

WEF or WEF???

The Women's Endowment Fund (WEF) was established in 1990 to provide the opportunity to contribute to a permanent fund that benefits the work, both now and in the future, of women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This fund enables women to make a tremendous difference in the shaping of the world to come through decisions they make today. Through this fund, the visions and dreams of women are made real as they share the good news and minister in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The funds are invested through the Christian Church Foundation to keep pace with inflation and produce a steady stream of income. Only the interest on the investments is used to support grant requests, and first priority is given to ministry which benefits the entire women's network.

At the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly the Executive of Week of Compassion announced a new fund called the Women's Empowerment Fund which also used WEF as its acronym. This has caused some confusion over the past four years. Both funds are used to support women but in different ways. The Disciples Women's Endowment Fund (original WEF now moving to DWEF) is funded by gifts given to this fund often in named funds to honor women who are and/or have been dedicated to women's ministries. These funds are used to provide leadership training, scholarships to events that provide faith development and leadership training, opportunities for ministry which serve locally and globally, faith development, and new and vital ministry for women of the church.

The Women's Empowerment Fund of Week of Compassion is funded by donations and is used to educate, train and empower women all over the world. It channels joint resources to improve the lives of girls and women who would otherwise be forgotten. Girls are often expected to do manual labor and stay home to help take care of their families; women are not given the same opportunities to be educated and to be in charge of their own lives. This fund is helping to change the lives of girls and women.

Both funds are for the care and support of women and are supported by the generous gifts of faithful men and women. Hopefully, this will be helpful for understanding the difference and for clearing up any confusion in the future.

Following is a report on the new fund established by Week of Compassion in 2010 at Quadrennial Assembly.

**Week of Compassion
Women's Empowerment Fund**

2010

September

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| Ecumenical Women's Initiative | \$5,000 |
| <i>Women's Economic and Social Development Projects in the Former Yugoslavia</i> | |
| Global Ministries/Africa Office | \$5,000 |
| <i>\$1,500 for medical care for women victims of war in Eastern Congo</i> | |
| <i>\$3,500 for women's microcredit project in the DRC, organized by the ECC</i> | |
| <i>Women's Medical Care and Economic Empowerment in the DR Congo</i> | |
| Sarajevo Phoenix | \$2,500 |
| <i>Women's Economic Development Cooperative, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> | |
| <i>Total for 2010: \$12,500</i> | |

2011

May**Global Ministries/Africa Office** **\$5,000***Microcredit for Women Victims of Rape in DR Congo***Global Ministries/Africa Office** **\$879***Women's Income Generating Project, Mbandaka, DRC**(Total amount granted to this project: \$4000 = \$879 Women's Empowerment Fund, \$983 Desig Africa, \$784 Desig Sustainable Development, \$1354 Sustainable Development)***September****Global Ministries/Africa Office** **\$5,000***Microcredit for Women Victims of Rape**Total for 2011: \$10,879***2012****June****Global Ministries/Africa Office***Center for Vulnerable Girls Ablution Block/Toilet Completion Project in Mozambique* **\$3,000****Global Ministries/Africa Office***Medical Care/Heart Surgery for Female Pastor/Wife of Head of Denomination in Mozambique* **\$2,000****November****CWS***Roma Women's Empowerment, Serbia* **\$20,000***Total for 2012: \$ 25,000***2013****May****CWS***Roma Women's Empowerment, Serbia* **\$6,000***School Safe Zone, Kenya* **\$7,500****November****Global Ministries***Nanduti Program in Paraguay –**Sustainable, Economic Development Initiative for Women and Families* **\$15,000***Total for 2013: \$28,500***2014****March****Global Ministries***Skills Training and Micro-Enterprise in DRC –**Women's Department of the National Protestant Church (ECC)* **\$3,665****As of June 12, 2014 total of funds distributed by the Fund: \$80,544****As of June 12, 2014 total income for the Fund: \$87,798**