

First Parish Church of Groton
1 Powderhouse Road
Groton, MA 01450
978-448-6307
Tax ID # 04-2195416.

First Parish Church of Groton Suggested Bequest Language

Thank you for considering structuring a bequest to FPCOG through your will. This is a profoundly meaningful step, regardless of the amount. Please share the following suggested language with your attorney, and discuss your preferences with him or her. You may want to print this page out and give it to your attorney, or forward it by email as a web link.

I give to the First Parish Church of Groton, Unitarian Universalist, located in Groton, Massachusetts], [% of my estate or the sum of \$] for the Endowment Fund / or / for the Ministerial Fund. (specify your choice – see explanations below)

Another option to discuss with your attorney is to name FPCOG as a *residuary beneficiary*, meaning first your will designates specific bequests for individuals of your choice and then what's left, in full or in part (however you specify), goes to FPCOG.

Whatever approach you elect to take, it is important that FPCOG's full legal name be spelled out in your will, as "First Parish Church of Groton, Unitarian Universalist, located in Groton, Massachusetts," and to add "Endowment Fund" or "Ministerial Fund" if that is your intent. Otherwise your gift will go to the Church with the purpose to be determined by the Leadership Board of First Parish at the time of receipt of the gift. If you have questions about bequest giving, feel free to reach out to any Endowment Board member. The church office can steer you to the current volunteers.

Ministerial Fund - First Parish's roots go back to the Colonial Era, at which time there was no concept of separation of Church and State. In 1804, the Massachusetts State Legislature created The Groton Ministerial Fund "for the support and maintenance of the Gospel Ministry" to pay the salary of "the regularly ordained and settled minister." By statute, the Ministerial Fund has its own Board of Trustees, which is separate from FPCOG's Board of Trustees. The bylaws require that the Ministerial Fund's principal never be touched; rather, a share of the investment earnings is passed each year to FPCOG to help pay the Minister's salary. About 10% of the church's operating budget comes from the Ministerial Fund's annual payout. The Ministerial Fund gladly accepts new donations and bequests.

Endowment Fund - The Endowment Fund was formed in 2006 to support new programs and services not otherwise covered in the FPCOG annual budget. Like the Ministerial Fund, its principal is carefully managed, aiming for long-term growth. FPCOG's Endowment Board allocates a conservative portion of the corpus for grant-making each year, and awards grants in response to proposals submitted by church members. These grants total several thousand dollars a year, enabling FPCOG to take on many projects -- within the church as well as out in the community -- that would otherwise be beyond the church's budget. The Endowment welcomes new donations and bequests.

(People sometimes direct that their bequest be split between these two funds.)