



# Planting Seeds Orientation

An overview of legacy giving and frequently asked questions

## What Legacy Will You Leave?

This quarter's theme introduces your church members to legacy giving and remembering their church and other cherished causes in their estate plans.

This quarter's brochure, "What Legacy Will You Leave?" begins to encourage your church members to look carefully and prayerfully at their choices and responsibility to help transform lives for Jesus Christ and his church.

We all desire significance – to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends. For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference – to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the world in which we live.

The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. A bequest may also be an effective way to make a gift to your church and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and estate.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is my legacy?**

One way to think about your legacy is to consider the legacies of others. Whose life has made a difference in your family or community? What did this person do to make their corner of the world a better place? Why and how did they make things better? Your legacy – how you will be remembered and how you changed the world – will be shaped by your choices and how you live your life now. You can keep making the world a better place, even after you are gone, by creating a legacy gift through an endowment.

### **What is a bequest?**

A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. When you plan your estate, you and your advisor can include language specifying gifts for family, friends, and your church. See the next page for specific language for your will.

### **When I die, how will I know all my affairs will be handled correctly?**

A careful, prayerful estate plan reflects your good stewardship. Use professional advisors who specialize in estate planning, communicate with your family or loved ones about your wishes, and make sure those wishes are expressed in your estate plan. For many individuals, the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation serves as successor trustee to oversee the execution of their estate plan.

### **Is there a minimum gift to make a bequest?**

There is no minimum amount to make a bequest. One way to make a gift from your will is by a specific asset or gift amount. Another option is to set a percentage of your estate such as a tithe. You may choose to make specific gifts to family and friends, then leave the "rest and residue" of your estate to your church or favorite ministry.

*over for more*



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## A Personal Story

Joe and Anna have been faithful supporters of their local United Methodist Church for many years. Several years ago, they decided to become volunteers in children's ministries. They felt they were really making a difference in the lives of the children and young families. From Sunday school to special programs such as Vacation Bible School, Joe and Anna supported the church and ministry with their time and resources.

However, they wanted to do more. Joe and Anna had been careful over the years and accumulated some resources. They planned to be generous with family, but also wanted to have the ability to be generous with their church.

After talking it over, they decided to leave a bequest through their will. The bequest will establish an endowment fund to support children's ministries and programming. Their attorney took the simple language available from the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation and helped Joe and Anna include a bequest in their will.

*Please note: This story is representative of a typical donor and may or may not be an actual donor to the Foundation.*

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## Sample Bequest Language for Your Attorney

A gift through a bequest may be made several different ways. Below are three sets of suggested wording to include your church in your will. Please discuss and share these options with your attorney.

### **Specific Percentage of Estate**

I give and bequeath to The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, Inc., an Oklahoma, not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation, as a permanent endowment, \_\_\_ percent of my gross estate, for the benefit of *(name of church institution(s) or local church)*.

### **Specific Amount of Estate**

I give and bequeath to The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, Inc., an Oklahoma, not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation, as a permanent endowment, \$\_\_\_ to be used for the benefit of *(name of church institution(s) or local church)*.

### **Bequest of the Residue**

All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give, devise and bequeath to The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, Inc., an Oklahoma, not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation, as a permanent endowment, for the benefit of *(name of church institutions(s) or local church)*.