

Responsibilities of the **Endowment Fund Disbursement Committee** of the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines:

The Bylaws of the Endowment Fund provide for a five member Endowment Disbursement Committee charged

- a. To disburse 85% of the annual interest income of the Endowment Fund and
- b. To “solicit, encourage, promote gifts and bequests from all possible sources and make a diligent effort to motivate programs for that purpose”.

Effectively, the Disbursement Committee may be thought of as the Development and Disbursement Committee.

The bylaws further state “The Disbursement Committee shall give priority to any necessary major repairs and improvements to Church properties, other than those included in the regular Church budget, and to the retirement of any long-term indebtedness.”

After these obligations are met, the Committee is free to pursue their goal as they choose. Therefore, a specific listing of the responsibilities of the Committee’s members is dependent on the decisions the Committee makes regarding its activities.

For the past four years, the committee has chosen to disburse the funds in the form of the REACH Grants. Members of the congregation are encouraged to apply for up to \$2000.00 to fund a project which is not part of the church’s annual budget. The grant program was to provide funds for exciting, worthwhile projects in the church and community and, in so doing, bring attention to the Endowment Fund. Grants awarded in August, 2011 included “Spirit Play” to provide equipment to support curriculum for Saturday evening RE programs, to support the coming of Marilyn Sewell and her film “Raw Faith” in the spring of 2012, “Displaying the Arts” to provide a lighting system and picture rail on the south wall of Channing Hall, “Phoenix Theatre Project” to aid in establishing a new theatre group, and “Outdoor Experiences” to design use and improvement of the church’s woods.

In October, 2011 the committee planned and supported a book sale, signing, and forum to introduce Joann Fitz’s biography of her late husband Earle Fitz. Jo donated proceeds from the sale of the book to the Endowment Fund.

The committee has also produced note cards featuring photographs of panels of the Fund’s quilt which was donated to the Fund by a member. The proceeds from the sale of the note cards will go to the Endowment Fund.

Additionally, committee members have chosen four to five individual members or couples to personally contact during the year to solicit contributions to the Endowment Fund and/or encourage remembrance of the Fund in their estate planning.

Submitted, Margaret Karbeling, January, 2012

