

First Congregational Church of Blue Hill
Gift Acceptance Policy -2023

Purpose:

The First Congregational Church of Blue Hill (Church), a 501(c)(3), welcomes gifts that will help the Church further its ministries in the greater Blue Hill Community.

Gift Acceptance rests on several assumptions and principles:

- All gifts shall be consistent with the Church exempt purpose.
- Donors are encouraged to discuss gift planning with their financial advisors. Any communication with donors regarding planned giving or deferred gifts should clearly indicate that the Church does not provide legal or tax advice.
- Donors' restricted gifts will be used for the purpose presented unless the ministry or project becomes impracticable to administer, illegal or inappropriate.

Guidelines for Gift Acceptance:

Gifts Generally Accepted:

- Cash – *unrestricted* including cash, checks, wire or other transfers and credit cards.
- Pledges – annual *unrestricted* cash. In the case of a major giving, or capital, campaign longer term commitments are appropriate.
- Marketable Securities – all marketable securities will be sold as soon as possible after received.
- Planned Gifts – including bequests, beneficiary designations under revocable trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities and retirement plans.

The Church will seek the advice of legal counsel relating to the acceptance of a gift when appropriate. Review by legal counsel is recommended for:

- Gifts of securities that are subject to restrictions or buy-sell agreements.
- Documents naming the Church as trustee or requiring the Church to act in any fiduciary capacity.
- Gifts requiring the Church to assume financial or other obligations.
- Transactions with present or potential future conflicts of interest.
- Gifts of real estate which require additional review of encumbrances or easements.
- Gifts of tangible property which may require carrying costs or concerns about liquidity.
- Endowments, which will require a letter of agreement stating the terms and conditions.

Restrictions on Gift Acceptance: The Church will not accept gifts that

- Would result in the violation of its charter.
- Would result in the Church losing its not-for-profit status.
- Are too expensive or too difficult to administer.
- Are for purposes outside the ministries of the Church.
- The Church has cause to believe, under any reasonable set of circumstances, the gift would jeopardize the donor's financial condition.
- Are designated to a different non-for-profit with the expectation that the Church would issue a check to that organization (aka Pass-Thru). Any exceptions will be discussed by the Trustees.

Decisions on the restrictive nature of a gift, and its acceptance or refusal, shall be made by the Trustees in consultation with the Pastor.

Donor Privacy Commitment

Gifts to the Church shall be confidential unless, with written permission, the donor allows the release of this information e.g. Endowment or Memorial gift.