

16 February 2023

GWUC – The Future Fund- Implementation.

GWUC has been reviewing the opportunity to use the receipt of financial gifts and bequests to strengthen the longer-term financial viability of Glen Waverley Uniting Church, through the provision of a financial vehicle to attract and save funds made available by congregation members and their trustees, through the allocation to sources and accounts within GWUC.

In a historical sense, the GWUC congregation and Church Council approved the establishment of the Endowment Fund in July 2011, and the rules were amended in 2018, with several important qualifications, including the preservation of the capital (as a preserved perpetual value), and that interest would be available for use in relation to projects advanced to and by Church Council.

The Future Fund will operate differently, seeking to raise and apply those funds, via both the seeding and initial capital as well as interest achieved, to projects identified and approved by Church Council for the longer-term sustainability and growth of GWUC.

These projects are for the investment in capital projects and not to support the operational plans or the wages and staffing costs as detailed within operational budgets as prepared by Finance Committee for the operational performance of GWUC.

The amendments in 2022 through Synod rules has required changes, given that any items and/or bequest or gift which includes tied actions and requirements, will in future be managed and administered through Synod Property Secretariat.

Emails from Karen Bell (Synod) which details the changes and implemented actions to centralise the receipt and actioning of gifts and bequests with specified ties, have been methodically worked through and recommendations were developed in October and approved for implementation in February, 2023. These have now progressed.

Consequently, GWUC via its Church Council, will in future only be able to seek and directly manage those bequests or gifts which present without any ties and/or actions attached to them.

Consequently, we reviewed our options as to the Endowment Fund and made a detailed submission and recommendations as to a way forward for that product. That was agreed but that left us without a means of managing bequests and gifts made directly to GWUC without any ties or conditions. Hence, we recommended the establishment of a new fund specifically for that purpose. We have since been busy exploring the options to establish and market such a new product. That work is now finalized subject to a final review with our legal representative and confirmation from our Auditor as to the final detail. Karen Bell (of Synod Secretariat) will also review our approach prior to the detailed implementation.

That also necessitates the establishment of a framework for marketing to our congregation members, and then providing for administration of the receipts of bequests and gifts via this new Future Fund.

Essentially, we are not recommending changes to those bequests and gifts completed by congregation members under the prior terms and conditions of the Endowment Fund but not received to date. We intend to manage each of these as they come along with input from Synod Secretariat. We have also deliberately left the Endowment Fund open within the equity section of our balance sheet.

However, where bequests, gifts and donations are received under Estates initiated from January 2023, after the changes advised by Synod and post the changes implemented as to our Endowment Fund in January 2023, we will seek to administer and process these through the newly created Future Fund.

The Creation of “The GWUC FUTURE FUND”

We plan to establish a new fund to attract gifts and bequests from across GWUC which do not come with any ties. These proceeds can be applied by Church Council to projects and initiatives, for the longer-term good of the congregation, but are not to be employed for operational matters.

We aim to provide a framework where members of the congregation can contribute with a known ability, that it will be used and applied to the longer-term processes and projects, to sustain and promote the ongoing development and strategic initiatives of GWUC over the years ahead.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church has long benefitted from the generosity of our members. This new Future Fund is created and established to procure funds for the strategic use and development of initiatives, which will enhance the longer-term sustainability of GWUC.

We will seed the Future Fund via the creation of a reserve titled ‘The Future Fund’ within the equity section of our balance sheet.

Initial seeding capital will be a transfer of \$1,000 from a recently proposed gift/donation for this purpose. Our aim is to invest in products which will deliver a sound return desirably above the available term deposit products currently available from the banking industry and conform to the Presbytery and Synod directives that we invest surplus funds through U Ethical Investments.

The Future Fund Management by Finance Committee responsible to Church Council.

The Future Fund will be administered on behalf of Church Council by Finance Committee under the processes adopted by the Funds Management and Investment Framework adopted and implemented by that Committee for the management of all funds held within the financial accounts and balance sheet of GWUC. We reiterate, that The Future Fund proceeds/assets are **not** for operational purposes.

Reports will be produced half yearly by Finance Committee to Church Council advising the balance of the account. We have no expectation or knowledge of funds which may be provided. The funds employed will be invested with U Ethical, the funds management organization established in 1985, responsible for the funds management and investments of Uniting Church Communities, Synod and other UC entities. It is regarded as one of the largest ethical funds managers in Australia with over A\$1.2 billion under management. It manages a variety of Wholesale and Retail funds. It emphasizes a commitment to ethically driven investments and funds’ performance.

