

Maranatha Class of The Boston Avenue Methodist Church
Statement of Purpose for Charitable Giving
As of February 22, 2003

Dear Maranatha Class Members, Current & Future,

Appreciative of the rich history that our founding members initiated for the Maranatha Class; mindful of the many endeavors that the individual members of the class choose to support both in and outside of the class; recognizing the importance of considered deliberations on the charitable choices available to the Maranatha Sunday School class; and, aware of the need to come together as one as we consider the many charitable alternatives available to us, the class members of 2003 are preparing this letter for the permanent record to set forth a *Statement of Purpose* with respect to charitable giving.

This letter is not for the purpose of a dictum for the future, but as a prayerful and thoughtful review of how the class of 2003 came together to give a higher combined meaning to our deliberations as a guide for those who follow in the future.

Background:

Resources available for charitable considerations have consistently grown over several years. The Maranatha Class has held or sponsored various gatherings, which though primarily have been initiated for friendship and social gatherings, have resulted in generous resources available for contribution to others. To date, the primary sources for such charitable resources have been from the weekly offering plate, the Chili Supper held in conjunction with the *Barton Lecture Series* and the Christmas Dinner & Auction. Annually, the class has considered a list of alternative choices for charitable purposes, voted on the same on a given Sunday by those present, and then provided such gifts to those chosen by the class. Such gifts have served to provide distinction to the Maranatha Class within the church community, but more importantly, have served to fulfill a need of the class to be proactive together in reaching out to others.

In addition to the gifts described above from overall class resources, at various times, individual appeals (*Gifts of Love*) have been made for support of individuals in the class whose circumstances, when drawn to the attention of others, have resulted in a quiet passing of the plate for the dedicated purpose of providing support for the particular calling. The outpouring of support has stood as a ready reminder that individual members do reach out when called to action.

Contemplations:

When so many individuals come together to gather as one, however diverse in background and in life, it is fitting that we identify the common ingredients that draw us together. The reasons are as diverse as the members, but first and foremost, *we recognize that we have been drawn together by a common love of the Boston Avenue Methodist Church.*

Recognizing the very thing that first bounds us together, we have concluded that such recognition should shape our prayerful considerations for how we believe we need to act as one in the gifts that we choose for others, and, that it should shape the underlying purpose of the choices we make together, all in the spirit of a common body acting as one.

Charitable Giving, Statement of Purpose:

Therefore, in prayerful reflection of those things noted above, the Maranatha Class of 2003 sets forth our charitable giving statement of purpose as follows:

We, the members of the Maranatha Sunday School Class of 2003, shall strive to fulfill God's will in our lives and be vessels for and witnesses to His powerful love by service to and support for our fellow Christians.

Recognizing the church that binds us together, the class's primary charitable gifts will focus on the Boston Avenue Methodist Church and its outreach missions & ministries; and, secondarily to others in need, regardless of race, color or creed, in keeping with the stated Methodist Mission Statement.

Resolve:

Realizing that God has overwhelmingly blessed us with leadership, talent and personal resources, we feel called to contribute our collective support as Christian Disciples. We trust God will give us guidance and wisdom to use good stewardship when using our resources as a witness to His abiding love for us all.

With love to all that follow,

The Maranatha Class of 2003