SMIF COMMUNITY AFFILIATE TRAINING SERIES

Module 1: Understanding Endowments

Companion Worksheet

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

A | Personal Reflection

Take a few minutes to think about these questions on your own before discussing as a group.

1. The video compares an endowment to planting an apple tree — only picking the fruit, never cutting it down. What does this mean for your fund?

2. Which common myth about endowments have you heard in your community? How would you respond to it now?

The myth I've heard:	How I'd respond now:

B | Board Discussion Questions

Use these prompts to lead a conversation at your next board meeting. You don't need to cover all of them — choose what's most relevant for your fund right now.

1. Does our fund currently have an endowment? f not, what would it take to start one?

2. Who in our community might be ready for a legacy conversation? What would we say to open that door?

3. What endowment gift options do we offer donors? Are there options we should add (named funds, memorials, scholarships)?

4. How do we recognize and celebrate endowment gifts — even small ones? Is there more we could do?

C | Action Planning

Based on what you learned and discussed, identify 1–3 concrete next steps your fund will take. Assign a lead and a target date to keep things moving.

Action / Next Step	Who will lead it?	Target Date

D | Notes & Questions

Anything else to remember — or questions to bring to SMIF.