

Overview and History of the Louise Sternberg Impact Fund

Louise Sternberg (1922-2020) was a member of Edgewood United Church of Christ for over 60 years. Louise was passionate about social justice. Edgewood's own social justice ministries, and the ways they have evolved over the decades, mirrored Louise's desire to *do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God* (Micah 6:8).

Louise was a lifelong educator, and she loved travel, music, and the arts, as well as being in the great outdoors. When she passed away in 2020 at the age of 98, she graciously bequeathed Edgewood over \$300,000 to endow a fund to carry on her passions as the congregation saw fit.

In the Fall of 2021, a small group of Edgewood's members and Pastor Liz began the awesome task of setting up a process for a later group to use to help select worthy organizations and projects to benefit from Louise's gifts and inspired passions.

With the upcoming 70th Anniversary of Edgewood's founding in 1953, this is a great opportunity for our church to continue to share our gifts with our world but on a broader scale thanks to Louise's generosity. This will be beyond what our yearly budgeted Tithing Team disbursements that represent 15-20 local, national, and international organizations that represent a range of Edgewood's commitments and values.

The primary goal of the Louise Sternberg Impact Fund is to make a large impact on an organization or project above and beyond their regular programs or projects. From 2023 - 2033, Edgewood intends to gift a total of \$30,000 per year to one or two organizations.

The organizations and projects will be ones Edgewood's members and friends already have or can establish a relationship with. These organizations and their mission will be aligned with our core values and mission, including our covenants of Just Peace, Environmental Justice, and Open and Affirming.

We envision a four-year rotating process that will rotate the donations among organizations and projects that are based in our local/state, national/US, international areas, and our United Church of Christ denomination.

We expect that these gifts will be substantial to the organizations and projects selected and permit them to meet a stretch dream or goal they otherwise would not have been able to. We will get reports and updates on the status of the projects and share in the joy and enthusiasm we plan to spark.

We trust that Edgewood's members and friends will be able to look back with pride, joy, and a sense of God's amazing abundance and goodness as these projects spring to life with these funds. We hope that the decade of extravagant generosity will inspire us all to live out our faith and mission with extravagant joy and generosity, seeking to strengthen our commitment to our values and deepen the impact of our discipleship in the world around us.

Committee Members

2021-2022 (Created Framework for the Fund)

Harold Mondol

Linda Nuttall

Dave Wiley

Kris Wisniewski

Marie Wolfe

Pastor Liz Miller (ex officio)

Committee Members

2023 (First Donation Group for the Fund)

Harold Mondol

Lauren Arni-Flessner

Ryan Meyer

Ben Pineda

Marie Wolfe

Kris Wisniewski (Administrator)

Pastor Bob Livingston (ex officio)

Funding Criteria as developed by the initial Committee members:

Grants from the Louise Sternberg Impact Fund should donate to or invest in organizations, programs, or projects that:

Are consistent with Edgewood's Mission Statement and the mandates of its Just Peace, Open and Affirming, and Environmental Justice Covenants, and the principles of the Racial Justice Task Force;

Edgewood's members and friends have opportunities to participate;

Seek to impact systems, policies, practices, and cultural attitudes that oppress people of color, poor people, or other vulnerable populations in the United States and globally.

Support building coalitions of people working for social justice and peace at the local, state, national, and international levels, including through the United Church of Christ and the ecumenical movement; and

Support international solutions for the problems of all peoples and promote governmental cooperation with other nations and the United Nations to address global crises and issues.