

## **Adopted by congregation at congregational meeting**

### **Introduction:**

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster recognizes that from time to time, individuals may want to make special contributions to CMCL of cash, stocks or material goods (art, furnishings, books, etc.). CMCL wants to maintain the integrity of the priorities set by the annual budgeting process and to only accept gifts that are consistent with the general mission and understandings of the congregation. The following policy has been adopted by the congregation to address these concerns:

### **Policy**

Gifts proposed to CMCL in advance of presentation will be presented to the appropriate bodies for approval as follows:

- A. If cash value is \$3000 or greater, the proposed gift will be presented by Congregational Council to the congregation at a congregational meeting with a recommendation for action. Council will make every effort to do this at the next congregational meeting following the donor's inquiry, recognizing that this could be several months away. CMCL's standard decision making process will be used to determine acceptance.
- B. If cash value is between \$100 and \$3000, the approval will be processed by Congregational Council, Program Commission or a committee (standing or ad hoc) designated by Council. Council will make every effort to have such processed at the next monthly meeting of the appropriate group, but reserves the right to take as much time as needed for discussion. The group making the decision will use its own internal operating procedures to determine whether the gift is approved or not (i.e., Council will not require a formal vote or level of agreement).
- C. Small gifts (cash value under \$100) such as books for the library, equipment for the kitchen, etc. may be proposed directly to the committee most interested and responsible, or to Council in cases of questions.

Gifts given to CMCL without prior notice will be accepted "with no strings attached," that is to say, CMCL makes no commitment to using the gift as it was intended by the donor. In some cases there are government regulations that restrict the rights of the donor to specify how a gift is to be used. CMCL also recognizes that some gifts may not be acceptable to the congregation as a whole, and retains the right to reject gifts as unsuitable, or dispose of them altogether, if they appear to be in direct conflict with CMCL's mission as defined in its covenant. Gifts will be considered by the above groups, based on estimated cash value.

With the exception of small items such as books for the library, toys for the nursery, etc. (cash value less than \$100), Council strongly recommends that donors make arrangements and receive approval in advance of making the gift.