

**University Presbyterian Church
Deacon Fund Committee Annual Report
FY25 (July 2024 – June 2025)**

*“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. About \$155,200 was distributed in FY 2025 (July 2024 through June 2025) to many, including: 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 international 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 FY25 is shown in the following table. A further breakdown follows as to how UPC congregational gifts to the Deacon Fund were distributed during this past year.

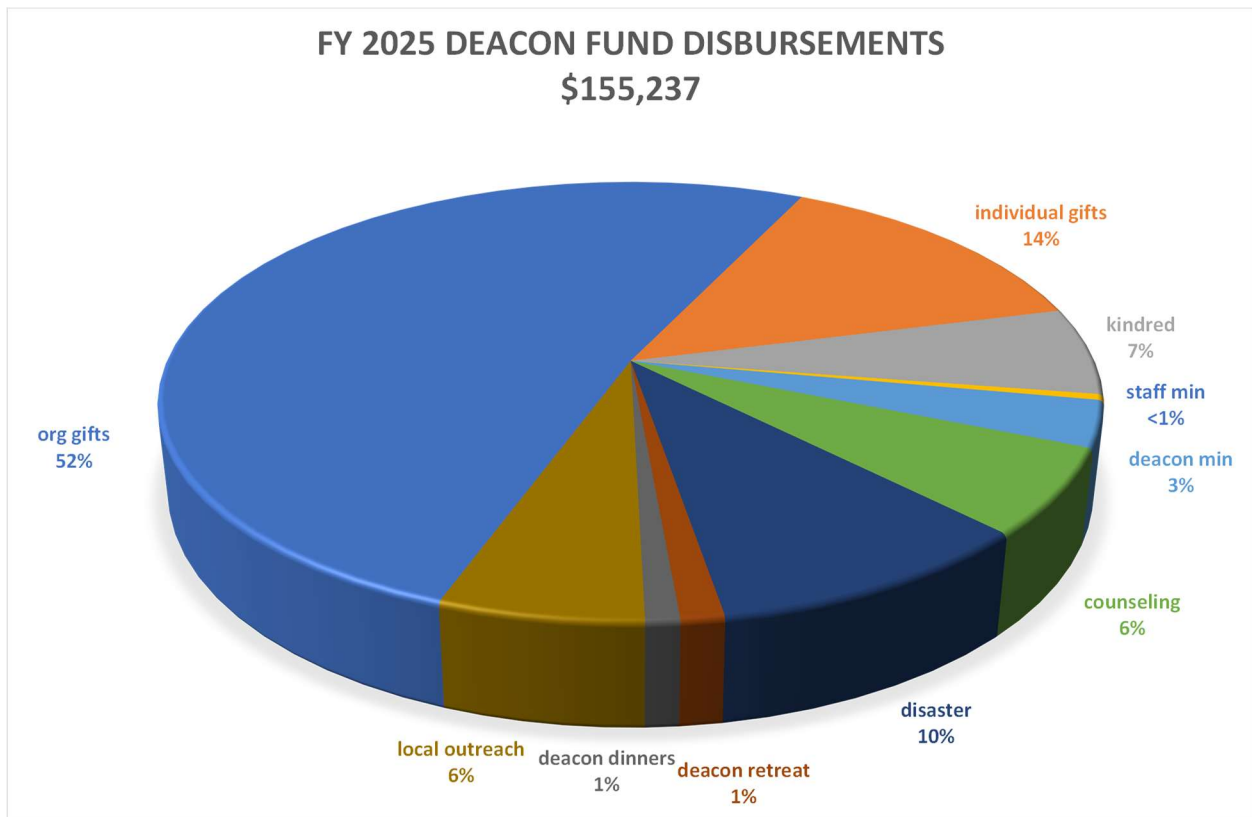
Deacon Fund Summary – FY25	
FY24 fund carryover into FY25	\$94.3K
Congregational gifts into the fund	\$180.8K
Other designated gifts and income	\$1.4K
Total funds on hand for FY25	\$276.5K
FY25 gifts distributed	(\$155.2K)
FY25 fund carryover into FY26	\$121.3K

The UPC Deacon Fund serves a variety of needs.

The included chart shows the distribution of FY25 funds by recipient category. The DFC gave \$80K, or 52% of total fund disbursements this past year, to 8 local mission partner non-profits. Another 14% or about \$22K 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 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 \$10K allocation for holiday gifts to children as part of our Kindred outreach program. The Deacon Fund also

supported Barb Williams our UPC Local Outreach staff leader as she and the congregation engaged 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 and our neighborhood, low-income Arbora House.



Gifts from the Deacon Fund to various communities facing physical disaster totaled \$15,000 and included Helene Hurricane relief in October 2024, California fire relief in January 2025, and support to World Relief to alleviate budget cuts in February 2025. An additional \$11.3K was contributed by the congregation and specifically designated for California fire relief. Whenever possible, disaster relief aid is distributed in cooperation with UPC's Global Missions partners.

