



How Can I Make a Legacy Gift?

The choice of an appropriate planned gift usually provides significant tax advantages to the donor. Some of the most common are:

Make a Bequest in Your Will.

Perhaps the easiest and most common way of making a planned gift is by a bequest in your will. You can designate specific amounts, a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset, and you can name one or more beneficiaries.

Make the Church a Beneficiary of Life Insurance.

If you own a policy that is “paid up” or no longer needed for liquidity in your estate, you might consider making your church the beneficiary. Or apply for a new policy, owned by the church with the premiums paid by you.

Make the Church a Beneficiary of Retirement Plans.

Designating your church as the beneficiary on deferred income tax retirement accounts (such as an IRA or 401(k)) is an attractive way to make a significant gift to the church, often with significant income and estate tax savings.

Make a Planned Gift that Provides Income.

Charitable gifts such as Charitable Gift Annuities or Pooled Income Funds provide income for life and afterwards provide a major gift to the Church. (These gifts are administered through the Episcopal Church Foundation.)



The Bishops’ Legacy Fellowship

In appreciation for making a planned gift, you’ll automatically become part of the Bishops’ Legacy Fellowship. This is one of the ways the ministry of legacy stewardship is spread to other church members. The Bishops’ Legacy Fellowship does not raise funds, but does encourage, support, and celebrate gifts made as part of an estate plan for the benefit of a parish church, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, or another Episcopal institution.

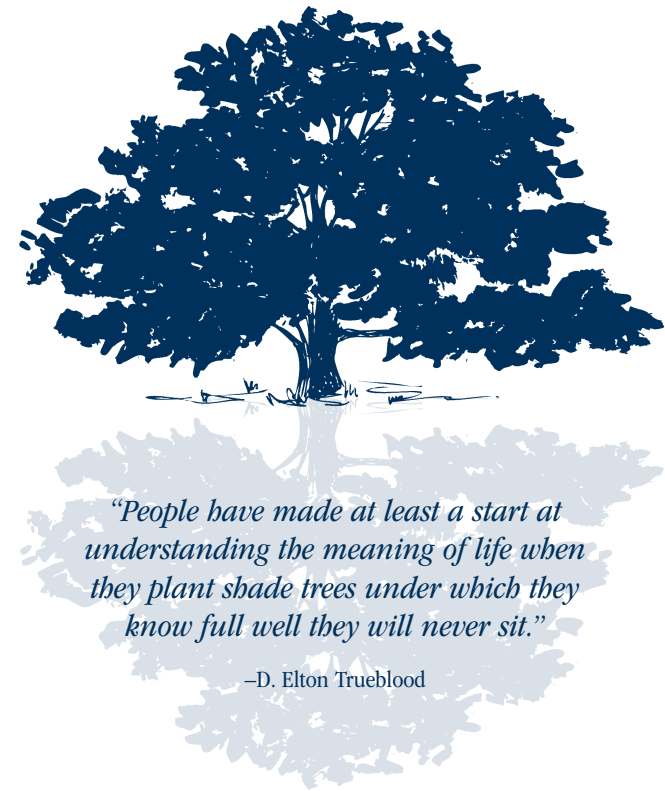
Next Steps

If you’re interested, here are your next steps:

- Speak with your priest about your interest in making a legacy gift.
- Consult with your attorney or financial planner.
- Consider contacting the Episcopal Church Foundation at 800-697-2858 or at its web site: www.episcopalfoundation.org.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
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“People have made at least a start at understanding the meaning of life when they plant shade trees under which they know full well they will never sit.”

–D. Elton Trueblood

LEGACY STEWARDSHIP

Supporting your congregation

Providing for family members

Enriching your spiritual life

Bishops’ Legacy Fellowship

The Episcopal Diocese of
Western Massachusetts



History and Traditions Are Important.

Maybe your parish church dates back centuries, and has lots of history and tradition attached to it. Or maybe it's only a few years, or a few decades, old, and it's seeking to establish its own unique history and traditions. Most likely, it's somewhere in between.

Perhaps your family has been associated with your parish for decades, and you've been a member of your parish since your baptism. Or perhaps you're a relative newcomer, attracted by the promise of a life with Christ and the prospect of rewarding relationships with other Christians.

In any case, your parish church has benefited in countless ways from the thoughtful generosity of those who have gone before you. Your predecessors, in their wisdom, have left their legacy to help continue their vision for the church. Income from invested funds may have helped expand your church's mission, strengthen the congregation, and maintain its buildings, thus preserving its history and traditions.

Now, you have the opportunity to do YOUR part.



What IS Legacy Stewardship, anyway?

More and more of us are becoming familiar with Legacy Stewardship in our charitable support of colleges and universities, museums, hospitals, symphony orchestras and other non-profit institutions.

In the case of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Legacy Stewardship is a term that refers to planned gifts you make to **your local parish church**, or to some other Episcopal ministry. These planned gifts reach their intended beneficiary from your estate, after your death. All gifts, regardless of size, are welcomed as a thanksgiving to God for all God has entrusted to us.

Usually, Legacy Stewardship involves financial or estate planning, but that doesn't mean it's only for the wealthy. It really includes a variety of ways in which you and all faithful people can look beyond this life and provide for the continuing financial support of your Christian community. In the words of D. Elton Trueblood, they have planted "shade trees under which they know they will never sit."



Who Benefits from Legacy Stewardship?

Legacy Stewardship is a generous, optimistic statement about the future. When you make a legacy gift, you're choosing to allocate a portion of the resources God has entrusted to you by making a thanks-offering -- just as you are when you make your annual pledge or your usual Sunday offering.

Legacy Stewardship benefits all concerned -- your church, of course, but also your family and loved ones, and your own spiritual life:

- Your planned gift supports your church with additional resources for future mission and ministry -- everything from outreach programs, to music, to memorials, to property maintenance, to special needs of the parish.
- Your gift also benefits your family and loved ones by providing more for heirs than would otherwise be possible.
- And your gift serves to enrich your own spiritual life in many wonderful ways. When we give from our generosity, we reflect the generosity of God.

Sometimes everyday financial obligations may limit what you feel you can give without jeopardizing your own security or that of your loved ones. The planned giving techniques described in this brochure have been developed specifically so that you may give while helping to assure your own personal financial security or even enhance it.