**LAURETTA MAJOR FUND History October 27, 2021**

On July, 31, 1956, the First church of Christ, Scientist, Allentown, received a letter from the Executive Board of The Mother Church stating that we are the beneficiaries of the estate of Lauretta M. Major for a sum of $26,708.35. This bequest is to be used for the sole purpose of paying the fee for the lecturer of every public lecture given by the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

On September 20, 1957, another letter from The Mother Church specified that, when requesting reimbursement, a list of itemized costs be provided. Examples given in this letter were 1) Lecturer’s fee 2) Cost of advertising the lecture 3) Cost of renting a hall 4) Other miscellaneous expenses.

In early 2019, we asked for a little more history concerning the Lauretta Major Fund and received the following response:

In researching the fund history a little more, I found some additional information that should provide additional insight.

First, I must make a slight correction to the information I shared with you over the phone.

Referring to the annual report called the “Activity Summary”, you had asked about the second line on that report, “Gifts”.   This amount reflects the income earned from the underlying investments during 2018, and that is also “distributed” back into the fund.  This transaction is recorded as a “Gift”.

This fund, and the other trusts and funds in the CSTGE program, are required to distribute earned income.  Typically that income is distributed directly to a beneficiary.  In this case the “distribution” of earned income is distributed back into the fund.  The line on the report “Beneficiary Payments” shows these distributions. So, each quarter the distribution in the “Beneficiary Payment” line, is reflected in the “Gift” line.

The reason for this goes back to 1967 when the Allentown Church realized they would likely deplete the fund to “0” by steady withdrawals without also providing additions.  To avoid doing this, and to keep the fund available for lecture expenses into the future, the Church requested in a letter from July 1967 that the distributions be added back into the fund.  The Church makes withdrawals only when lecture expenses need to be paid.

There are a few unique elements of this fund that are atypical.  These include:

-          The terms of the fund allow the Church to withdraw from *both* income and principal.  In almost all other cases, income distributions are limited to income earned, and principal withdrawal is not permitted.

-          The minimum funding of a trust is $150,000.  This is one of the smallest funds in the program

-          This fund will terminate when the balance is exhausted

-          There will be no remainder gift to TMC.  Typically funds and trusts are intended to provide income to a beneficiary through their life-time, with an eventual gift to TMC of any remainder amount.

 I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards,

Tom Shea

Trust Officer

**Summary**: The Fund is completely controlled by The Mother Church, and invested at Charles Schwab. Each month, the interest income is added back into the account, currently amounting to approximately $131/month. The current balance of the account is about $36,646. (This is before withdrawal for October 2021’s lecture.)