

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

1 **I. PREFACE**

2 In late 2002, the congregation of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach (CELC)
3 voted to approve the sale of the Diamond Street parsonage (1108 Diamond St, San Diego, CA
4 92109) and distribute a portion of the proceeds to create an equity reserve fund “to assist a
5 future pastor in the purchase of a home.” This fund was initially envisioned as a renewable
6 “equity sharing relationship” between CELC and the pastor. Given the cost of housing in San
7 Diego and the challenges facing a pastor to build equity in a property, this updated housing
8 reserve policy allows for three (3) options (detailed on subsequent pages) for the use of these
9 funds by the current and/or a future pastor:

- 10 A. Equity-sharing arrangement for the purchase of a single-family¹ residence as the
11 pastor’s home
12
13 B. Equity-sharing arrangement for the purchase of a single-family rental property for
14 investment purposes
15
16 C. Loan arrangement for the purchase of a single-family residence as the pastor’s home,
17 the purchase of a single-family rental property for investment purposes or the purchase of a
18 vacant lot (appropriate for the future construction of a single-family residence)
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20 This policy is designed to establish parameters for a contractual agreement between CELC and a
21 pastor. Such a contract will also include standard contractual provisions, such as contract is
22 entire agreement, handling of any amendments, indemnification, binding on successors,
23 severability, any disputes settled through mediation or arbitration, etc. In all cases, CELC
24 interests will be protected through title, lien, insurance and other contractual provisions. Other
25 terms not considered in this policy may be negotiated, subject to joint approval by the CELC
26 council and the pastor. This policy is also designed to ensure the eventual return of the funds to
27 CELC including applicable earnings, thus allowing an ongoing housing reserve fund for future
28 pastors as needed.

29 This policy would apply only to a full-time pastor. However, should a full-time pastor elect to
30 use one of these options and later change to a part-time arrangement, CELC reserves the right
31 to terminate the agreement within six (6) months of the pastor entering part-time employment
32 status, if needed to accommodate the housing/economic situation of a new full-time pastor.

¹A single-family residence or rental property is defined as a single-family house, condominium or townhome.

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

33 In the event a pastor initially accepts a call with housing in the Tourmaline Street parsonage
34 (1227 Tourmaline St, San Diego, CA 92109) included and later elects to access the housing
35 reserve fund and vacate the parsonage, the pastor's compensation package shall be reassessed
36 (using the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-Pacific Synod Clergy Salary Range
37 Development Worksheet in effect at the time) to include updated data for all factors included
38 on the worksheet (e.g., median single-family home price, years of experience, longevity in
39 current call, years of related non-pastoral experience, furthered education, etc.) to create a
40 salary range per the worksheet for a mutually-negotiated salary. (Any proceeds from the
41 subsequent rental or sale of the Tourmaline Street parsonage are assets of CELC and there shall
42 be no distribution to the pastor.)

43 **Note: Should the Tourmaline Street parsonage be vacated, the finance committee and church**
44 **council must verify current tax laws that may pertain to rental of the property beyond a**
45 **certain period of time. It is understood that failure to do this (and to conform to legal**
46 **requirements) could jeopardize the church's non-profit status and/or lead to other legal and**
47 **financial penalties.**

48 **II. Option 1** – Equity-sharing arrangement for the purchase of a single-family residence as the
49 pastor's home
50 The policy for this option requires the following conditions which would be included in a formal
51 contractual agreement:

- 52 A. Both parties to the agreement must seek independent legal advice.
53
54 B. Any property to be covered by such an agreement must be approved by the pastor and
55 church council (or through a church council approved team of 3-5 members representing
56 church council that can make a rapid decision) prior to purchase.
57
58 C. An appraisal of the property conducted by a certified person who is mutually agreed
59 upon by pastor and CELC Council or its designees will be required to provide an impartial
60 assessment of the property value.
61
62 D. A property inspection report conducted by a certified person acceptable to CELC council
63 will be required and shared with pastor and CELC Council or its designees to ensure mutual
64 acceptance of the property prior to approval of the use of housing reserve funds.
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66

67 **Option 1 continued**

- 68 E. Allow the use of 90% of the housing reserve account as CELC's equity investment,
69 reserving a portion for CELC professional fees (i.e., CELC legal fees and a share of closing
70 costs based on equity share of the purchase price) required to create the agreement.

