

## Policy on Fundraising & Solicitation of Other Resources First Presbyterian Church

### Statement of Principles

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;

Psalm 24:1 (NRSV)

The Christian and all that he or she is thought to “own” – including life itself - is held in trust as a loan from God. All of the Christian’s resources fall under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and they must be administered by the Christian deliberately, faithfully and prayerfully.

The Christian confesses his or her daily commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in several and diverse ways. Two marks of faithfulness are: first, through pledging, giving and ultimately tithing (10% of income) to Jesus Christ’s church (Malachi 3:8-10) and second, by sharing generously all resources - financial and otherwise - up to and beyond the tithe with the body of Christ, which is the church (Matthew 23:23, 24).

Resources shared with the church

- support the unique Christian worship and witness of Jesus Christ
- signify to the world the unity of Christ’s church as his mystical body
- constitute maturity in understanding that faith is a communal activity rather than the individual pursuit, credit or control of righteousness.
- exemplify the relationship between truth and trust upon which so much of Christ’s mission rests (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:6-15).

The historic principles by which the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and each of its congregations operate call for the congregation to elect officers (elders and ministers) to govern and oversee the mission of the church as its Session. The Session is given the authority and responsibility to, among other things, establish the church’s annual budget, determine the distribution of the church’s benevolences, and provide for the administration of the program of the church. The unified budget adopted by the Session reflects its prayerful decisions with respect to competing priorities and needs of the church.

On occasion of special need or opportunity, the church may make available additional giving opportunities over and above pledges and tithes given to the church budget. The policy below seeks both to allow such periodic solicitations and fundraisers but also to limit them so that they do not obscure trusting generosity and shared financial responsibility as marks of the Holy Spirit working through the true faith and church.

### **Policy Adopted by the Session (October 23, 2006)**

Solicitation for any resources over and above pledged resources must be performed in a manner consistent with the policy to follow unless an exception is approved by Session.

- A. Any bodies or groups within the church must receive Session permission for fundraising or solicitation of other resources within the church. The attachment identifies the regular activities that have such approval from Session.
- B. All fundraising events and activities will take care to avoid the appearance of impropriety (i.e., no gambling, alcoholic beverages, suggestive clothing or advertising, etc.).
- C. Normally solicitation for resources over and above the church budget by members or guests can only occur during the announcement period of worship or outside of worship services. This policy in no way precludes any freedom by the Session or ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament to exercise their constitutional responsibilities according to their own conscience.
- D. Session neither approves nor prohibits an individual from approaching another individual on church grounds with the intent of soliciting support of a charitable cause.
- E. Information about church members shall not be shared with any one or any entity for the purpose of fundraising or solicitations of other resources except with specific Session permission.
- F. Only Session can accept a designated gift for a purpose that has not been formally approved for solicitation of resources.
- G. No one and no entity can sell tickets on church grounds without Session approval.
- H. Solicitations designed to raise funds from persons outside of the church are not restricted in number, but such solicitations must have clear communication, both verbal and written, about the use of the funds and how they advance the church's mission.
- I. Session reserves the right to refuse any gift.
- J. In cases of dispute about the applicability of this policy, the Finance and Administration Committee should advise the parties involved. If this does not bring resolution, the matter should be referred to Session.

This policy on fundraising and solicitation of other resources may be altered by Session at any time.

Appendix  
October 23, 2006

Approved Fundraisers & Solicitations of Other Resources  
First Presbyterian Church

Christian Outreach

- The Christian Outreach Committee is authorized to solicit funds for the 2 Cents A Meal program once each month.
- The Christian Outreach Committee is authorized to interpret and solicit funds for the following denomination offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, and Joy Gift.
- During a time of crisis, the Christian Outreach Committee is permitted to bring information about the crisis to the congregation's attention and to communicate the proper manner in which to designate contributions (e.g., the designated denominational fund).
- Soup Kitchen is authorized to solicit funds twice a year in support of this mission. Food donations may be requested at any time; however, Session approval is needed for additional fundraising activities.
- The Christian Outreach Committee has approval to hold the annual Alternative Market and has the authority to select the vendors for that event.
- The Christian Outreach Committee is permitted to solicit for other tangible items without prior Session approval, but cannot solicit explicitly for funds without Session approval except as noted above.

Christian Education and Youth Ministry

- The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Committee is authorized to solicit funds from activity participants for all Kirk Night meals, youth suppers, and youth events with fees.
- The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Committee is permitted six fundraisers within the congregation per year without additional Session approval. These fundraisers are restricted to addressing human need, and they must be communicated to Session by at least two months in advance of the event to avoid duplication of solicitations within the congregation.
- As a mission of the church, the FPC Preschool is permitted to solicit funds and other resources from the congregation when the solicitation is approved by

Session. The Board of Directors for the Preschool authorizes any solicitations from parents and friends of the preschool.

#### Other

- The Music and Worship Committee is permitted to solicit funds for Easter and Advent decorations each year.
- The pastors are permitted to solicit funds for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund, which addresses human need through direct aid or through institutions, when the fund is low. The solicitation is restricted to bulletin announcements and the newsletter.
- The Fellowship Committee is permitted to solicit contributions toward the use of Fair Trade coffee during Fellowship Hour on Sundays.
- The Endowment Committee may provide information about the Endowment Fund to congregation members; however, any campaigns and plans for direct solicitation of contributions to the Fund must be approved by Session.
- The Evangelism Committee is permitted to solicit funds for our radio ministry outreach to our community.
- As an organization sponsored by the denomination, the church's Presbyterian Women (PW) may solicit contributions to the Least Coin Offering, Thank Offering, and Birthday Offering each year. They may sell Fair Trade products as an ongoing fundraiser to support their mission work. With the approval of the PW Coordinating Team, PW groups are permitted additional fundraisers within the Circles and Mission Sewing group. Any fundraisers or solicitations within the congregation as a whole must be approved by Session.
- The church may be designated as the recipient of memorial contributions, and Session has delegated to the Board of Deacons (or a subcommittee thereof) approval for the use of undesignated memorial gifts.