

**The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc.**

**SPENDING POLICY**

**Approved on October 25, 2023**

**In effect as of January 1, 2023 and  
for any 2024 related budget process**

The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc.  
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## **I. Introduction**

Primary Contacts:

- Pamela Banks, Director of Finance and Administration
- Diana Conan, Director of Development and Outreach

The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc., (the “URI Foundation”) is a 509(a)3 organization created by the Global Council Trustees (the “Global Council”) of United Religions, dba United Religions Initiative (“URI”), with its sole purpose to stand as an independent, competent, trustworthy vehicle for the oversight and stewardship of URI’s invested funds. The Board of Directors of the URI Foundation (the “Foundation Board”) is responsible to ensure that URI’s invested funds are managed in full compliance with all applicable laws and in order to achieve URI’s objectives as set forth in the URI Charter. The Foundation Board oversees the work of the Investment Committee (the “Committee”), which makes specific recommendations regarding the make-up of URI Foundation’s investment portfolio, both endowed funds and strategic reserve (the “Portfolio”).

## **II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Spending Policy is to put into place a consistent plan that will enable the Portfolio to support the objectives of URI while working to further strengthen its financial base.

## **III. Funds Managed by the URI Foundation**

The funds managed by the URI Foundation are described in the Gift Acceptance Policy.

### **Gift Acceptance and Management Policy**

A comprehensive gift acceptance and management policy has been developed by URI and reviewed for adoption by The Foundation Board.

## **IV. Spending Policy**

The Foundation Board has adopted the following Spending Policy, which will apply to the entire Endowment (Permanent and Quasi), unless a particular donor has otherwise stipulated spending restrictions.

- A. The Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act provides uniform and fundamental rules for the investment of funds held by charitable institutions and the expenditure of funds donated as endowments to those institutions. The Foundation Board endorses these rules and agrees to use them as basic guidelines in establishing its Spending Policy:
  - assets will be invested per the terms of the Investment Policy; and
  - disbursements can be prudently made for the purposes of the URI Foundation mission to further URI’s mission.

In adopting this Spending Policy, the Foundation Board seeks an appropriate balance among three goals:

- to provide current URI programs with a predictable and stable stream of revenue;

- to ensure that the real value (defined as purchasing power) of the revenue stream does not decline over the long term; and
- to ensure that the real value of the endowment assets does not decline over the long term.

B. The spending policy for the URI Foundation assets is as follows:

- **Budgeted Funds:**

In the course of the budgeting process, URI will inform the Foundation Board of the disbursement needs from the URI Foundation assets for URI's following year's proposed budget. The Foundation Board will review the calculations of the proposed budget's usage of funds to ensure that the proposed disbursements are within the guidelines of the Spending Policy.

Once the URI budget is approved by the Global Council, the Foundation Board will allow for all approved disbursements to occur in a timely manner. The Executive Director will be authorized to transfer the budget-approved funds as they are needed.

- **Endowment Funds (Permanent and Quasi):** In any given calendar year, the endowed assets' principal (total initial donations, plus all dividends, interest and appreciation defined as "Principal") can be expended to a maximum of Five Percent (5.00%) of Principal per year, subject to otherwise-stipulated spending restrictions. To limit the volatility of the spending stream, the spending rate of 5.00% will be calculated off of the trailing twelve-quarter market value of Principal minus any endowed funds with donor or Global Council/Foundation Board restrictions which will not be used as part of the approved budget.
- **Restricted Funds:** Distributions of Restricted Funds will be made according to the donor or URI stipulations.
- **Strategic Reserves:** Distributions to URI from the Strategic Reserves at any time in any amount may be made by request to the URI Foundation by the URI Finance and Operations Committee of the Global Council.

C. The Foundation Board may appropriate for expenditure or accumulate so much of the Endowment as it determines to be prudent for the uses, benefits, and purposes of URI.

The Foundation Board has adopted the following initial criteria as a guide for its yearly expenditure decisions. Additional criteria may be added by the Foundation Board. The current criteria are:

- duration and preservation of the Endowment;
- the purposes of URI and the Endowment;
- general economic conditions;
- effect of inflation or deflation;
- the expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- other resources of URI; and
- the Investment Policy of the URI Foundation.

D. The Foundation Board shall have discretion over whether or not distributions are made. If it is determined by the Foundation Board that a distribution is not appropriate in a current fiscal year, the Foundation Board may waive the distribution for the year.

**V. Spending Policy Amendment**

The URI Foundation Investment Policy and Spending Policy are interdependent and related updates between the two are critical to the long-term success of the Portfolio. The Spending Policy is subject to annual review.

The Foundation Board:

- may make changes to the Spending Policy by a majority vote of the Foundation Board members; and
- will direct staff to communicate any such changes directly with the Global Council, the Investment Committee, and the Investment Advisor(s).
- requires the Investment Advisor(s) to communicate such changes directly to the Investment Manager(s) in a timely manner.

**VI. Approval**

This document is adopted as the Spending Policy for the United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc.'s Portfolio.

By: David Steirman  
Title: Chair, Board of Directors, The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: October 25, 2023

By: Jerry White  
Title: Executive Director, The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc. and United Religions Initiative

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: October 25, 2023

On behalf of the Global Council of Trustees  
By: Pulin Sanghvi  
Title: Treasurer, The United Religions Initiative Foundation, Inc. and United Religions Initiative

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: October 25, 2023