Prudentially the Finance Committee is charged with managing funds and earning returns appropriate to the investment offerings which will be applicable to the funds management offerings and opportunities marketed and managed by U Ethical.

Audit of The Future Fund.

The Future Fund will be an account within the balance sheet of GWUC. It will be accounted for as an equity item within the Capital Reserves.

The Future Fund will be audited by our external auditors, currently Yates and Partners, when the financial accounts are presented each year for audit. The financial year for The Future Fund, will be the same as GWUC from 1st January to 31st December annually.

We will not receive a separate Audit Certificate but will receive an Audit Certificate for GWUC which will include The Future Fund.

Marketing of The Future Fund.

To date, GWUC has elected to advance a low profile in communicating our product offerings to and across our congregation, particularly in relation to our funds and the opportunity to make bequests and gifts.

We have now clarified what products can be offered directly by Congregations. We can make available detailed and specific offerings to our congregation and members as to the provision of gifts, bequests and funds made available for investment through GWUC.

We aim to be more proactive in communicating and making the opportunities available easily understood and recognizable to our congregation members. This is particularly relevant given the recent Synod clarifications as to “non-tied bequests,” to encourage our members who may be considering the available market opportunities to make gifts and bequests to organisations including their church. We need to present competitive offerings in comparisons to the multiple opportunities, actively promote and provide detailed information. It needs to be stated that we are not offering any advice under the legal requirements of advice.

To date, whilst we had the Endowment Fund, we have never progressively marketed and communicated with our congregation. In fact, there has been an overly cautious approach. We intend to change this through a dynamic and relevant communication program across our congregation using a multiplicity of media in the coming months.

We have access to the brochure produced by Synod for the broad subject of bequests and gifts, and we have our earlier brochure which will be re-written and updated. We are liaising with Paul Bartlett to use and engage his hands-on experience and fundraising expertise and his written knowledge within several Uniting Church organizations of relevance to our new approach. We are planning to make a separate framework within our Wiki and updated communications and marketing materials for bequests and gifts.

Consequently, we have a confidence that we can develop the framework of resources to present and market this new “Future Fund” to our congregation. However, the most significant element of our revamped promotional and upgrade of our realigned gift and bequest strategy requires a fundamental change in the willingness of our leadership to grasp and promote and be supportive of this approach. It requires a willingness to become involved and participate. It cannot be acceptable to align with a passive approach and outlook and an unwillingness to participate in supporting the communication strategy and its implementation.

The general apathy toward supporting the former Endowment Fund and the false and poor excuses adopted to justify that process needs to be changed. We need our leaders to be supportive of the cause, the process and the marketing material needs to be relevant and endorsed.

That is an important and significant change. The establishment and progression can proceed effectively when the support is apparent.

When that occurs, we can then reschedule our materials and communicate with and across our congregation.

Next Steps.

- Pull together the two brochures and rewrite our brochure.
- Re-engage with Paul Bartlett and develop the input and strategy.
- Then present to Finance Committee and Church Council.
- Sign off by Church Council on recommendation of Finance Committee in this document to proceed with the development of materials.
- Then forward to Karen Bell and Synod re our approach. Follow up with John Yates our Auditor and Gary Philpot our legal representative.
- Then seed the amount of \$1,000 to an account with Westpac in a new account and in the longer-term develop a new account with U Ethical when we reach an account with a reasonable size.
- Establish a new Account for “The Future Fund” in Xero – GWUC.

Summary

The definition of “The Future Fund” as an important source of funds via gifts and bequests for GWUC and an investment vehicle which will provide an attractive avenue for our congregation members is an important step for Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

This is the draft document, which begins our program for seeking to establish the vehicles which will then be proactively marketed and communicated forcefully on an ongoing basis to ensure the longer-term sustainability and future of GWUC.

It reflects the changes arising from the Synod directions re gifts and bequests with ties and the changes to our existing Endowment Fund as well as developing the process and strategy to communicate and market to our congregation.

We value all input and suggestions to improve and assist in making this a successful implementation.

Recommendations for Church Council

- Finance Committee has finalised the significant changes associated with our Endowment Fund and now recommends the establishment of a new Fund called... “The Future Fund.”
- This new fund will be presented and marketed to all members of GWUC congregation to raise the level of interest and to attract bequests, gifts and donations from those members planning to, or considering amendments, to their wills and through estate planning activities. We are not in any form offering financial advice. We aim to inform congregation members that GWUC can accept and use funds left via estates and wills where there are no tied arrangements.
- Finance Committee will receive a gift/donation for \$1,000 to be applied as seed capital to establish The Future Fund and implement the administrative procedures.
- We will, following the approval to proceed, undertake actions to develop the marketing materials, following the March Congregation Meeting, which will then be stored and updated on our Wiki and then progressively communicated and marketed across our GWUC Congregation.
- These materials will reflect the new approved Synod rules and guidelines and those rules and requirements will also be available upon our Wiki.

