

The Existing Endowment Funds:

General Fund – Supports ongoing ministry needs as determined by the elected church leadership, and includes the:

Youth Endowment – A church member created this Endowment in July 2006, to help with Youth Ministries’ special needs beyond the annual operating budget.

Charlotte Nicholas Lehnherr Children’s Ministry Fund – Created in 2011 by Charlotte Lehnherr – in memory of her mother and sister – to provide support for our mission of “Making God’s Love Real” in the lives of children in our congregation and our community.

George W. Gage III Chancel Choir Fund – Created in December 2024 in loving memory of George W. Gage III by his family. George found meaning in worship at Hyde Park and particularly loved the Chancel Choir. Distributions of this fund are to be used to support the mission and ministry of the Chancel Choir.

James L. and Martha S. Ferman Special Ministries Fund – Created in 2012 in gratitude for the Fermans’ lifelong interest in music and education, and to be used for musical concerts, guests artists, lecture, or special ministry programs.

Richard C. Langford Legacy Fund – Created by his family in 2015, in memory of Richard C. Langford, to be used for faith development in children, youth, and adults.

Sue’s Sprouts Fund – Created in October 2025 in loving memory of Sue Kelly. Sue dedicated her life to furthering the education and inclusion of families and children in need. Through her volunteerism in her children’s schools, church and community, Sue was a beacon of light for others. She spent hours reading, distributing food, and talking to our city leaders about how to make Tampa a better place for all. Distributions from the fund shall be made to support and advance the education of elementary school children in need in the Tampa Bay area.

Facilities Fund – Maintains, cares for, improves, and constructs physical facilities, furnishings, and equipment, including the purchase of additional property. Initially funded by a bequest from Henry Butler—a long-time member and builder who assisted in maintenance of the buildings—and includes the:

Houlihan Building Fund – Created in memory of church member Frank Houlihan in August 2005, for the maintenance, care, improvement, and construction of physical facilities.

Outreach and Missions Endowment Fund – Provides for the community outreach and world missions of the church.

Scholarship Funds

Provide educational aid to congregation members and friends, and were initiated by the bequest of a church member who taught school. These funds include the:

Vee Choate Educational Fund – Created in memory of church member Vee Choate in September 2003, for scholarships for individuals preparing for full-time Christian ministry.

Jim Harnish Ministerial Scholarship Fund – Created on Jim's 11th anniversary as Senior Pastor in September 2004, for scholarships for United Methodist seminary students.

Dorothy Ebersbach Scholarship Fund – Created in 2012 by a bequest from our late, longtime member Dorothy Ebersbach, for higher education educational assistance for individuals who have been active at Hyde Park and who demonstrate financial need.

Dorothy Ebersbach Ministerial Scholarship Fund – Created in 2012 by a bequest from our late, longtime member Dorothy Ebersbach, for scholarships or ministerial internships at Hyde Park for persons preparing for ministry within the United Methodist Church.

Hale Youth and Children Fund – This fund was created in December 2019 by Brad Hale in honor of Rick and Linda Hale and their service to education and to making a difference in the lives of children and youth. Distributions from the fund shall provide financial support to youth and children's ministries of Hyde Park United Methodist in the name of Rick and Linda Hale.

Totten Scholarship Fund – This fund was created in June 2017 by Cindy Lieving in memory of her deceased husband, Tim Totten. Distributions from the fund are to be used for youth who are members of Hyde Park United Methodist who are pursuing an undergraduate degree, either an Associate's degree from a community college or a Bachelor's degree from a 4-year university or college.

Investment and Administration of Endowment Funds

The funds of The Hyde Park United Methodist Endowment Fund are invested with the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. and administered by the Endowment Fund Committee. The Committee reviews and approves the investment policies on an annual basis and oversees the endowment income distribution according to the purpose of each endowment.

The Fountain Fellowship

The Fountain Fellowship is composed of church members and friends who have indicated to the Endowment Committee that they have included Hyde Park United Methodist in their will or estate plan. The Fellowship uses the church's fountain as a symbol of their Endowment Fund gift, since their gift keeps on giving like a fountain of life-giving water. An annual appreciation dinner recognizes members' commitment to the future ministry of the church, and invites new members to join the Fellowship. You may add your name to the list by contacting Lynn Osborne, 813.253.5388. Anonymous donations welcomed also.