

# St. George Mission Fund – Bloomfield Hills

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **What Is The St. George Mission Fund (SGMF)?**

The St. George Mission Fund (SGMF) was created to provide our parish with a growing and relatively stable source of funds to support and advance the religious, educational, cultural, and fellowship Missions of the St. George community. The SGMF cannot flourish without your financial support together with your personal interest and good works.

It is important to note that the SGMF is not a replacement for the annual stewardship pledge to the Church.

### **How Is The SGMF Governed?**

The SGMF is governed by its own Board of Trustees which oversees the portfolio and distributes funds as per its Mission Statement above and Bylaws officially adopted by the Parish Council. The Board approves specific Grant Requests depending on their merit and fund availability. The 5 Trustees are elected by the Parish Council and serve staggered 3-year terms. Except for the initial Trustees, none may simultaneously serve on the Parish Council to preserve the Fund's independence. Nominations for the Trustee position may be submitted to the Parish Council during October of each year. Candidates for Trustees must be members in good standing of St. George.

### **How Are SGMF Funds Utilized?**

The Bylaws of the SGMF require that its funds be solely utilized for the Missions of the St. George community as described above. The Bylaws further specify that the SGMF is not to be used for operational or capital expenses of the Church.

As the future cannot be predicted and extenuating needs which could threaten the survival of the Church may develop, an exception is made such that SGMF monies may be used for other than the stated Missions. However, that type of use by the Church would require two 80% votes of the Parish Council taken at least 30 days apart, plus one 80% vote by the General Assembly.

In this way we may focus on our Missions and, in the unlikely event of extreme need, be able to provide for the Church under extraordinary and unexpected circumstances in a manner that would require both very careful consideration and an exceptional degree of consensus.

### **How Is Fund Availability Determined?**

Funds available for distribution as grants are the greater of a) 50% of the net positive change in the previous year's invested principal (if any), or b) 50% of new donations, each as determined annually on December 31 of each year. Not all available funds may be distributed in a given year. Remaining funds are reinvested for continued growth. A minimum balance of \$100,000 must be maintained in order to distribute grants.

### **How Are Grants Determined?**

A Grant Request from a St. George parishioner or organization in good standing must be submitted to the SGMF (see below). Grant requests must be for activities consistent with the religious, educational, cultural, and fellowship missions of the church. Preferences are given to those activities which involve our parish (though interaction with our sister parishes is strongly encouraged), which do the most good, and that appear feasible. As the fund grows, grant requests can be more generous and imaginative, though they must still relate to the Missions stated above.

### **How Do I Apply For A Grant?**

An SGMF Grant Application Form must be completed by a parishioner or parish organization in good standing. The Application Form may be downloaded from the SGMF website ([stgeorgebloomfield.org/mission-fund](http://stgeorgebloomfield.org/mission-fund)), from the church office or by asking one of the Trustees. The Form is to be returned to the SGMF Board of Trustees by December 1 of each calendar year. This may be done electronically ([sgmisf.bh@gmail.com](mailto:sgmisf.bh@gmail.com)) or by mail to the church address.

The SGMF Board of Trustees will review each application and make a final decision regarding approval by the following February 1. Not all grant requests will be approved.

### **How Do I Donate To The SGMF?**

Donations are accepted by check or electronically from the link on the SGMF webpage ([stgeorgebloomfield.org/mission-fund](http://stgeorgebloomfield.org/mission-fund)). Donations made by check should be written to “St. George Mission Fund – Bloomfield Hills” or to St. George Greek Orthodox Church with “Mission Fund” added in the memo. Alternative donations such as transfers of marketable securities, automobiles and real estate can be considered on an individual basis.

### **How Are SGMF Funds Invested?**

The bulk of the funds will be invested in a portfolio of well diversified publicly traded securities (e.g., stocks, bonds). The advice of a financial professional will be sought as needed. An overall conservative to moderate risk investment strategy will be pursued.

We thank you for your interest in the St. George Mission Fund. With your time, talents, and treasure, we can fulfill and expand our Christian mission. Please feel free to speak with any of the SGMF Trustees. A copy of the SGMF Bylaws is available upon request.

Yours in Christ,

The St. George Mission Fund Board of Trustees

Thomas Alexander - Chairperson

Demetra Koukios - Treasurer

Demetri Preonas - Assistant Treasurer

Kathleen Pappageorge - Secretary

Robert Zocco – Director of Development

**Faith without works is dead. James 2:14-26**