- We will continue our engagement with Paul Bartlett using his resources and knowledge as to the spiritual foundation as to giving, and his extensive arrangements and experience as to Fundraising.
- We will aim to communicate the developed materials across the congregation in mid-2023 and will provide details and updates to Church Council as this progresses.
- We will administer The Future Fund with regular updates/reports to Church Council, but we will never know or be aware of the bequests and gifts until informed by lawyers and/or trustees.
- The Future Fund will be Audited annually as part of GWUC external audit.
- This is a long-term initiative to generate funds from our congregation members who may be planning or setting aside funds in their wills and estates. They are receiving many approaches from a variety of organisations including football clubs and charities where they may or may not be involved. We believe that many people would wish to be aware and have materials communicating the ability of their church to accept and manage bequests.
- We will manage the necessary Risk Management and Prudential offerings and liaise with Synod Secretariat as we proceed.
- We will strive to preserve the necessary confidentiality and privacy issues for all parties.

Finance Committee recommends approval to this proposal by Church Council and then we will present to the congregation meeting on 5th March 2023. Finance Committee will then proceed to develop the appropriate communication materials.



Ken M Coutts
GWUC Treasurer

Attachments:

Brochure – Synod re Bequests
Brochure – GWUC re Endowment fund
Memo from Synod re Bequests and gifts with Tied conditions
Generous life documents – Paul Bartlett

THE DUTIES OF TRUSTEES

A trustee must act in the best interests of the beneficiary and in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument. A trustee:

- must distribute the trust only to those who are entitled;
- keep the trust property separate from the trustee's own assets and keep accurate trust statements;
- cannot profit from the trust itself, and,
- cannot delegate their duties – so the trustee must control the assets and make decisions.

Trustees are expected to act as a prudent person would by avoiding unnecessary risks, keeping costs reasonable and diversifying the investment of the trust assets.

By growing the capital through investment the amount of income generated by the trust should grow faster than inflation.

Even when invested with one manager – like U Ethical – a trustee will spread investments across managed funds, cash, shares and other asset classes to create diversification. Diversification means a trustee does not put all their eggs in one basket.



DID YOU KNOW:

How does the Property Trust invest trust money?

Trust money is invested with U Ethical, the fund manager of the Church, in accordance with their Investment Policy or any specific investment directions in the trust instrument. The investment strategy of the Property Trust is reviewed regularly and changed to suit the external economic environment. There is typically a mix of assets considered defensive and assets that aim to grow.



CREATION OF TRUSTS

Examples of charitable trusts include:

- A Uniting Church member gives a bequest in her Will to be used for the general purposes of the 'Springfield Uniting Church Congregation'. The trustee must only use her money for activities and services relating to the 'Springfield Congregation'. Fixing the roof of the Springfield church, paying the minister's stipend and paying for electricity for the church would all be permitted activities.
- A minister upon retirement donates money that funds annual scholarships for theological education at the Pilgrim Theological College.

When a donor includes a condition – such as an annual scholarship or naming a congregation – then a Trust is created and a trustee must administer the account. When property is held on trust, it means a person holds the money, real estate or other assets for the benefit of other people or a cause. The entity or purpose that receives the benefit of the trust property is the beneficiary; the person holding the trust property is the trustee.



MANAGING TRUSTS
at the UCA Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

ADDRESS

Level 2,
Wesley Place
130 Lonsdale St
Melbourne 3000

WEB & MAIL

trusts@victas.uca.org.au
www.victas.uca.org.au

PHONE

(03) 9116 1432



Generous members of the Uniting Church in Australia ('the Church') donate money throughout their lives or by leaving a bequest in their Will for the benefit of a congregation or the wider Church, which may create a charitable trust. This brochure outlines the uses of charitable trusts, the legal and financial duties of a trustee, and the role of the Property Trusts in the Church.

DONATIONS, BEQUESTS AND GIFTS

Most donations and gifts are given unconditionally. For example, offerings made at congregation worship services or amounts paid for a fundraising event.

These donations and gifts go directly into a congregation's bank account or an account for the fundraising purpose. These funds are then spent at the direction of the congregation or the Church for general Church purposes.

