



## Circle of Compassion FAQs

### *What is it?*

- an endowment fund named for your congregation\*
- managed by the Christian Church Foundation
- annual distribution from fund to Week of Compassion (beginning the first year!)

### *What kind of church joins the Circle?*

- active congregations who want to make Week of Compassion a lasting mission priority<sup>1</sup>
- clusters of churches who want to be part of the Circle, and have greater capacity when they give together

### *How does this help Week of Compassion?*

- The ministry of Week of Compassion is meeting the urgent needs of the moment: disasters are happening with greater frequency and severity; there are more displaced people living in the world than at any other time; those who live in poverty face even greater challenges in a changing climate; and the world continues to manage and recover from a global pandemic. Distributions from an endowment, like the Circle of Compassion, ensure funding for the ongoing work as global needs expand.

### *Why create a Circle of Compassion endowment fund?*

- the gift keeps giving
  - This is not a one-time gift, but an investment that will grow its impact over time.
- focus on mission reach and flexibility
  - A Circle of Compassion Fund provides a reliable, sustainable source of income for Week of Compassion, over and above the annual Special Offering, so that funds are available for immediate response *and* to support ongoing development projects around the world.
- increase congregational impact
  - Being a Circle of Compassion congregation extends your ministry presence from your own community to the global community. It is meaningful to name and celebrate that impact as an important part of your church's mission and identity.

### *How do we start a fund?*

- Make an **establishing gift** of at least \$1000 to create the fund, with an understood **covenant commitment** to reach at least \$10,000 over time.
  - Send a check to Week of Compassion, or to the Christian Church Foundation directly, designated to establish the **Week of Compassion - [Name of Church, City ST] Circle of Compassion Fund**.

### **How do we increase the fund?**

- Congregations can give to Week of Compassion at any time and in any amount, designating their Circle of Compassion fund, toward fully funding the endowment at the \$10,000 goal (and beyond!). **Ideas for creating or expanding contributions:**
  - designate an amount or percentage from the church's annual outreach budget
  - share from the annual distribution of the congregation's own endowment
  - tithe or share from a capital campaign
  - special gift from a member, class, youth group, or other contributor
  - designated offering on a special occasion: congregational anniversary, pastor's retirement or ordination, remembering a key or founding member
  - special event fundraiser specifically for this purpose
  - share of proceeds from income: building use/rental income, cell tower on site, etc

### **What else do we need to know?**

- Circle of Compassion congregations will receive a **welcome letter, certificate, and blessing**.
- We encourage Circle of Compassion Congregations to **use the Circle of Compassion logo** on their website, materials, signage, etc, promoting Week of Compassion as a key ministry of the church.
- Circle of Compassion congregations may be invited to special gatherings at General or Regional Assemblies, receive video greetings from the Executive Director, or hear updates from key leaders and partners.

We are here at any time to answer questions, share ideas, offer insight, and make connections to help your congregation celebrate your Circle connection, and to strengthen our shared ministry as the whole church, through Week of Compassion.

Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director

[Rev. Courtney Richards](#), Communications and Development Manager

\* Circle of Compassion is intended for **active congregations** to create named endowment funds to benefit Week of Compassion. **For other ways to support Week of Compassion** – including **legacy gifts** from congregations that are closing, and endowment funds named for **families and individuals** – please visit the [Endowments](#) page, [email us](#), or call Week of Compassion at (317) 713-2442.