

## Appendix B-2b

### **Presbytery of St. Augustine**

#### Guidelines for Stewardship of Funds (Dismissed and Closed Churches)

(for information - adopted Fall 2022)

The following guidelines are adopted as we steward the funds received from dismissed churches and the sale of the property of closed churches:

We begin with the understanding that all we have is a gift from God! With an outward focus, the Presbytery of St. Augustine stewards all of our resources in order to support and ensure the continuation of our mutual mission and ministry in our local communities and the world. As understood by the guidance of scripture, our discernment and actions will be informed by the five values that describe the presbytery's work:

- Relational, communal, and connected - honoring the legacy of the church
- Theologically engaged
- Outwardly focused, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
- Willing to risk itself and its resources in the service of the Gospel, and
- Ready to share resources and to develop energetic leadership

The funds will be placed initially in the presbytery's investment accounts.

We will tithe ten percent (10%) of the funds as "first fruits" returned to God by sharing them outside of our presbytery with the communities in our region and/or the larger church. The administrative commission will be invited to make a recommendation as to the tithed funds.

The remainder of the funds may be used (a) for current ministries of our presbytery, our congregations, and our members; (b) to foster new and emerging and other creative ministries; and (c) to maintain reserves for emergencies and administration. The values of the presbytery and the then-current strategic plan will guide the apportionment of the funds between these three categories.

Decisions to use the funds for particular purposes and to designate particular grants and the process for grant requests will be made by those to whom the presbytery has delegated authority in the Manual of Operations and written policies. Where authority is not already provided, the presbytery will make the decision/adopt a policy.

The Coordinating Council has the authority to oversee expenditures for the purposes listed above with an aggregate annual cap of \$50,000. The Coordinating Council will provide a report of the expenditures and purposes at each presbytery meeting. The Coordinating Council may make recommendations as to other expenditures at any presbytery meeting.

These guidelines will be readdressed at least every three years by the Finance Team, which will make a recommendation to the Coordinating Council for a recommendation to the presbytery. This document will be filed in the Policies and Procedures file of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.