A gift to the Church or a named institution in the Church (such as Uniting or AgeWell) can be paid to the institution directly, as long as there are no special conditions. Congregations cannot receive funds this way because they are not incorporated entities. The organisation might use this income to fund projects from an annual grant or help particular projects that are running.



DID YOU KNOW: A Charitable Trust can run forever?

Trusts benefitting relatives cannot run more than 80 years, but charitable trusts can grow perpetually. Australia's oldest continuing charitable trust is the Wyatt Trust, which provides support to South Australians experiencing poverty. It was established in 1886 with \$100,000 from the Estate of Dr William Wyatt and is now valued at close to \$100 million.

TRUST TERMS

All trusts are subject to many pieces of legislation, including the Trustee Act and the Charities Act in each State. These laws govern the administration of charitable trusts.

Trusts can be created by a person's Will, by a Deed made during their lifetime, and sometimes are created by Courts when they make decisions about Church property or funds that have required a judicial decision. Wills, Deeds, and Court decisions are all types of trust instruments. The trust instrument dictates who or what can receive the income.

This can only vary if the beneficiary changes. For example, when a congregation dissolves or merges with another congregation which requires the approval of the Supreme Court or Attorney-General of the State.

WHAT IS THE PROPERTY TRUST?

The trustee for all property gifted, donated or bequeathed to a congregation or any other part of the Church is the Property Trust and that trust is administered by the Synod's Trusts team. There is a Property Trust for Victoria and a Property Trust for Tasmania. The two Property Trusts administer over 800 charitable trusts, as at 2021.

The Property Trust is unable to delegate trustee duties to any other person, including congregations. A congregation cannot hold money given by a Will or other instrument.

When the Property Trust administers a trust, the beneficiary (which may be a congregation) will receive the benefit as intended but without the burden of managing the assets or funds.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONGREGATION IS NOTIFIED OF A NEW TRUST OR BEQUEST

That is great news. All you need to do is to notify the Synod's Trusts team by phone on **(03) 9116 1432** or by email: **trusts@victas.uca.org.au**

The Synod's Trusts team will then liaise with the donor or the Estate's solicitors who sent you the notification and arrange to receive the money into the relevant Property Trust's account. The team will then establish a separate Trust fund in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument so that the money can be used by your congregation.

IF YOUR CONGREGATION RECEIVED A TRUST ACCOUNT

If a solicitor, the Synod, or other trustee transferred a trust account to the congregation then the management of that trust must be passed to the Property Trust. That includes trusts previously placed with your congregation by the Synod.

That arrangement was not valid and we need to reverse it. Your congregation cannot hold the trusteeship of any trust: it is illegal and there are financial risks involved. The Property Trust has protections in legislation when it acts as trustee – like a built-in insurance policy – but only because it is an authorised trustee.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CONGREGATION HOLDS EXISTING GIFTS OR BEQUESTS

The Property Trust is happy to help. Please contact the Synod's Trusts team by phone on **(03) 9116 1432** or send an email to **trusts@victas.uca.org.au** notifying the team of existing money that you are holding. The Synod's Trusts team will take steps to change the management of the trust. Your congregation will continue to benefit as per the terms of the trust instrument.



DID YOU KNOW: You can set up a charitable trust?

You may like to set up your own charitable trust or leave a donation, gift or bequest to the Church. If you would like to enhance the impact of your gift over many years, leave a lasting legacy, and inspire future generations by your generosity then consider creating a charitable trust now or as part of your Will. For more details, please visit the Bequests section of the Synod website [www.victas.uca.org.au/] or contact the Synod's Trusts team.



The Glen Waverley Uniting Church Endowment Fund

There are many ways and different times that we can contribute to ministry and mission of the Glen Waverley Uniting Church (GWUC). It can be by regular giving and, on occasions, by making a once-off donation in response to situations that arise in our lives and the life of the Congregation. Examples include funerals, weddings, baptisms, confirmation, times when pastoral care has been beneficial or just at a time when we want to support the work of the Church.

An Invitation

You are invited to contribute to the mission and ministries of the Glen Waverley Uniting Church via a bequest or a once-off gift to the Endowment Fund. Please indicate whether you want your name to be listed in the Fund Register. Names may also be those of late family members.

Bequests and gifts should be unencumbered, that is not restricted to a particular usage. Note that for tax purposes the Fund is not a Deductible Gift Recipient and therefore cannot accept gifts or bequests of shares or any kind of property other than money. (These limitations do not apply to gifts made directly to the Church, not the Fund.)

