, and values, this provisional policy should be adjusted in order to remain aligned with any outcome of this discernment.

How funds come in

A. Net proceeds from the sale of former church real property after payment of any outstanding debt (including debt to the Presbytery), closing expenses, or temporary operating expenses;
B. Cash and other assets held by closing ministries;
C. Funds from congregations that separate from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and agree to financial arrangements with the Presbytery of Long Island;
D. Current funds and accounts that are identified as available and appropriate instruments for the Enduring Witness Fund; and

E. Designated gifts made to the Enduring Witness Fund by individuals, or from congregations that sell/divest of property and assets and choose to tithe the proceeds.
F. Net cash flow from any development joint venture/ground/leases
G. Remainders following necessary/required expenditures, i.e. attorneys fees; preparations of buildings for sale; other assets that need perpetual care, i.e. Cemeteries; deferred maintenance; etc.

How funds are allocated

- At least 40% to the Enduring Witness fund
- At least 10% to the operational budget
- At least 10% to reparative and social justice
- At least 10% to outreach ministry (in conversation with a dissolving congregation, including local mission/ministry previously supported by that congregation) for approval by the Shepherding Council
- The allocation of the remaining 30% to be approved by the Shepherding Council, utilizing one of the previous designations or another identified need and taking into consideration:
    - Immediate and long-term needs to support the vitality of the presbytery and its member congregations
    - Availability of other funds to support operational and missional ministries
    - Opportunities for the value of the income to grow over time

Management of Enduring Witness Fund

The administration of the Enduring Witness Fund shall be as follows:

1) The fund shall be managed as a presbytery designated, temporary restricted fund. Designated funds are established for a specific purpose. Changes to the purpose can be approved only by the presbytery.
2) Money in the fund will be kept in a separate investment account that meets the general investment guidance of the Board of Trustees.
3) Day-to-day oversight, statement retention, fund holder relations, and reporting of the funds will be the responsibility of the Presbytery Treasurer and the Executive Presbyter..
4) Administrative oversight of additions to the fund and distributions from the fund will be managed by the Presbytery Treasurer.
5) All interest and dividends will be added to the principal as earned.
6) A report of all activity of the fund will be provided to the Shepherding Council at each meeting and to our presbytery at each stated meeting..

Procedures for Expenditures from the Enduring Witness Fund

1) Up to 25% of the fund principal (to be determined based on the balance on December 31 of the previous calendar year) may be distributed each calendar year.
2) No single request may be for more than 10% of the available fund principal for that calendar year.

3) Requests for disbursements from the fund will be initiated by the Enduring Witness Fund Team.

Distribution of funds
An Enduring Witness Fund Team will be comprised of at least one member of The Presbytery Board of Trustees, The Moderator Team, The Shepherding Council; two at-large members of Presbytery congregations, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the presbytery; and the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer will be members ex officio. Members of the Enduring Witness Fund Team will serve three-year terms, eligible for two consecutive terms.

Applications will be received on a rolling basis and will be reviewed and determinations made (for revision, acceptance, or rejection) by the Enduring Witness Fund Team. Disbursements will be made on a quarterly basis. . Emergency applications may be received by the Enduring Witness Fund Evaluation Team as deemed necessary by the team.

The Enduring Witness Fund Team will review applications for one-time project grants from a local Session (or Sessions) or other suitable governing body that will measurably advance its values of building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and demonstrating reparative action for marginalized peoples.