



# UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Deacon Fund Committee *Annual Report*

*“For I can testify that they gave not only  
what they could afford, but far more.  
And they did it of their own free will.  
2 Corinthians 8:2-3*

### SUMMARY

The Deacon Fund Committee (DFC) and the UPC Congregational Care staff faithfully steward funds provided from many generous hearts and hands within the UPC family. A total of \$286,500 was distributed in FY 2023 (July 2022 through June 2023) to a variety of recipients that include: UPC members, UPC friends and local community individuals facing financial hardship; mental health counseling for UPC members and friends; local Seattle-area non-profit mission partners; and national and global communities facing unexpected physical disasters. The DFC and Congregational Care staff are continually encouraged by the generosity of the UPC family and humbly commit to careful and prayerful stewardship of these gifts to those in need.

A Deacon Fund summary for FY23 is shown in the following table. A further breakdown is provided below as to how UPC congregational gifts to the Deacon Fund were distributed this past fiscal year.

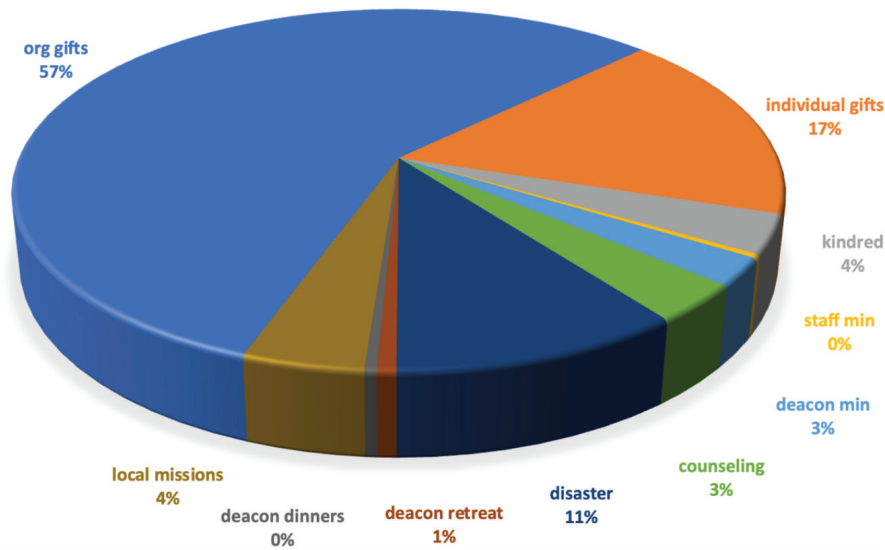
DEACON FUND SUMMARY - FY23	
Past year fund carryover (FY22)	\$152,596
Congregational gifts into the fund	\$237,679
Other designated gifts and income	\$1,218
Total funds on hand for FY23	\$391,493
FY23 Gifts	(\$286,563)
Current year fund carryover into FY24	\$104,930

**THE UPC DEACON FUND SERVES A VARIETY OF NEEDS.**

The chart below shows the distribution of FY23 funds by recipient category. The DFC gave \$164,000, about half of all fund disbursements this past year, to 11 local mission partner organizations. Another 17% or about \$49,000 was given to individuals who reached out to the DFC for assistance through our Deacon Fund request line. (Application for Deacon Fund support can be made via email at [dfrequest@upc.org](mailto:dfrequest@upc.org) or by calling 206.524.7301 ext 543.)

Other gift categories include mental health counseling assistance for UPC members and friends, which is administered through the UPC Congregational Care office, and a \$10,000 allocation to the Kindred Project for holiday gifts to a variety of Kindred families. The Deacon Fund also supports the UPC Local Outreach staff as they engage in various special projects with local mission partners, such as the Fall back-to-school backpack program done in collaboration with the U-District Food Bank.

**FY 2023 DEACON FUND DISBURSEMENTS  
\$286,500**



Gifts to various communities facing physical disaster were slightly over \$30,000. A breakdown of how and when these gifts were distributed is summarized in the following table. Whenever possible, the Deacon Fund Committee administers these gifts, in consultation with UPC’s Outreach Pastor Ken Sunoo, through UPC ministry partners who are on the ground in the areas affected. Note that an additional \$7,070 was sent to Antakya Church in Turkey from designated funds received from the congregation for a combined gift of over \$12,000.