Once-Off Gifts

Please ensure that gifts intended for the Endowment Fund are clearly marked as such.

Note: contributions to the Fund are not redeemable, and donations to the Uniting Church in Australia are not tax deductible.

Bequests

People leave gifts of all sizes. You don't have to be wealthy to leave a gift in your Will as every dollar has the power to help. You can be sure that when combined with those of other supporters, your gift will always have a powerful impact, no matter the size.

Bequests can take various forms:

The Residue of your Estate

After you have first looked after your loved ones: family, friends and any debts, you may choose to leave what remains to GWUC Endowment Fund. This is called a residuary bequest.

Percentage of your Estate

This option has the advantage of not being affected by inflation. No matter how your estate changes, your bequest remains in proportion with other parts of your Will.

A Specific Bequest

This option allows you to specify the exact amount you wish to bequeath. This option does not allow for inflation or changes to your estate over time, so your Will may need regular review.

This is our suggested text for your Will:

"I give and bequeath [rest and residue of my estate] [--%of my estate] [the sum of \$--] to Glen Waverley Uniting Church Endowment Fund for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of an executive officer at the time shall be sufficient discharge of my executor's duty."

How the Fund Works

All contributions to the Fund are invested in an ethical investment fund with UCA Financial Management Ltd, the investment arm of the Uniting Church. The principal amount invested ("the capital") is to be held in perpetuity, that is, it remains intact. Only the earnings of the Fund may be used on the projects. The Fund's account is kept separate from the Church's operating accounts.

The earnings of the Fund may only be used for particular ministries and mission projects recommended by Church Council and approved by the Congregation. For example, the Fund may be used for activities such as specific community outreach projects, projects related to the Church's vision, initiatives of one or more of the Church's missional groups, etc.

The earnings cannot be used for building development or maintenance, but might be used to buy labour, materials and equipment for a particular project. The projects to receive funds may be supported by a once off contribution from the Fund or may be supported over a period of years. There is no restriction on how often a project is funded. The project would need to be approved each year.

The operation of the Fund is overseen by a Board comprising two or three members of the Congregation. The Board submits an annual report showing the performance of the Fund during the year, the Projects funded and Contributions received.

Response Form

GWUC Endowment Fund	X
I would like to make a once-off gift	
Amount of gift	\$
I would like to make a bequest	
Residuary bequest	
Percentage bequest	
Specific bequest	\$
Do you wish your name and amount of gift to be recorded in the Register? Y/N	
For bequests: Contact details of Executor of your estate:	
Donor's Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Date:	

2018-03-08

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Endowment Fund

This is an invitation to contribute to the mission and ministries of the Glen Waverley Uniting Church via a bequest or a gift to the Endowment Fund.

The brochure describes how to proceed and how the GWUC Endowment Fund works.

If you have any questions or wish to talk to someone about this, please contact the church office in the first instance. They can put you in touch with the right person.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church
10 - 12 Bogong Avenue
Glen Waverley, VIC 3150, Australia

ABN 33 086 862 203

Telephone: (03) 9560 3580

Email: office@gwuc.org.au

Website: <http://gwuc.org.au>



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

From: Karen Bell Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au 
Subject: FW: Managing Trust Accounts at the UCA (Glen Waverley)
Date: 19 January 2023 at 12:40 pm
To: kmcoutts@bigpond.net.au

KB

Hi Ken,

I managed to find an email that I sent to you in June last year which I think should help you put together the information sheet for the congregation.

Also attached is the brochure.

We are happy to review the information sheet for you as well.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Have a lovely afternoon.

Kind regards,

Karen Bell

Trusts & Bequests Project Officer
Secretariat
Level 2, Wesley Place
130 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000
t (03) 9116 1432 | f (03) 9116 1499
e Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au
w www.victas.uca.org.au



The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, past, present and future.

*If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.
For more information, visit: <http://www.relayservice.gov.au>*

This email (including any attachments) is confidential and only for the intended addressee(s). Any privilege is not waived. If the receiver is not an intended addressee, please accept our apologies, notify us by return email, delete all copies and perform no other act on the email.

From: Ken Coutts <kmcoutts@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2022 3:23 PM
To: Karen Bell <Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au>
Subject: Re: Managing Trust Accounts at the UCA (Glen Waverley)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Karen

Thanks for this. I will study closely and then call to discuss in greater detail.

As always appreciate your support and efficient responses,

Regards

KenC

Sent from my iPhone

On 8 Jun 2022, at 3:16 pm, Karen Bell <Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au> wrote:

Dear Ken,

Please see our email chain below.

