

The Growing Heart Endowment Fund

Established November 2000

Soon after our young church moved onto its property and into its first building, Jeff Fanning, a member of the congregation, was asked to join our Stewards Team. A licensed investment advisor, Jeff recognized that as a new church it was difficult to save for future needs.

“Without savings, each year was a struggle,” he later explained, “and there was not much hope that things would improve in the near future.” So, Jeff not only proposed a new endowment, he made a generous gift to start the new fund “designed so long-term gifts could be made to the church with the intention of providing income for years and decades to come.”

There are two features of the Growing Heart Fund that set it apart from typical endowments. One, Jeff successfully encouraged the Stewards to invest the endowment in more aggressive assets than nonprofits might be inclined to consider. Two, the fund’s policy allows the church’s council “to direct up to twenty-five percent of the fund’s value to provide for extraordinary needs, capital improvements and emergencies.” As a result, over the years the fund has been tapped many times to begin new ministries, to contribute to major property improvements, and to host outside consultants at critical times in the life of the church—often by use of more than the typical five percent annual allocation available from the endowment.

Jeff was the first member of Heart of the Rockies to create an endowment. As a Steward, he saw that policies were clearly written and followed faithfully. In this way, as he said, “People gifting cash or securities can know that future needs and dreams can and will be met long after our gifts are made.”