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

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F. The pastor would be responsible for most purchase costs such as: escrow fees, share of closing costs, share of appraisal and property inspection report (based on equity share of the purchase price).

G. The pastor would be responsible for most ongoing maintenance and usual housing costs, such as: routine maintenance and repair², utilities, property taxes, other governmental taxes and fees, insurance with CELC named as a beneficiary (i.e., fire, liability, flood, earthquake), any homeowner’s fees, etc.

H. CELC would share equity at a percentage of the total initial sales price of the property with possible adjustment for any improvements made. Improvements³ would be negotiated with CELC, allowing CELC these options:

1. Share the cost of improvements that would likely increase the basis of the property and the sales price by the time of the projected sale (or transfer to the pastor) at the same percentage as the initial equity share percentage.
2. Decline to invest in the property, allowing the pastor to make improvements with the equity share adjusted based on the increase in the basis of the property and the sales price by the time of projected sale (or transfer to the pastor). Establishment of the equity share adjustment shall be made with a pre-improvement and post-improvement evaluation of the value of the dwelling conducted by a certified appraiser mutually agreed upon by Pastor and council or its designees. Evaluations shall be conducted as close to the dates of beginning and ending construction as possible.

Option 1 continued

I. During the term of employment, the pastor may elect to buy out CELC at any time according to the percentages of equity shares at the time of the buyout. However, a buyout must assure a return to CELC of at least 100% of its equity contribution(s).

²Per the IRS, “A repair keeps your home in an ordinary, efficient operating condition. It does not add to the value of your home or prolong its life. Repairs include painting your home inside or outside, fixing your gutters or floors, fixing leaks or plastering, and replacing broken window panes...However, repairs that are done as part of an extensive remodeling or restoration of your home are considered improvements.”

³Per the IRS, “An improvement materially adds to the value of your home, considerably prolongs its useful life, or adapts it to new uses. Improvements include putting a recreation room in your unfinished basement, adding another bathroom or bedroom, putting up a fence, putting in new plumbing or wiring, installing a new roof, and paving your driveway.”

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

101 J. Should the pastor wish to sell the property to a third party or the agreement expires per
102 reasons stated in following number(s) during a low market, both CELC and the pastor would
103 suffer losses based on their equity shares at the time of the sale. However, CELC shall have
104 the right to purchase the pastor's interest in the property before it is offered to a third
105 party.
106

107 K. At the point of sale of the property or buyout by the pastor, a minimum of two
108 appraisals will be required to determine market value. If the two appraisals differ in value
109 by more than 10% of the original purchase price, either a third appraisal will be conducted
110 or an amount between the two appraisal valuations will be mutually agreed upon by pastor
111 and CELC Church Council.
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113 L. Expiration of term of agreement:

114 1. Cessation of employment of the pastor, voluntarily or involuntarily, with or
115 without cause (except in the case of death): 60 days from last day of employment with
116 CELC
117

118 2. Cessation of employment of the pastor in the case of death: 270 days from date
119 of pastor's death
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121 3. Upon the termination of the pastor's residence in the property (except in the
122 case of the rental of the property mutually agreed upon by CELC and the pastor)
123 according to the parameters stated in this document under Option 2
124

125 4. At the election of the CELC Church Council if the pastor fails to meet conditions
126 of the equity-sharing agreement
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128 5. Upon sale of the property with a change in title ("due-on-sale" clause)
129

130 6. At the mutual agreement of both parties
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132 **III. Option 2** - Equity-sharing arrangement for the purchase of a single-family rental property for
133 investment purposes

134 The policy for this option requires the following conditions which would be included in a formal
135 contractual agreement:
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137 **Option 2 continued**

138 A. In the case of the purchase of investment property, this option will be made available to
139 a pastor only after completion of at least three (3) years of service at CELC.
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141 B. Both parties to the agreement must seek independent legal advice.
142

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

143 C. Any property to be covered by such an agreement must be approved by the pastor and
144 church council (or through a church council approved team of three to five members
145 representing church council that can make a rapid decision) prior to purchase.

146
147 D. An appraisal of the property conducted by a certified person who is mutually agreed
148 upon by pastor and CELC Council or its designees will be required to provide an impartial
149 assessment of its value.