I can't find the original email that would have been sent to you last year, but following is the content that was sent to each and every congregation:-

Greetings,

The Synod Trust team needs your help in improving the management of charitable trusts at the Uniting Church in Australia. Below I outline why this project is needed and what I am asking you to do.

Trusts and Trustees

A charitable trust is created when real estate, investments or money is given by a person for a charitable purpose. The person's Will, Deed will tell us how the trust should operate and who gets the income the trust earns. All trusts have to be managed by a trustee. The trustee runs the trust and pays the income as the Will, Deed or letter tells them to. Trustees cannot delegate their duty to anyone else.

I enclose a brochure on 'Managing Trusts' which explains the duties of a trustee and the obligations the Church and all congregations must comply with under civil law.

Trusts and Bequest Project

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) ('UCAPTV') is the trustee of all Church trusts. As the role of trustee has become better understood, the Synod Standing Committee resolved there should be central administration of all charitable trusts held by the councils (including all presbyteries and congregations).

The Trusts and Bequests Project is now well underway. The Synod Trust Team has built a database recording all known trusts and their terms. This new information resource will assist congregations in accessing appropriate grants and will also assist Presbyteries and the Synod in identifying additional sources of funds that may assist congregations. Information about the trusts and their purpose will not get lost over time. We now need to collect information on the trusts we don't yet know about.

All new trusts are being administered through the Synod's centralised services, with the funds held in separate UEthical accounts in the name of UCAPTV as trustee. This will reduce the time burden on you from managing these accounts and from the Council having to review accounts and take actions.

As trustee the UCAPTV will ensure that any funds your congregation or presbytery is entitled to will continue to be paid to you for the appropriate purposes. If the trust instrument says your congregation gets the income from the trust, that cannot change. Your congregation will keep getting the funds.

Request for Information

The next step in implementing the Synod Standing Committee resolution is to identify all trust accounts administered by your congregation, as well as any trusts that benefit your congregation. This includes any trusts administered by external trustees.

We do not have any record of trust accounts benefiting your congregation or managed by your congregation.

If you manage any trust funds – either at an external bank or in UEthical accounts, please send to us:

- the name of the bank, the account name and the current balance for each account
- copies of vital documents for the trusts (e.g. the Will, Deed or letter, and recent bank statement)

The Synod Trust Team will work with you to bring existing trust funds held by your Church Council into the name of UCAPTV as trustee.

External trustees

In some cases, an external trustee (like Equity Trustees, Perpetual or a solicitor) might operate a trust for the benefit of the congregation. If any of your trusts are run by an external trustee you should be getting income payments from them. In these cases

external trustee, you should be getting income payments from them. In these cases, there will be no changes. External trustees can pay income directly to your congregation and this does not need to change.

We would like to add the details of those trusts and trustees to the database, so that we can contact the external trustee whenever declarations or audits are needed in the future.

If you are receiving income distributions directly from an external trustee, please send to us:

- the name of the trust, the name of the external trustee, and their email address;
- a copy of a recent financial statement and a copy of the Will or Deed (but only if they are available, otherwise we can contact the trustee).

Next Steps

Please send your answers and any relevant documents to trusts@victas.uca.org.au or by mail to Synod Trust Team, Uniting Church in Australia – Synod of Vic/Tas, Level 2 / 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000. Changes to the administration of Trusts and Bequests are happening because of legal requirements. The Synod Trust Team are committed to building a system that will benefit congregations and also meeting the Church's legal obligations.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Trust and Bequests Project more generally, please contact Karen Bell on 03 9116 1432 or Lorrelle Mandaru on 03 9116 1430, or email them at trusts@victas.uca.org.au.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your assistance with this important legal matter.

Yours faithfully

Rod Skilbeck

Synod Property Trust Secretary

Secretariat

Level 2, Wesley Place

130 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000

t (03) 9116 1426 | f 03 9116 1400

e Rod.Skilbeck@victas.uca.org.au

w www.victas.uca.org.au

I've also attached the brochure in regards to the management of trust accounts.

I assume you are looking into the GWUC – Endowment Fund? As you explained – this was set up after receiving several bequests and added to by other bequests? If the bequests are for the general purposes of the Glen Waverley congregation, then that account can continue as is and can continue to be held by the congregation.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Karen Bell

Trusts & Bequests Project Officer

Secretariat

Level 2, Wesley Place

130 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000

t (03) 9116 1432 | f (03) 9116 1499

e Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au

w www.victas.uca.org.au



The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, past, present and future.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

For more information, visit: <http://www.relayservice.gov.au>

This email (including any attachments) is confidential and only for the intended addressee(s). Any privilege is not waived. If the receiver is not an intended addressee, please accept our apologies, notify us by return email, delete all copies and perform no other act on the email.

