

Narrative Summary of Gift Disbursements

Tithing:

It is the practice of followers of Jesus to return thanks by giving the “first fruits” of our labor back to God in the form of a tithe. The tithe is traditionally considered 10% of one’s income. We have chosen to apply this practice not only to our *personal giving*—by encouraging partners to move in the direction of tithing—but also when we *receive gifts as a congregation*—by sharing 10% of what we receive with meaningful ministries and mission beyond St. Andrew. Returning thanks in this way reminds us that everything we receive comes from God and giving thanks is our response!

New England Synod \$10,000

For starting new mission congregations [like what St. Andrew once was...] and for candidacy, as we continue to support efforts to train and prepare new pastors.]

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church \$3,000

In support of their ministry with the poor and people on the margins of our community in Rhode Island.

Honduras Mission Scholarships \$2,300

These funds would provide elementary school scholarships for children.

WARM Center \$1,000

We continue to see the WARM Center as one of our community partners in responding to homelessness. Our faith in action work through Neighbors Helping Neighbors helps keep people IN their homes. The WARM center helps those who are already homeless.

Dominican Republic Medical Mission \$1,000

We want to support the work done by Karen Soderberg Gomez and her teams through South County Hospital to assist people in one of the most impoverished contexts in our hemisphere.

Meadowbrook Waldorf School \$1,000

The council sought to show support to a community resource in light of the school burning down.

Distributions:

Capital Improvement Fund [\$85,000]: The council is responding to the congregation's expressed desire over the years to plan for needed capital improvements and replacements. We feel grateful that we can set aside funds to make future projects like a new roof or boiler, an air conditioning/heating system, and a lobby renovation less onerous for the congregation.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors RI [\$20,000]: Both givers appreciated the "faith in action" emphasis at the core of St. Andrew's mission and ministry. In addition to our ongoing outreach ministries, we do the bulk of our faith in action work in the community through our 501c3, Neighbors Helping Neighbors RI [NHN]. We expect the funds we share with NHN to be matched by their anonymous donor foundation, doubling the impact of our gift.

St. Andrew Mission Endowment Fund [\$20,000]: Beyond the tithing gifts we propose to make to the NE synod, Gloria Dei, Honduras scholarships, etc., the council proposes to devote part of these funds to the mission endowment fund in support of future outreach ministry within and beyond the church.

Mae Weinert Music Fund [\$10,000]: Gary Lopez had a deep passion for music, a passion he had supported at St. Andrew in the past. Since many of our music ministry expenses are drawn from the Mae Weinert Music Fund, the council proposes we invest in current and future music ministry by investing in the Music Fund. We have reduced this disbursement in light of a decision NOT to move forward with a new sound system for music and worship.

Maintenance of Building and Grounds [\$10,000]: It has come to our attention that more funds are needed to manage and maintain our building and grounds. An investment of funds here will help with things like the tree-cutting and interior painting that will need to be done.

St. Andrew Preschool [\$10,000]: The council recognizes the importance of the preschool in enhancing our presence in the community and in connecting us with young families. We want to help the preschool invest in needed outdoor safety measures and playground improvements.

Additional Outreach Ministries [\$9,434]: Monthly WARM Center meal preparation, support for youth/family ministry, Family Supper Table, Food Pantry, Personal Needs Closet, community wellness/wholeness initiatives, nursery staff support, End Hunger NE food packing, etc.