

River Pointe | West End Church Designated Giving Guidelines

We desire River Pointe and West End Church attendees to give financially to support the general budget fund, which is our spending plan of church priorities, made in advance of the fiscal year. However, sometimes an individual or organization gives to River Pointe and West End Church with a requested use: a designated gift, also called directed, restricted or earmarked giving.

The IRS has published numerous rules that govern the acceptance of these gifts. On top of IRS regulations, River Pointe and West End Church has built guidelines on how we can receive those funds and how those will be released. When a contribution comes with a designation (i.e. Missions), our policy is to treat that designation as a request. When the request meets a pre-determined purpose of River Pointe and West End Church, program or a ministry that we already support, or a need we would generally strive to meet, we will work to honor the requested designation.

If the request is outside our current scope, the business office will contact the contributor, explain why it doesn't match an intended use, and offer to return the funds. Restricted giving is generally a charitable gift for tax purposes, and therefore the gift cannot be in exchange for goods or services.

When a designated gift is made to the church, those funds are held in separately identified Restricted Funds. The Business Office will review the balances in each restricted fund. If the fund matches a previously identified program, ministry, or capital expense, those funds may be matched (released) to cover actual expenses.

In the rare occasion that funds exceed actual expenses, or are directed toward a new work, the Advisory Team will be made aware of funds and consulted on their use.

If a donor wishes to fund a third-party organization, those funds should bypass the church and go directly to the organization.

In summary, while every effort will be made to honor a requested designation, funds given to River Pointe and West End Church are released of obligation upon receipt and will be used at the discretion of the Advisory Team to support the church.