From: kmcoutts@bigpond.net.au <kmcoutts@bigpond.net.au>

Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 4:43 PM

To: Karen Bell <Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au>

Cc: Ken Coutts <kmcoutts@bigpond.net.au>; kmcoutts@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Managing Trust Accounts at the UCA (Glen Waverley) - Thanks Appreciated !!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Karen,
Thank you for this email.
We have just returned from a short break in Marysville, just beautiful.
I will call you next week as I wish to discuss this whole subject.
Regards
Ken M Coutts
GWUC Treasurer

From: Karen Bell <Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 3:12 PM
To: 'treasurer@gwuc.org.au' <treasurer@gwuc.org.au>
Subject: FW: Managing Trust Accounts at the UCA (Glen Waverley)

Dear Ken,
I've been going through the many emails that we have sent in regards to trusts, when I realised this one shouldn't have been sent.
You have provided us with the appropriate information to determine that the two Bequests listed below are not trusts.
You do not need to do anything more. I have marked you on the list as response received.
Apologies if we have caused you any issues.
Kind regards,

Karen Bell

Trusts & Bequests Project Officer
Secretariat
Level 2, Wesley Place
130 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000
t (03) 9116 1432 | f (03) 9116 1499
e Karen.Bell@victas.uca.org.au
w www.victas.uca.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, past, present and future.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

For more information, visit: <http://www.relayservice.gov.au>

This email (including any attachments) is confidential and only for the intended addressee(s). Any privilege is not waived. If the receiver is not an intended addressee, please accept our apologies, notify us by return email, delete all copies and perform no other act on the email.

From: Trusts <Trusts@victas.uca.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 March 2022 5:01 PM
To: treasurer@gwuc.org.au
Cc: Trusts <Trusts@victas.uca.org.au>
Subject: Managing Trust Accounts at the UCA (Glen Waverley)
Dear Ken Coutts

The Synod Trust team has been contacting all congregations with accounts that may be trusts over the last six months. This is part of a centralisation of trust administration that has been requested by Synod Standing Committee.

There is a legal obligation that all trust accounts are administered by The Property Trust and we are aiming to have all trust accounts transferred to the Property Trust by 30 June 2022.

We ask for your assistance regarding the accounts listed below.

<i>Trust name</i>	<i>Account no.</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
De Ravin, John Bequest	(no ref)	Glen Waverley
Marriott, Irene McKitterick Bequest	(no ref)	Glen Waverley

Some accounts have UEthical numbers – if you can send us evidence these are not

trusts, we will remove them from follow-up correspondence.

Other listings have 'no ref' for an account number – we are not sure if these accounts are known by another name in UEthical's records, or, whether they are closed accounts or accounts held outside of UEthical. Any information you can provide on these is greatly appreciated.

If the above accounts are trust accounts, then we ask your Church Council to please pass a resolution that "The following U Ethical bequest accounts are to be transferred from the Uniting Church of Glen Waverley to the UCA Property Trust (Victoria)"

Please send your scan of your signed and dated resolution:

- by email to trusts@victas.uca.org.au or
- by mail to Synod Trust Team, Uniting Church in Australia – Synod of Vic/Tas, Level 2 / 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.

Our team will deal with the transfer of accounts with U Ethical directly. Trust accounts will continue to operate as they have previously - and we are planning some improvements on reporting.

We thank you for your cooperation. If you have any information to assist or questions about this letter, please contact Karen Bell on 03 9116 1432 or Lorrelle Mandaru on 03 9116 1430, or email them at trusts@victas.uca.org.au

Yours faithfully

Rod Skilbeck

Synod Property Trust Secretary

Secretariat

Level 2, Wesley Place

130 Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000

t (03) 9116 1426 | f 03 9116 1400

e Rod.Skilbeck@victas.uca.org.au

w www.victas.uca.org.au



The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land, past, present and future.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

For more information, visit: <http://www.relayservice.gov.au>

This email (including any attachments) is confidential and only for the intended addressee(s). Any privilege is not waived. If the receiver is not an intended addressee, please accept our apologies, notify us by return email, delete all copies and perform no other act on the email.

This email is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use of the information is prohibited. If this email is received in error please notify us immediately by return email and delete the email and any attachments.

