



## Legacy Stewardship

### Wills and Bequests

## BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD!

*“For we brought nothing into this world,  
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”*

*1 Timothy 6:7-8*

### **Did you know that a Will is an essential part of Christian Stewardship?**

Planning for the end of life and the distribution of our things, including remembering our church in our Will, is an important part of being a faithful steward of all that God has entrusted to our care in our lifetime.

### **Are you aware of all that a Will can do for you?**

- Provide for loved ones by planning for the distribution of all we have.
- Allow us to select executors or personal representatives.
- Indicate our choice of a guardian for a minor child or a dependent adult.
- Make Bequests to support our church and other charities.
- Assist in estate tax planning.

### **If you have a Will, is it up to date?**

Since making your last Will, have you:

- Moved to another state?
- Sold or bought real estate?
- Celebrated the birth of a child or grandchild?
- Changed your marital status?
- Changed your mind about your executor/guardianship?
- Planned family financial and charitable gifts?
- Considered making a Bequest to your church?

If you answered “yes”, then consult with an attorney. Wills can be easily updated by codicil, which is an addition or amendment.

# Legacy Stewardship

## Wills and Bequests

### Bequests by a Will for your church can take several forms:

- An outright Bequest of money.
- A percentage of an estate.
- Some specific asset such as personal or real property.
- A trust created in a Will.
- A contingent beneficiary  
*(the church receives the Bequest if there are no surviving beneficiaries.)*

### Three sample Bequest paragraphs to be presented to an attorney:

#### A sample Bequest:

“I give, devise and Bequest (state the amount, asset or percentage of estate) to (legal name and street address of the church) to be used for mission and ministry.”

#### A sample contingency Bequest:

“If the above named persons (or beneficiaries) should predecease me, I hereby give, devise and bequeath the same unto (legal name and street address of the church) to be used for mission and ministry.”

#### A sample codicil for a Bequest:

“I, (name) hereby amend my last Will and Testament, executed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_. I direct all provisions of that Will remain in effect, but hereby direct that in addition (legal name and street address of church) shall receive (describe Bequest) to be used for mission and ministry.”

For more information about Legacy Giving,  
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