Presbyterian FOUNDATION | Planned Giving Program Sample



# BEQUEST

**What is it?** A bequest is a generous gift after your lifetime made through your estate plan. It is a way that you can continue supporting ministry even after your lifetime.

Anyone can include a bequest in their estate plan, which is typically a will and/or a trust. This gift can be structured in different ways, although the most common are including simple instructions to gift a specific dollar amount or a specific percentage. For example, to give the church a specific amount your will might say, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath $_____ to (CHURCH NAME) at (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) to be used for its general use and purpose." A percentage gift to the church might say, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath ____% of my total estate, determined as of the date of my death, to (CHURCH NAME) at (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) for its general use and purpose."

With a bequest, the gift to the church only occurs after your passing. You retain full access to all of your assets during your life, should you need to use them for any reason. Wills and revocable trusts can be updated, changed, or replaced entirely should your circumstances change after the document is signed.

This gift type is common and often produces some of the most important gifts a church can receive. Most importantly, it will continue to tell the story of your hope in Christ.

## Check-list:

- ✓ **CONSULT AN ATTORNEY:** You need legal assistance when composing a new will or modifying an existing one to include a bequest to your church. If you don't have an attorney, other members of the congregation or the local bar association can be great sources for referrals.

- ✓ **INFORM THE CHURCH:** Although completely optional, you may want to share the basic details of your bequest intentions with the church. Advance knowledge of your gift can be of great help to the church and the church might even be able to help you avoid some common obstacles that can derail your generous gift.
- ✓ **INSPIRE:** Share news of your gift with loved ones. Tell of your faith and of the church in your life; invite loved ones and friends to consider how they can be a blessing to others through their own planed gift.

**Help:** We have resources for help and guidance. You are welcome to connect with us at the church or you may speak with a Ministry Relations Officer (MRO) from the Presbyterian Foundation to help guide you through this important giving process.

***The Presbyterian Foundation does not render legal, tax or professional advisory services. For advice and assistance in specific situations, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained. Additionally, the requirements of local law should be observed when examining testamentary arrangements.***

***This is a sample only, and does not constitute advice, legal or otherwise; The Presbyterian Foundation makes no representations that this sample document complies with the specific requirements of local law.***

# HELP FOR BEQUEST

I want to bless my church, its ministries and those who follow me with a gift through my estate.

## Contact:



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