

March 2021

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**Seward United
Methodist Church
Foundation Report**

Foundation gifts help meet 2020 needs

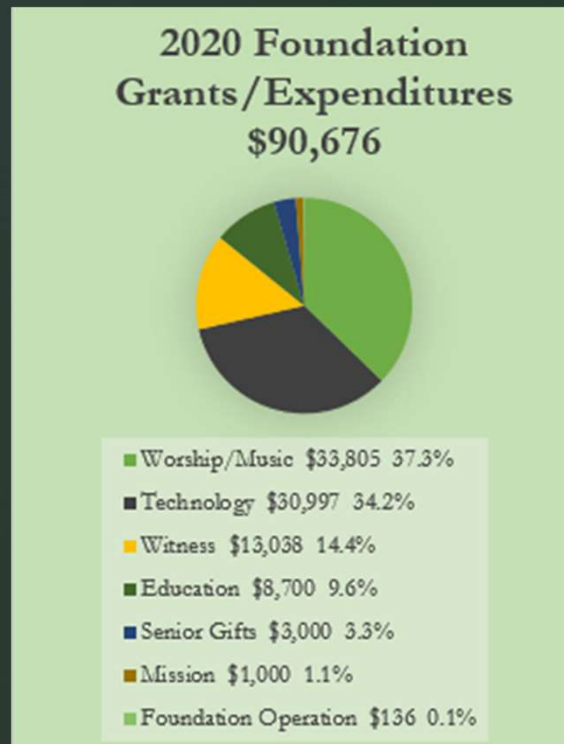
Unprecedented. Uncharted. A year like no other.

No matter how we attempt to describe 2020, we cannot overstate it. The COVID-19 pandemic changed daily life around the world.

The Seward United Methodist Foundation Board is pleased that the funds we oversee for the church were quickly put to use upgrading technical equipment to move the church's worship services and meetings online, keeping the church's work on track and our members and guests safe.



Foundation gifts help meet 2020 needs



Among the \$90,676 in foundation grants and expenditures during 2020, were:

- Audio-visual equipment upgrades in the sanctuary
- Senior gifts
- Church staff development
- Faith Community Nursing Program
- Bright Beginnings Child Development Center

Foundation gifts help meet 2020 needs



New gifts to the foundation dropped to \$1,440 in 2020, but the \$54,001 interest and dividends earned helped to grow the funds. Total assets as of Dec. 31 were \$1,689,173. This is up from Dec. 31, 2019's \$1,680,228.

The new total assets include more than \$70,780 allocated for previously approved grants and another \$171,070 available for grants, some designated for specific areas.

Direct your contribution to church work

Church committees and staff may apply for funding. Funding areas noted with an asterisk (*) are targeted for growth.

- **Building and Facilities*** - Enabling the church to care for current or create new facilities, either as endowed funds or designated to become expendable when construction is imminent.
- **Education*** - Enabling the purchase of educational materials, curricula, and special educational programs, including Vacation Bible School
- **Technology*** - These gifts support innovative ideas as well as supplementing funds to update office, sanctuary and website technology
- **Missions*** - Offering support for church mission trips, local mission projects
- **Scholarships and Camperships*** - These funds provide for scholarships or camperships to be awarded in the congregation
- **Unrestricted** – Providing the opportunity to allocate funds for unexpected projects or expenses falling outside church budgets
- **Witness*** - Reaching out to the local community to create an inviting and welcoming place for those who may be seeking God's grace or a new church home
- **Worship and Music** – Supporting and enhancing worship services and other church programs through instrument purchase, music supplies and maintenance, special event production or guest musicians and performers



Frequently asked questions

How are foundation grants awarded?

Grant requests come to the foundation board through the church's regular committees and ministerial staff and are assessed based on fund availability. Foundation grants are intended to augment, not replace annual church operations budgets.

What is the Legacy Society?

The Legacy Society recognizes church members and friends who have remembered the church in their estate plans. Planned gifts are vital instruments that ensure the message and mission of our church will continue for generations to come. Sharing your intentions allows SUMC to record your gift intentions and address any questions you have about how it might be used. Gifts of all sizes make a difference.

How is the foundation administered?

Foundation board members serve 6-year terms, staggered for the nine members so that three members have terms expiring every two years to provide continuity. Board members can serve multiple terms. Pastors and representatives from the Trustees and Finance Committee take non-voting roles in meetings. The foundation follows a balanced investment model to steward gifts with respect for donors' intentions.

Can I make a gift of appreciated stock, IRA withdrawals or other investments?

The church accepts gifts in varied formats. We encourage you to work with your attorney, accountant or financial advisor to determine what works best for you.

Where can I get more information?

Contact any board member listed in this report for more information.



Thank you

Your current and planned gifts to the Seward United Methodist Church Foundation supplement regular congregational gifts.

Have you remembered the Seward United Methodist Church Foundation in your estate, insurance or other planned gifts?

Sample language: I give to the Seward United Methodist Church Foundation, Seward, Nebraska, (percentage) of the remainder of my estate, real and personal, or (specific amount) to be utilized for (general support/unrestricted use or a specific use.)

We encourage you to consult your attorney, accountant or other financial advisor to determine what works best for you.

Our mission

The mission of the Seward United Methodist Church Foundation is to work collaboratively with donors to sustain and grow this congregation's service to Christ by receiving and endowing gifts and distributing gift-generated income for worship and mission activities.

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