

FAQs for *An Act of Referendum to Establish a New GU272 Legacy*

1. Can a 501(c)(3) give money to other nonprofits, including a 501(c)(3)?

Yes, so long as the donation is given and used for charitable purposes. A 501(c)(3) is not allowed to give money to another 501(c)(3) for political purposes.¹ But since the Reconciliation Contributions will be allocated for “charitable purposes,” and not political ones, this is not an issue.

2. Can money collected by Georgetown ever be spent outside of Georgetown on non-Georgetown purposes?

Of course, and it happens all the time. For example, Georgetown spends money on tutoring programs in DC, soup kitchens, etc. Yale University (and others) frequently make direct annual contributions to the impoverished local communities in which they are based.²

3. How will the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees determine who is a GU272 descendant?

The Board will make this determination in the same way the Georgetown University Admissions Office does, or the various descendant associations do. Or it will devise its own standards and processes for determining eligibility status. In addition, the Georgetown Memory Project stands ready to assist any applicant wishing to prove descendant-status.

4. Does the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees face unforeseen legal questions?

Of course it does. Like any sizeable, ongoing charitable fund, legal questions will arise. If and when they arise, the Board’s trustees will consult legal counsel and resolve the issues appropriately. Potential sites for obtaining the necessary legal advice could be the University’s general counsel’s office, the Law Center’s professors and students, outside counsel on a pro bono basis, and even advice provided by outside counsel whose fees are paid by the Board itself as a normal operating expense.

5. The charter for the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees mentions several potential purposes for its funds in its funding guidelines. Where did these come from?

Descendants. College scholarships have been asked for by a number of descendants, and even the Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation.^{3 4 5 6} Better educational facilities, school supplies, and tutoring have also been mentioned by descendants as important, needed resources.⁷

¹ <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p557.pdf>

² <https://onhsa.yale.edu/economic-growth-and-fiscal-impact>

³ <http://slavery.georgetown.edu/report/>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/us/georgetown-university-search-for-slave-descendants.html>

⁵ <https://thetab.com/us/georgetown/2016/09/04/unspoken-history-descendant-georgetown-university-slave-3185>

⁶ <https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-New-Path-to-Atonement/245511?cid=wsinglestory>

⁷ <http://features.thehoya.com/thomas-legacyiseverything>