Deacon Fund Disaster Relief Gifts – FY 2025

Event/Locale	Gift Amount	Date of Gift	Partner Organization
Hurricane Helene	\$5.0K	Oct 2024	PCUSA Disaster Relief
California Fire	\$5.0K	Jan 2025	Bel Air Presbyterian Church
California fire – UPC member designated	\$11.3K	Feb 2025	Bel Air Presbyterian Church
World Relief Support	\$5.0K	Feb 2025	World Relief
Hurricane Helene – UPC member designated	\$0.5K	Feb 2025	PCUSA Disaster Relief
Total (DF + designated)	\$26.8K		

Additionally, another \$34K (not shown in the summary table or pie chart above) was distributed to Seattle Children’s Hospital families with a seriously ill child and facing financial hardship. The DFC administers these gifts through a cooperative agreement with the Seattle Children’s and an anonymous donor that was setup as a part of UPC’s former Side by Side Program. Your DFC continues to work in close collaboration with case workers at Seattle Children’s to aid these families in their time of need. Last year we gave assistance to 35 families facing financial needs.

The UPC Deacon Fund serves Seattle-area mission partners.

The DFC serves 8 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 these organizations face unexpected needs or events. DFC members maintain regular contact with our partners, and each partner organization undergoes an annual survey and financial review to ensure that gifted funds are being used responsibly. In our continued support of local mission partners, the Deacon Fund Committee always aims to foster and encourage UPC congregant personal engagement through volunteer opportunities at these partner organizations.

Here is a summary of our 8 Seattle-area partners:

Bridge Disability Ministries – A faith-based, non-profit focused on equipment, spiritual community, and guardianship services for the disabled community.

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 non-profit organization in the Shoreline area that offers drop-in centers, long-term shelter, and relational support for the North Seattle homeless community.

Language Institute — A faith-based, non-profit organization housed at UPC and staffed by many UPC volunteers that is dedicated to helping non-English speaking individuals within our community gain English language skills.

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 non-profit 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.

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 many 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 and visitors, friends of UPC, and those in the local community with no UPC affiliation. Serving UPC members and friends holds high priority; however, the committee offers hope and kindness on behalf of the generous UPC congregation by responding as we can to financial needs arising within the communities God has placed us.

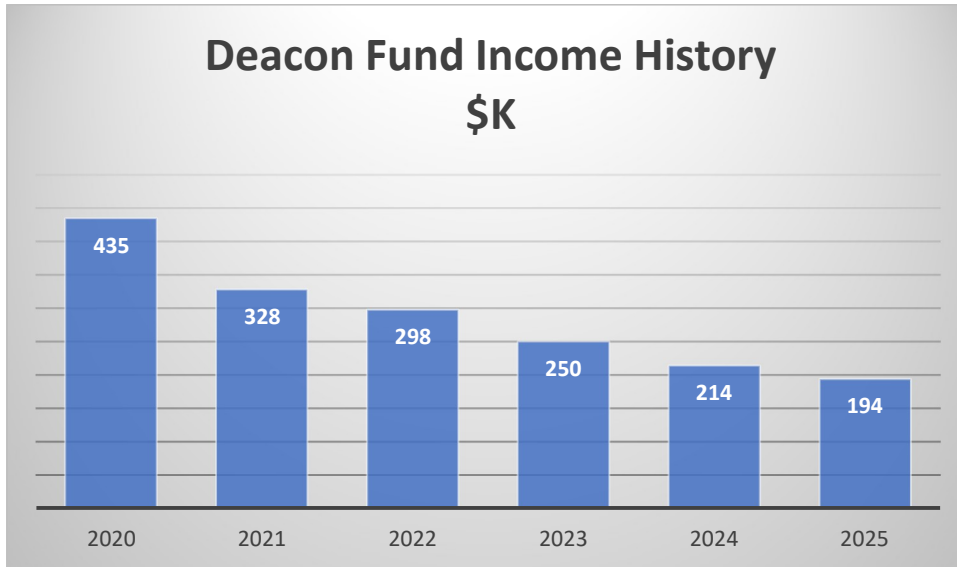
The DFC focus is on financial sustainability for those we help.

A typical gift amount for an individual or family is in the neighborhood of \$1,000. We evaluate applications for assistance based on the long-term financial sustainability of the applicants, and where appropriate, we focus on helping applicants get on a pathway to a sustainable financial footing. In some cases, we draw upon UPC Financial Coaching services to help applicants gain improved money management and handling skills. Except for occasional food gift cards to clients, in all other cases, we make financial payments to third parties only.

Our Deacon Fund revenues are declining.

As the UPC family undergoes changes in size and congregational makeup, it may come as no surprise that our Deacon Fund receipts have also declined. The graphic below shows a persistent downward trend. As a result, your committee has needed to take steps to reduce our giving, particularly to our non-profit partners. This year we reduced the number of partners

from 11 to 8 in an effort to maintain a level of giving that is impactful for them. So that we may continue to respond to the financial needs in our church family and local community, gifts to this fund are encouraged and can be made by designation of a portion of your UPC offering to the Deacon Fund through the UPC’s PushPay or on-line giving applications. For some of you, employer matching of charitable donations may be an option that should be considered to further leverage your gifts.



Thanks be to God for his boundless grace and UPC’s faithful giving!

Be assured that the 8 dedicated members of the Deacon Fund Committee are humbled and encouraged by the generosity of the UPC family—generosity made possible through the boundless grace and generosity of our God to us. We give with open hands 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.

On behalf of your Deacon Fund Committee,
 Laurel Ailie and Constance Hokanson
 DFC Co-Chairs

Prepared by Carl Einfeld

UPC Deacon Fund Committee Members		
Laurel Ailie	Carl Einfeld	Burnley Synder
Doug Cairns	Stephen Hodges	Karen Teel
Lynn Chun	Constance Hokanson	