EVENT/LOCALE	GIFT AMOUNT	DATE OF GIFT	PARTNER ORGANIZATION
Hurricane Fiona Puerto Rico	\$5,000	Oct 2022	Palmas Church
Haiti Disaster	\$5,000	Oct 2022	Bruce Robinson
Hurricane Ian/Florida	\$5,000	Oct 2022	PCUSA Disaster Assistance
Kenya Famine	\$10,000	Nov 2022	Francis Omondi /Sheepfold Ministry
Turkey Earthquake	\$5,000	Feb 2023	Antakya Church
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,675</b>		

In addition, another \$44,700 (not shown in the summary table or pie chart above) was distributed to families with a seriously ill child and facing financial hardship. The DFC administers these gifts through a cooperative agreement with the Seattle Children's Hospital and an anonymous donor. Your DFC works in close collaboration with case workers at Seattle Children's to aid these families.

### **THE UPC DEACON FUND SERVES SEATTLE-AREA MISSION PARTNERS.**

The DFC serves 11 local non-profit organizations with gifts from the fund. In addition to regular annual gifts to these organizations, additional special gifts may be awarded as unexpected needs or events arise. Members of the DFC are in regular contact with our partners and each organization goes through an annual survey and financial review to ensure that DFC funds are being used responsibly by our partners. In our continued support of local mission partners, the Deacon Fund Committee aims to foster and improve UPC congregant personal engagement through volunteer opportunities.

*Here is a summary of our 11 Seattle-area partners:*

**BRIDGE DISABILITY MINISTRIES** A faith-based, non-profit focused on equipment, spiritual community, and guardianship services for the disabled community.

**DIVINE ALTERNATIVES FOR DADS SERVICES** A faith-based organization that gives fathers hope in a supportive community; helping to navigate relational and legal barriers which separate them from their children and families.

**ELIZABETH GREGORY HOME** A U-district non-profit that serves at-risk, unhoused women in the greater Seattle area through a Day Center, case management services, and help with transitional housing.

**LAHAI HEALTH** A faith-based organization providing medical, dental, and counseling services for the underserved in North Seattle and South Snohomish counties. Lahai was formerly known as Puget Sound Christian Clinic.

**LAKE CITY PARTNERS** A faith-based, downtown-Seattle non-profit focused on food, shelter, long-term housing, and street ministry for Seattle's homeless population within the urban core.

**OPERATION NIGHTWATCH** A faith-based, downtown-Seattle non-profit focused on food, shelter, long-term housing, and street ministry for Seattle's homeless population within the urban core.

**STREET YOUTH MINISTRIES** A faith-based organization serving homeless and at-risk youth ages 13-26 in the Seattle area with operations centered on the UPC campus.

**UNIVERSITY CHURCHES EMERGENCY FUND** A University District community of churches providing financial services to prevent homelessness.

**UNIVERSITY DISTRICT FOOD BANK** A walk-in food bank that operates four-days a week to serve individuals and families from across Northeast Seattle.

**URBAN IMPACT** A faith-based community development program in the Rainier District focused on neighborhood transformation, youth and family, health and wellness, economic development, and racial reconciliation.

**WORLD RELIEF** A faith-based non-profit serving immigrant, refugee, and asylee populations in the Seattle area with resettlement services, community support, and economic empowerment.

### **THE DEACON FUND COMMITTEE AND UPC CONGREGATIONAL CARE STAFF CONTINUE A STRONG EMPHASIS ON HELPING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED.**

Ministry to individuals or families in need remains an important focus of the DFC. In most circumstances, we meet face-to-face with applicants to hear their stories, carefully consider how DFC may help, and offer encouragement and prayer. We maintain strict confidentiality in all our engagements with applicants. The fund is also used by UPC staff and active UPC deacons as they minister among us and bless individuals with gifts of encouragement and support.

