

Wisdom Circle Recommendation to Council
January 14, 2003

King of Kings: Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly with God
(from Micah 6:8)

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us.

Amen

In November of 2002, the KOK Church Council voted to establish a Wisdom Circle to address three issues:

1. An outstanding personal loan
2. The commitment to the Geldaker Educational Fund
3. What does it mean to be the church in light of the previous two issues?

Guided by the King of King's Mission Statement, and the prayer we have been using during this liturgical year, the Wisdom Circle's discernment has resulted in the following recommendation to the Council.

The Wisdom Circle recommends that a dedicated fund be established named the "Micah Fund." The name derives from our Mission Statement, *King of Kings: Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly with God*, which is taken from Micah 6:8. This would be a new and ongoing fund established to address justice issues and support people suffering particularly from economic injustice.

It is the Wisdom Circle's intent that the Micah Fund be established to grant gifts to either organizations working for justice, or to KOK members in financial need, particularly due to economic injustice. Gifts given to members in financial need are given with the intent that the recipients of the gifts will give back to the fund if and when they are able, so that the Micah Fund may be on-going and continue to help people in economic need.

Gifts from and to the Micah Fund will be accounted for through the regular financial reporting of the congregation. However, because the fund gives gifts rather than loans, there will not be reporting that compares how much recipients of Micah Fund gifts contribute back to the fund.

The fund would be established by donations from the congregation, with the goal of raising \$50,000 (50 being the "jubilee" number) by January of 2006.

The first priority of the Micah Fund would be to pay \$1,200 per year until 2011 into the Geldaker Educational Fund, a benevolence commitment made by the Council in May, 2001. (See the schedule of payments below.) This will replace the special Geldaker endowment fund that was to be set up after the congregation received the initial gift from the Geldaker family.

The second priority of the fund would be to replace the \$5,500 to the Parking Lot and Beyond Fund, which was borrowed to offer the \$17,500 personal loan. (The remaining \$12,000 was from the Geldaker gift to the congregation.)

If the Micah Fund is established, a letter will be drafted to the personal loan recipients to document that the former terms of their loan are amended from a promissory note to a confirmation of intent to give back the former loan amount of \$17,500 to the Micah Fund as they are able.

The Wisdom Circle, therefore, requests that the Council take the following actions:

1. Vote to accept this proposal for the establishment of the Micah Fund, and bring the proposal to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for approval.

If the congregation votes to establish the Micah Fund, the council will then:

2. Draft guidelines for the **administration of the fund.**
3. Establish a team or committee to raise funds for the Micah Fund and educate the congregation about its existence and purpose. This could be an already-existing committee or a new one.
4. Draft a letter to the personal loan recipients to document that the former terms of their loan are amended from a promissory note to a confirmation of intent to give back the former loan amount of \$17,500 to the Micah Fund as they are able.

Proposed schedule of payments to Geldaker Educational Fund:

\$1,200 - January, 2003	\$1,200 - June, 2007
\$1,200 - June, 2003	\$1,200 - June, 2008
\$1,200 - June, 2004	\$1,200 - June, 2009
\$1,200 - June, 2005	\$1,200 - June, 2010
\$1,200 - June, 2006	\$1,200 - June, 2011

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