

# **Guidelines for the Strategic Use of Unrestricted Bequests to UUSS of \$10,000 or More**

**March 2009**

Current UUSS policies cover restricted bequests, where the donor has specified how the funds shall be used. In addition, the Heritage Fund receives unrestricted gifts between \$1,000 and \$9,999. And the Endowment Trust receives unrestricted memorial gifts of under \$1,000. In February 2008, the Board of Trustees approved guidelines developed by the Finance Committee regarding options for unrestricted gifts to UUSS of \$10,000 or more.

This year the Board of Trustees recognized the need to review those guidelines in order to make strategic decisions about current bequest funds. The Board affirmed the resulting *Guidelines for the Strategic Use of Unrestricted Bequests of \$10,000 or More* in March 2009.

## **Guidelines**

Unrestricted bequests of \$10,000 or more should be used for initiatives with a potential long-term impact. They should not be used for routine operating costs or budget deficits. Examples of appropriate uses of bequest funds include:

- A small set-aside to honor bequest donors, for a plaque or other memorial
- Seed money for a nonrecurring budget need with potential long-range impact
- Long-range planning match funds for long-range plan initiatives, such as the development and implementation of a building and grounds master plan, deepening our ministry to children and families, and strengthening our connection with and support of new and existing members
- Capital campaign match fund
- Additional funding of the Endowment Trust
- Supplementation of the reserve/emergency fund