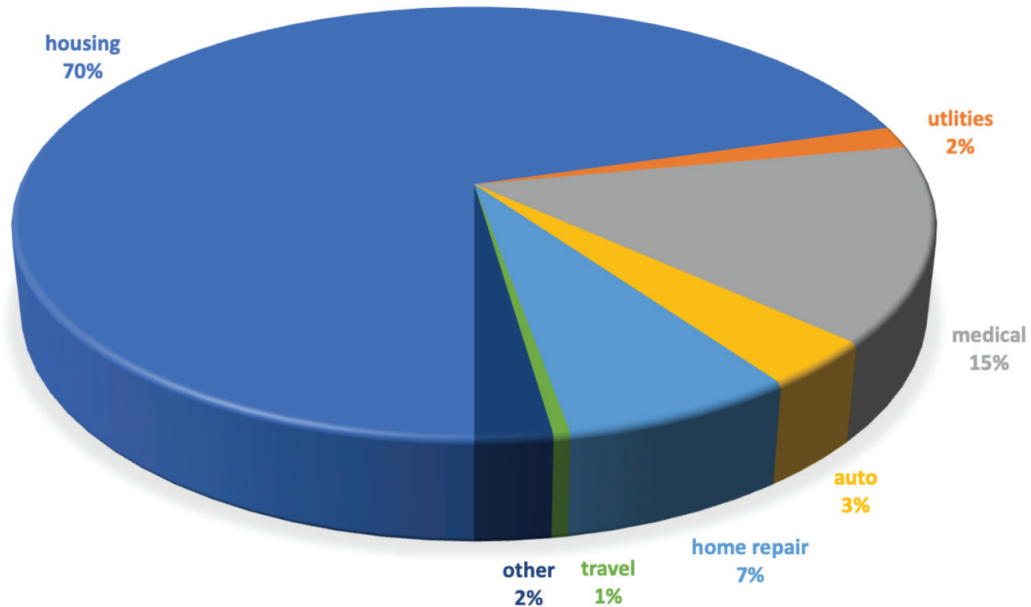
### **WE SERVE INDIVIDUALS IN NEED BOTH WITHIN THE UPC FAMILY AND IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

We help UPC members, UPC visitors, friends of UPC and those in the local community with no close affiliation with UPC. Serving UPC members and friends holds high priority; however, the DFC is also intentional about being responsive to financial needs arising within our local community.

### **NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE GREATEST NEED IN THE SEATTLE AREA IS HOUSING**

The chart below shows a breakdown of individual gifts for the past year by category. Housing support continues to be the greatest financial need experienced among the people we serve. Seattle’s housing demand continues to grow while access to affordable housing declines. In many cases, the DFC helps people get into stable housing by deposit and first-month rent assistance.

**DFC INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE BY CATEGORY  
FY23 TOTAL ~\$49,000**



**THE DFC FOCUS IS ON FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR THOSE WE HELP.**

A typical gift amount for an individual or family is in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500. We evaluate applications for assistance based on the long-term financial sustainability of the applicants, and where appropriate, we focus on getting applicants on a pathway to a sustainable financial footing. In some cases, we draw upon UPC Financial Coaching services to help applicants gain improved money handling skills. In all the cases we handle, we make financial payments to third parties and do not make cash payments to applicants.

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS BOUNDLESS GRACE AND UPC’S GENEROUS RESPONSE!**

Be assured that the 10 dedicated members of the Deacon Fund Committee continually rejoice in the generosity of the UPC family—generosity made possible through the boundless grace and generosity of our God to us. We give in thankful response to his unbounded gifts to us. The DFC pledges to humbly serve our Lord and the UPC congregation as we carefully and prayerfully administer these gifts in his name. May God be praised and may hearts turn toward him as we love our congregation and the Seattle community in tangible ways.

Wayne Einfeld  
DFC Chairperson

**UPC DEACON FUND COMMITTEE**

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Laurel Ailie   | Stephen Hodges     |
| Doug Cairns    | Constance Hokanson |
| Terrence Chinn | Burnley Synder     |
| Carl Einfeld   | Karen Teel         |
| Wayne Einfeld  | Peter Wilson       |