

Thank you for your continued financial support of Oakwood Presbyterian Church. To remain compliant with IRS regulations and respect donor intentions, the Oakwood Diaconate has created a church policy on tax-deductible giving.

Oakwood Policy on Charitable Donations made to the Church

Oakwood Presbyterian Church, as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, receives tax deductible donations that are unrestricted in their use. In contrast, federal law dictates that payments for goods and services, such as books or meals are not considered tax deductible donations. As such, only unrestricted donations and certain donations given that are designated for established funds to Oakwood can legally be included in the annual Statement of Giving.

Unrestricted giving (giving without specific designation for use of funds) allows the church leadership to use resources where they are most useful to the church. Donors who prefer to designate funds for a particular purpose may select from the following list of session-approved funds:

1. Adoption Fund
2. Loan Retirement Fund (also known as Trellis Fund or Building Fund)
3. Mercy Fund (also known as Benevolence Fund, all non-designated checks and cash given during a benevolence offering collection)
4. Missions Fund (includes West Virginia trip, West Africa Missions trip)
5. Bellefonte General Fund (includes Bellefonte General Fund for regular giving from members/attenders of BPC, and Bellefonte Campaign for non-regular giving from any donor)
6. General Fund (all non-designated checks and cash given during regular offering collection)

Because payments for goods and services are not considered tax deductible donations, the majority of the ministries at Oakwood are offered without charge. Ministries are funded by non-designated, *General Fund*, donations made to the church. Donors who wish to support the ministries of the church are therefore encouraged to give to the General Fund. Exceptions to this include certain youth group *events*, such as large conferences, *retreats*, and *certain activities*.

The following is an illustrative example of an exception, but when in doubt, donors can seek clarification from the finance deacons:

1. *For short term mission trips, directions will be provided so that a check designating giving to an established mission trip or the preferred support of a particular participant of the trip will be tax deductible and included in the annual Statement of Giving.*

In summary, donors giving checks with memo lines designating any purpose that does not match an existing fund from the list above will be contacted by a Deacon to clarify the donor's intention or will have the check respectfully returned to them for correction. This policy is not only to comply with IRS legal requirements but also to ensure that donations are used in accordance with the intention of the donor.

Disclaimer

Oakwood Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your contributions are tax-deductible. Payments for application fees and training sessions are NOT tax deductible. Oakwood Presbyterian Church retains full control over the administration of donated funds. These funds will be used exclusively for Oakwood Presbyterian Church's ministry purposes. In exceptional cases when funds cannot be used for the intended purpose, they will be used for a purpose that, according to Oakwood Presbyterian Church's assessment, reflects the donor's intent as closely as possible. No goods or services will be provided or exchanged for your tax-deductible contribution.