



What is it?

- a named endowment fund¹ for your congregation
- managed by the Christian Church Foundation
- annual distribution from fund to Week of Compassion (beginning the first year!)

What kind of church joins the Circle?

- Active congregations who want to make Week of Compassion a lasting mission priority.
- Congregations that are closing & want Week of Compassion to be part of their legacy.

How does this help Week of Compassion?

- The ministry of Week of Compassion is meeting the urgent needs of the moment: disasters are happening with greater frequency and severity; there are more displaced people living in the world than at any other time; those who live in poverty face even greater challenges in a changing climate; and the world continues to manage and recover from a global pandemic.

Why a Circle of Compassion endowment fund?

- the gift keeps on giving
 - This is not a one-time gift, but an investment that will grow its impact over time.
- focus on mission reach and flexibility
 - Your Circle of Compassion Fund provides a reliable, sustainable source of income for Week of Compassion, over and above the annual Special Offering, so that funds are available for immediate response *and* to support ongoing development projects around the world.
- grow your congregation's impact
 - Being a Circle of Compassion congregation extends your ministry presence from your own community to the global community. It is meaningful to name and celebrate that impact as an important part of your church's mission and identity.

¹ Circle of Compassion is made up of *congregations* with named endowment funds for Week of Compassion. For other ways to support Week of Compassion--including named endowment funds for families and individuals--please visit weekofcompassion.org/endowments or call (317) 713-2442.

How do we start - and keep it going?

- Make an initial gift of at least \$1000 to establish the fund, with an understood covenant commitment to reach at least \$10,000 over time.
 - Send a check to the Christian Church Foundation, designated to establish the **Week of Compassion - [name of church] Circle of Compassion Fund.**
- Some ways to fully fund the endowment to the \$10,000 goal (and beyond!):
 - a designated amount or percentage from the church's annual outreach budget
 - a portion of the annual distribution from the congregation's own endowment
 - a tithe from a capital campaign
 - for example, if your church is raising funds for property improvements, set aside \$10,000 as a celebration gift to Week of Compassion
 - a special gift from a single member or group of members
 - like a Sunday school class - or even a youth group!
 - a designated offering celebrating a special occasion
 - a congregational anniversary; a pastor's retirement or ordination; remembering a key or founding member who has passed away
 - a special event fundraiser specifically for this purpose, like a concert or auction
 - a portion of the proceeds from property income
 - such as building use/rental income, a cell phone tower on site, etc

What else do we need to know?

- We encourage Circle of Compassion Congregations to use the Circle of Compassion logo on their website, materials, signage, etc, promoting Week of Compassion as a key ministry of the church.
- Circle of Compassion Congregation members and staff will be invited to a special gathering at General Assembly to hear updates and meet key leaders and partners.
- Circle of Compassion Congregations will receive a welcome letter, as well as occasional video greetings from the Executive Director.
- We are here at any time to answer questions, share ideas, offer insight, and make connections to help your congregation celebrate your Circle connection, and to strengthen our shared ministry as the whole church, through Week of Compassion.

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