



# Newsletter Articles

Use one per month for this quarter.

## Our Church can last – forever?

Endowment programs for United Methodist churches across Oklahoma are chartered to provide members and friends opportunities to make lasting charitable gifts. These gifts will become permanent financial support and a living memorial.

Many endowment programs are intended for purposes that are not part of established programs funded through the annual operating budget.

Your gifts to your church's endowment fund push the mission of your church far into the future. Through your gifts, you can leave a lasting legacy of your life, or that of a parent, child or other loved one, while at the same time helping to endow the ministries of your United Methodist church, ministry or institution.

Gifts to your church's endowment program can be designated by you to fund a specific ministry or left undesignated to meet future needs. Through your generosity, your church's ministry of service can secure the future for tomorrow's youth and adults.

To learn more about how to start or promote your church's permanent endowment fund, contact the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation at 800-259-6863, or visit them on the web at [www.okumf.org](http://www.okumf.org).

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## Wishes can come true

*Planning ahead for the future is crucial*

The ultimate form of communicating our wishes for the future is our will or trust. Throughout history, people have used wills to fulfill and sustain their wishes. When we fail to have a will, we miss a wonderful opportunity to share our wishes with our family, friends, church and the causes important to us.

Without a will, the state tries to determine what our wishes are and tries to act on them – often at a great expense to the estate. The state does not always get it right; those important to us may miss out on all we planned for them.

Take a moment to consider your legacy. Do not let the state decide what you would have done. A well-written plan reflects your intentions to your family, friends, church and favorite charities.

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*over for more*



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## No better time than now

Many people are reluctant to write a will, or even discuss one. However, a well-written plan is never about life without us, it only affirms the life within us.

When we write a will, we tell the world what is important to us. A will affirms our hopes, dreams and protects our loved ones and cherished causes.

Take a moment to enjoy all this season has to offer. But also let it serve as a reminder to call your attorney about writing your will, or ask if it needs updating. In the meantime, think about your values, your beliefs and the family members and charitable causes most likely to share these values with you.

The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation is an estate and legacy planning resource. Visit their website at [www.okumf.org](http://www.okumf.org) and request your copy of *A Christian's Guide to Planning Your Will or Trust*. The guide and the online videos will help you move through the process of creating a will. Planning and providing for your loved ones can be an uplifting and positive experience. Please contact the Foundation if you have any questions or need additional information, 800-259-6863.

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## Making a gift without missing a thing

Often when we make a gift to a friend, relative, or special cause, we have to give something up. When we shop, we must pay for our purchase. When we take someone out to eat, we must pay the bill. But, did you know you can make a big difference while not giving anything away – at least not anything you would miss?

Have you considered including a provision for a United Methodist cause in your will or estate plan. You can use this method to establish an endowment fund to benefit your local church or favorite United Methodist ministry, and the effect can be tremendous.

Everyone should have a will and update it regularly. If you do not have a will, make an appointment with your attorney to draft one. If you have one, call your attorney and ask if it needs updating. Drafting or revising an estate plan is surprisingly simple.

Perhaps the best part of including a gift in your will is knowing you have secured a legacy matching your life's goals. You will be remembered for the good you did and impact you made.

Contact David Battles at the Foundation for more information on establishing an endowment fund for your church through your will.

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