The Uniting Church in Australia accepts no liability for any damage caused by this email or its attachments due to viruses, unauthorised access or alteration. Unless otherwise stated any views or opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Uniting Church.

Visit our web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au>.

This email is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use of the information is prohibited. If this email is received in error please notify us immediately by return email and delete the email and any attachments.

The Uniting Church in Australia accepts no liability for any damage caused by this email or its attachments due to viruses, unauthorised access or alteration. Unless otherwise stated any views or opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Uniting Church.

Visit our web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au>.

This email is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use of the information is prohibited. If this email is received in error please notify us immediately by return email and delete the email and any attachments.

The Uniting Church in Australia accepts no liability for any damage caused by this email or its attachments due to viruses, unauthorised access or alteration. Unless otherwise stated any views or opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Uniting Church.

Visit our web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au>.



Managing Trusts
at UCA...ure.pdf

For me, this begins with the words from **Genesis Chapter 1 verse 26, 28a and 31** “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...and God blessed them”. And from verse 31 “God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good”.

If we are created in God’s image, then love, hope and generosity are part of our very DNA or as **Galatians 5:22-23** records, when looking for the resurrection fruit of the Holy Spirit, we are told our lives **will** contain:” love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **generosity**, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control”. (NRSV) Unlike the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given individually, **all** of the fruit are to be evident in our relationships.

And like all of these ‘fruit’ they, like our bodies, need to be **regularly fed** and **nurtured** if they are to become the outward and visible expression of a **mature life** of Christian discipleship.

Such nurturing involves the whole of a person’s life. The Great Commandment in **Matthew Ch 22 vs 35-40** which says “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and other version adds (and with all your strength) and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbour as (you love) yourself” reminds us that we are whole people. There are no water tight compartments in our life off limits to God’s gaze. If you are experiencing great worry about something then that can affect how you live, engage and also how you give.

Such a **holistic approach of care and engagement with our congregation** both individually and as communities of faith, takes God’s time (kairos) to potentially bear fruit; quantitatively anything from 6 – 24+ months. If you approach people with an agenda with a very specific ‘ask’ time frame (hours, days or weeks) then you not only risk cheapening the relationship but you will almost always see a reduction in the level of financial and prayerful response.

At its most generous, a life of Christian ‘sacrificial giving’ will mean that in every significant part of our life, we are being good stewards of all that God has given us whether it be our intellect, upbringing in the faith, skills, health or finances.

Financial generosity is not directly related to how much people have. It is to a large extent dependent upon their level of faith and how generosity has been experienced, encouraged and lived out across the whole of their life.

This ‘fruit of generosity’ acknowledges that ALL we have is from God, AND that our present and future, and that of our world is of value, interest and worth to God.

Perhaps the following can illustrate the way people can be generous givers: The Sunday Church offering!

- There are those who will give some of what is in their purse or wallet on that day. Emotive giving is also possible.
- Stewardship programs that insist on privacy and unnumbered envelopes rarely reach the targets they seek because the individual giver is never held accountable. It is not just something they do privately between themselves and God. Living in community takes away that objection. All of our life must be accountable; as we also are at our death.

-The next step is to invite the person to give regularly by making a commitment with a known amount, and most usually this is through an offering envelope or now more commonly through electronic giving. This latter means of giving requires a slightly deeper level of trust and confidence about the future and to whom you are making your donation.

As their level of faith-filled generosity increases (plus knowledge of a project and the organization) then it has been my experience that it is these people who can also be asked to give ‘above and beyond’ their usual support for a specific one off need. But don’t abuse their generosity by always seeking them out first!

Common secular fundraising approaches which seek to move people up a ‘donor pyramid’ will often entice people to give more by saying that their name will appear in print or on a plaque or on a piece of medical equipment. This can be effective but it does little to change people’s preoccupation with self and the way they see the world. **Faith based sacrificial giving has the potential to transform the giver.** Free gifts to entice giving will often lead the donor to believe the organisation is either seeking to ‘buy’ their support, or they are viewed as a spendthrift with their finances!

Generosity is about allowing others to be part of your world. Generosity gives out, towards others and moves the centre of your world away from self. It’s what the Gospel means when Jesus says that unless we ‘die to self’, we cannot live. **Generosity when it becomes second nature to us, cares for others AND for self, across every aspect of our lives, it then truly becomes LIFE, in abundance. The stewardship of giving is at its heart an opportunity to help people deepen their faith and trust in our Lord, and that too can make our whole world a richer and better place.** **Rev Paul**