

Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

Gift Acceptance Policy for Receiving Charitable Gifts

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)

Purpose: The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS recognizes that all gifts come from God and that faithful stewardship is both a privilege and responsibility. This policy affirms our commitment to receiving and managing charitable gifts in a manner that honors the Lord, aligns with the mission of the Florida-Georgia District, and serves His Kingdom work through the ministries of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS.

Scope: This policy applies to all charitable gifts received by the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS, including but not limited to cash donations, securities, real estate, personal property, and bequests.

Policy:

1. Acceptance of Gifts:

- The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS reserves the right to accept or decline any gift.
- All gifts accepted must align with the mission and values of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS.
- Gifts that may compromise the integrity or reputation of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS will not be accepted.

2. Conflict of Interest Safeguard:

- No gift will be accepted where a known conflict of interest exists between the donor and any officer, director, or employee of the District unless fully disclosed and approved by the Board of Directors.

3. Types of Acceptable Gifts:

- Cash donations
- Securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds)
- Real estate
- Personal property (art, jewelry, collectibles)
- Bequests and planned gifts

- Cryptocurrency and other digital assets may be accepted subject to Board review and appropriate financial and legal due diligence.

4. Non-Cash Gifts:

- All non-cash gifts must be approved in writing by the District President.
- All non-cash gifts will be subject to appropriate due diligence, including review for potential liabilities, encumbrances, or costs. The District may decline a gift if the costs or risks outweigh the potential benefit.

5. Review of Complex Gifts:

- The District may convene a Gift Acceptance Committee, including legal and financial advisors, to review proposed gifts that are complex, unusual, or carry potential liabilities.

6. Valuation of Non-Cash Gifts:

- Donors are responsible for obtaining a qualified appraisal for gifts of real estate or personal property in advance of donation. An IRS-qualified appraisal is required for all non-cash gifts with a fair market value of \$5,000 or more, consistent with IRS Form 8283 guidelines.

7. Acknowledgment of Gifts:

- All gifts will be acknowledged in writing.
- The letter of acknowledgment will include the date of the gift, a description of the gift, the amount of gift, and a statement indicating whether any goods or services were provided in exchange for the gift.
- Acknowledgment letters shall be signed by the District President, Director of Finance, or their authorized designee.

8. Notice to Donor:

- Notice to donor information will be included in all fundraising, solicitation materials, website, and donor receipts:

“All donations are subject to the Florida-Georgia District’s Gift Acceptance Policy, which can be found on the Florida-Georgia District website.”

9. Use of Gifts:

- Gifts will be used in accordance with the donor's wishes, as long as they align with the mission and values of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS.

- The Florida-Georgia District President in consultation with the Board of Directors, will approve in writing the establishment of new restricted accounts.
- All restricted gifts must be documented in writing and approved prior to acceptance. The District reserves the right to decline restricted gifts that are impractical, overly burdensome, or not aligned with its mission. The District will administer restricted funds in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), as adopted in Florida.
- The Florida-Georgia District will contact the donor to request permission to repurpose any restricted donation.
- The Florida-Georgia District reserves the right to sell donated stock and or non-cash donation at any time.
- Unrestricted gifts will be used at the discretion of the Florida-Georgia District President to support its programs, mission and operations.

10. Confidentiality:

- The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS will respect the privacy of donors and keep all information about donations confidential, unless the donor grants permission in writing to release such information.

11. Compliance:

- The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS will comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to charitable giving.
- The District also complies with the registration and reporting requirements under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act (F.S. 496.401 et seq.).

Review and Approval: This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the Board of Directors during the annual monitoring report from the Director of Finance & Administration.