

## WHAT IMPACT WILL YOUR LIFE HAVE ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS?

The Free Methodist Foundation provides estate and gift planning services with the sole purpose of assisting you in using your resources to advance God's Kingdom. Our greatest desire is to support you in caring for the people and ministries you love, both during your lifetime and beyond.

The methods and strategies employed in estate and gift planning are as unique and creative as the people we serve, and range from very simple to more complex. Sometimes gifts are made during an individual's lifetime, while others mature once the individual has passed away. Gifts can even be designed to provide you or a loved one with an income stream. As needed, we may involve industry professionals such as attorneys, CPAs, financial planners and appraisers to ensure a gift is structured properly for both the donor and the recipient, while assuring that all tax benefits are maximized.

We firmly believe estate and gift planning can benefit everyone, whether you consider yourself poor or rich or somewhere in between. You may not think you have much, but by following God's lead with a willing heart, your gift may be just what a loved one or a ministry needs.

## WORKING THROUGH FMF FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR YOUR ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING NEEDS OFFERS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES:

1 - **Understanding your heart** - There are plenty of people and organizations to choose from when it comes to estate and gift planning. But not all of them will understand your Christian values as you plan to take care of the people and the ministries you love. The professionals at The Free Methodist Foundation always approach these topics from a Christian stewardship perspective.

2 - **Deciding which asset to give** - Cash always makes a great gift, but do you own another asset that might provide greater tax advantages? Our representatives can help you determine which asset (cash, stock, real property, etc.) would make a great gift for you and for ministry.

3 - **Determining the best giving method** - Are you trying to decide whether to give a gift now during your lifetime or wait until your death? Are you aware that some giving methods can provide you with a life income in return for your gift? We can help you look at all of the possibilities and decide which one is right for you in your unique circumstances.

4 - **Dividing your gift among multiple ministries** - You can write one check, or give one appreciated asset, and let us handle the distribution to multiple ministries (i.e. your local church, world missions, colleges/universities and human/social service ministries).

5 - **Giving anonymously** - There are many reasons to give anonymously. If you desire, we can protect your identity and deliver your gift to the intended recipient. As an extra bonus, you won't need to worry about clutter in your mailbox from additional appeals.

Our team of Christian professionals would consider it a privilege to walk beside you or your church on your personal journey of STEWARDSHIP WELL DONE. Contact us today at 800-325-8975 or visit us at [www.fmfoundation.org](http://www.fmfoundation.org).

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Leaving a Legacy of Stewardship Well Done



**Estate Planning** is the process of taking inventory of your assets and identifying the best way to convey each of those assets upon death in order to maximize your legacy and minimize taxes. It also involves planning for incapacity and designating who will care for your financial and health care needs during that time.

**Gift Planning** is the process of identifying those ministries that resonate with your heart and planning gifts during your lifetime and beyond to enable those ministries to serve long into the future. Identifying the best asset and giving method to maximize impact and reduce taxes is a key component of gift planning.

Estate Planning and Gift Planning are often combined into a single process that comprehensively takes inventory of your assets, identifies the people and organizations you love, and establishes a plan to provide for those people and ministries during your lifetime and beyond. In short, it is all about leaving a legacy of STEWARDSHIP WELL DONE.

## COMMON ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

**Last Will and Testament** - a signed and witnessed document prepared according to applicable law that describes how you want your property to be distributed through the probate process when you pass away. A will also names the person you want to be responsible for administering your estate (personal representative or executor). If you have minor children, a will can also name guardians.

**Revocable Living Trust (RLT)** - an agreement that functions much like a will to distribute gifts to people and organizations after your death, without being subject to the costs and public nature of the probate process. An RLT also provides management of your property during your lifetime, including times of incapacity. It involves more time and money to set up, but should be less work and less costly for your heirs to administrate following your death.

**General Durable Power of Attorney** - allows you to name a person or persons to take care of your finances under specified conditions and circumstances during your lifetime.

**Health Care Power of Attorney / Living Will** - allows you to choose who will make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so. It also gives you the opportunity to state under what circumstances you do/do not want heroic life sustaining measures to be taken.

*An estimated 50% of Americans have not done even the most basic estate planning documents. For those who have taken this step, many of their plans are outdated and do not reflect their current needs. Our representatives would love to meet with you to facilitate the process of getting these important documents in place!*

## COMMON GIFT PLANNING TOOLS

**Bequest** - a gift left to a person or organization following your death through your Will or Trust. A bequest is one of the simplest ways to take care of the people and ministries you love after you are gone.

**Gift of Appreciated Assets** - by gifting appreciated securities or real estate to a ministry you love, you can receive a charitable deduction while also avoiding capital gains taxes.

**Endowment** - a gift in which only a specified portion of the income is given to ministry annually in perpetuity. The corpus is invested with the goal of growing it to generate more income to be gifted each year.

**Charitable IRA Rollover Gift** - for qualified individuals, a portion of the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA can be gifted directly to ministry, thus reducing your taxable income.

**Charitable Remainder Trust** - an agreement that provides you with an income during your lifetime (and/or an agreed upon term of years) and gifts the remainder to ministry when the trust terminates. The income can be either a fixed dollar amount or a fixed percentage. You receive an immediate income tax deduction and can avoid capital gains taxes if you use appreciated assets to make the gift.

**Charitable Gift Annuity\*** - in return for your gift, you will receive a guaranteed fixed percentage of income annually for your lifetime. The gift provides an immediate income tax deduction and a portion of your payments may be tax free. Remaining funds of the annuity are gifted to ministry upon your death.

\*provided through a third party

*When asked, many people express the desire to contribute more to the ministries that have touched their hearts and lives. They just aren't sure how! Our representatives would love to meet with you to listen to your heart and creatively help you discover more ways to support the ministries that mean so much to you. You just might be surprised by the extraordinary gifts God can accomplish through your ordinary assets.*



*Stewardship*  
WELL DONE