150
151 E. A property inspection report conducted by a certified person acceptable to CELC council,
152 will be required and shared with pastor and CELC Council or its designees to ensure mutual
153 acceptance of the property prior to approval of the use of housing reserve funds.

154
155 F. Allow the use of 90% of the housing reserve account as CELC's equity investment,
156 reserving a portion for CELC professional fees (i.e., CELC legal fees and a share of closing
157 costs based on equity share of the purchase price) required to create the agreement.

158
159 G. The pastor would be responsible for most purchase costs such as: escrow fees, share of
160 closing costs, share of appraisal and property inspection report (based on equity share of
161 the purchase price).

162
163 H. The pastor would be responsible for most ongoing maintenance and usual housing
164 costs, such as: routine maintenance and repair⁴, utilities, property taxes, other
165 governmental taxes and fees, insurance with CELC named as a beneficiary (i.e., fire, liability,
166 flood, earthquake), any homeowner's fees, etc.

167
168 I. The pastor would be responsible for management of the rental property and net rental
169 income would be distributed between the pastor and CELC according to the equity share
170 percentages. If pastor opts to act as the rental property manager, a mutually agreed upon

171 **Option 2 continued**
172 management fee may be charged. CELC would share equity at a percentage of the total
173 initial sales price of the property with possible adjustment for any improvements made.

174
175 J. Improvements⁵ would be negotiated with CELC, allowing CELC these options:

⁴Per the IRS, "A repair keeps your home in an ordinary, efficient operating condition. It does not add to the value of your home or prolong its life. Repairs include painting your home inside or outside, fixing your gutters or floors, fixing leaks or plastering, and replacing broken window panes...However, repairs that are done as part of an extensive remodeling or restoration of your home are considered improvements."

⁵Per the IRS, "An improvement materially adds to the value of your home, considerably prolongs its useful life, or adapts it to new uses. Improvements include putting a recreation

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

176 1. Share the cost of improvements that would likely increase the basis of the property
177 and the sales price by the time of the projected sale (or transfer to the pastor) at the
178 same percentage as the initial equity share percentage.

179
180 2. Decline to invest in the property, allowing the pastor to make improvements with
181 the equity share adjusted based on the increase in the basis of the property and the
182 sales price by the time of projected sale (or transfer to the pastor). Establishment of
183 the equity share adjustment shall be made with a pre-improvement and post-
184 improvement evaluation of the value of the dwelling conducted by a certified appraiser
185 mutually agreed upon by Pastor and council or its designees. Evaluations shall be
186 conducted as close to the dates of beginning and ending construction as possible.

187
188 K. During the term of employment, the pastor may elect to buy out CELC at any time
189 according to the percentages of equity shares at the time of the buyout. However, a buyout
190 must assure a return to CELC of at least 100% of its equity contribution(s).

191
192 L. Should the pastor wish to sell the property to a third party or the agreement expires per
193 reasons stated in following number(s) during a low market, both CELC and the pastor would
194 suffer losses based on their equity shares at the time of the sale. However, CELC shall have
195 the right to purchase the pastor's interest in the property before it is offered to a third
196 party.

197
198 M. At the point of sale of the property or buyout by the pastor, a minimum of two
199 appraisals will be required to determine market value. If the two appraisals differ in value
200 by more than 10% of the original purchase price, either a third appraisal will be conducted
201 or an amount between the two appraisal valuations will be mutually agreed upon by pastor
202 and CELC Church Council.

203
204 N. Expiration of term of agreement:

205
206 **Option 2 continued**

207 1. Cessation of employment of the pastor, voluntarily or involuntarily, with or
208 without cause (except in the case of death): 60 days from last day of employment with
209 CELC

210
211 2. Cessation of employment of the pastor in the case of death: 270 days from date
212 of pastor's death

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room in your unfinished basement, adding another bathroom or bedroom, putting up a fence, putting in new plumbing or wiring, installing a new roof, and paving your driveway.”

