

# Rethinking the Foundation

Being good stewards of the church's future: AKA Putting  
our Pallet of Money to Good Use

# How it started

- In existence for “a very long time”
- Originally a non-profit
- Allied with St. John’s to help with special projects
  - Most of them had to do with the purchase of property adjacent to building
- After a while it went vacant
  - There were no projects and there was no money



# Then in 1982...

- In the aftermath of the celebration of St. John's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the installation of the new organ, there were funds remaining.
- It was determined that instead of spending the money on the annual budget, those funds should be used as "seed money."
- The money was to be set aside for a long-term investment strategy to benefit the future of the church.
- The Foundation receives and invests special gifts given to it; it is controlled by the Council, which appoints four directors. Sr. Pastor is fifth member.



# What the Foundation has become

- Typically ran a balance in the low six-figures
- Large bequest in 2006 increased principle nearly \$1M
- A BIG “rainy day” fund
  - Between \$30,000 - \$40,000 dispersed to church for operating budget annually
- The bylaws dictate how to take in and manage them, but there’s little direction on disbursing them
- So ...



# What we've considered – Part one

- Become a funder, not a fundee
  - Seek grant requests from various organizations
  - Use portion of the annual interest to fund internal and external programs and projects as appropriate



# What we've considered – Part two

- Use our “rainy day” funds to help upkeep our own house
  - Loan ourselves money for major projects
  - Matching funds from capital campaign
- Case study: Carleton College
  - Building dormitories during the Great Depression
  - Created separate corporation to run housing
  - Used endowment funds to build dorms
  - Those dormitories became income producing property for the college and are cited as having Helped the college stay afloat.
  - The strategy has become accepted
- Source: Greenleaf, Robert. “Servant Leadership” 2002



# These changes would:

- Make the St. John's Foundation more meaningful in the life of the congregation
- Show the Foundation as an internal investment and as an engine of outreach to the surrounding community
- Provide funds for capital improvements
- Require council approval and changes to the Foundation bylaws