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

- 214 3. At the election of the CELC Church Council if the pastor fails to meet conditions
215 of the equity-sharing agreement
216
217 4. Upon the sale of the property with a change in title (“due-on-sale” clause)
218
219 5. At the mutual agreement of both parties
220

221 **Option 3** - Loan arrangement for the purchase of a single-family residence as the pastor’s
222 home, the purchase of a single-family rental property for investment purposes or the purchase
223 of a vacant lot appropriate for the future construction of a single-family residence. The policy
224 for this option requires the following conditions which would be included in a formal
225 contractual agreement:

- 226 A. In the case of the purchase of an investment property, this option will be made available
227 to a pastor only after completion of at least three (3) years of service at CELC.
228
229 B. Both parties to the agreement must seek independent legal advice.
230
231 C. Any property to be covered by such an agreement must be approved by the pastor and
232 church council (or through a church council approved team of three to five members
233 representing church council that can make a rapid decision) prior to purchase.
234
235 D. Allow the use of 95 % of the housing reserve account as a loan, reserving a portion for
236 CELC professional fees (probably only legal fees) required to create the agreement.
237
238 E. The pastor would be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with the purchase
239 and care of the property, such as: appraisal, escrow fees, closing costs, routine maintenance
240 and repair⁶, utilities, property taxes, other governmental taxes and fees, insurance with
241 **Option 3 continued**
242 CELC named as a beneficiary (i.e., fire, liability, flood and earthquake), any homeowner’s
243 fees, improvements⁷, etc.

⁶Per the IRS, “A repair keeps your home in an ordinary, efficient operating condition. It does not add to the value of your home or prolong its life. Repairs include painting your home inside or outside, fixing your gutters or floors, fixing leaks or plastering, and replacing broken window panes...However, repairs that are done as part of an extensive remodeling or restoration of your home are considered improvements.”

⁷Per the IRS, “An improvement materially adds to the value of your home, considerably prolongs its useful life, or adapts it to new uses. Improvements include putting a recreation room in your unfinished basement, adding another bathroom or bedroom, putting up a fence, putting in new plumbing or wiring, installing a new roof, and paving your driveway.”

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

- 244
- 245 F. Term of loan: To be negotiated with a maximum of 20 years.
- 246
- 247 G. Interest rate: The interest rate shall be the current rate banks charge for similar loans
- 248 minus one-half (0.5) percent but not to be less than the Applicable Federal Rate (AFR).
- 249
- 250 H. Late fee: 5% of monthly payment with a grace period of 10 days
- 251
- 252 I. CELC note will be and remain the primary note (lien) on the property until it is paid off
- 253 unless otherwise agreed.
- 254
- 255 J. Funding to be handled through an escrow company.
- 256
- 257 K. As California is a “non-recourse” state, an appraisal of the property will be required
- 258 (unless waived by CELC) and will be an expense of the pastor. Purpose of appraisal is to
- 259 provide information to church council or its designees as to value of property compared to
- 260 proposed purchase price in case of loan default.
- 261
- 262 L. In the case of the purchase of a vacant lot, the pastor is responsible for all development
- 263 costs.
- 264
- 265 M. In the case of the purchase of a vacant lot, CELC will require a written statement from a
- 266 licensed engineer, confirming the property is developable for a single-family residence and
- 267 including planning-level building costs prior to closing.
- 268
- 269 N. Expiration of the loan agreement:
- 270 1. Cessation of employment of the pastor, voluntarily or involuntarily, with or
- 271 without cause (except in the case of death): 60 days from last day of employment with
- 272 CELC
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- 274
- 275 **Option 3 continued**
- 276 2. Cessation of employment of the pastor in the case of death: 270 days from date
- 277 of pastor’s death
- 278
- 279 3. Upon the termination of the pastor’s residence in the property (except in the
- 280 case of the rental of the property mutually agreed upon by CELC and the pastor)
- 281
- 282 4. At the election of the CELC Church Council if the pastor fails to meet conditions
- 283 of the loan agreement
- 284
- 285 5. At the mutual agreement of both parties

Comprehensive Financial Policies
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach
Appendix B Equity/Housing Reserve Fund Policy
Adopted: 2/3/19

- 286
- 287 6. At the pastor’s discretion with no prepayment penalty
- 288
- 289 7. Upon sale of the property with a change in title (“due-on-sale” clause)
- 290
- 291 O. Loan documents would show that proceeds are to be used for the purchase of the
- 292 specified property and CELC would hold a lien on the property.
- 293

294 Final note: this document was initially created by Julia Dotson and Ron Knopp. Additional input
295 received from Tom Falk and Carl Nelson who are familiar with discussions regarding the Equity
296 Reserve Account over last years. These persons may be able to answer questions should they
297 arise from future council members.