



Planned Giving The United Church of Canada

Wills and Bequests

Most members and friends of The United Church of Canada who arrange a planned gift do so by naming the church in their will.

Bequests are revocable. You have the use of your assets now and the satisfaction of knowing that you have left a gift to our church out of those accumulated assets.

Your estate may claim charitable donations in the year of death equal to 100 percent of your net income. Any excess charitable donations can be carried back to the previous tax year against 100 percent of net income. Bequest gifts of appreciated capital property such as stocks or real estate can create additional tax savings.

A *specific bequest* is a gift of a stated sum of money, a specific property such as real estate or securities, or a percentage of your estate. Donating a percentage of your estate keeps your gift in line with your assets as they change in value.

A *residual bequest* directs a portion or the balance of your estate to the church after all debts, taxes, administrative expenses, and specific bequests have been provided for.

A *contingent bequest* directs all or a portion of your estate to the church in the event of the prior death of other named beneficiaries.

A *residual bequest subject to life interest* directs that the church be the ultimate beneficiary of your estate after certain other beneficiaries have had use of the income from the estate for their lifetimes.

You may leave a bequest to different areas of your congregation and to the wider church. Such split designations may be used to benefit more than one area of the church's work that you care about. The opportunities are abundant and varied.

FAQs

Do I need a will?

Everyone needs a will, regardless of the size of their estate. If you do not have a will, your provincial government has a formula that will be applied for distributing your assets. The government will also appoint an executor and a guardian for your dependants. This situation can result in both an emotional and a financial burden for your family.

By making a will you make your own decisions. Your wishes are clear to your family and executors. A will reduces administrative time, expense and inconvenience.

When should I update my will?

Your will should change as your life changes. At the time of marriage, birth, or death, a significant increase or decrease in your assets, a divorce, or a change of residence from the province or the country you should update your will.

Review your will every three to five years. Sometimes you only need to add a codicil, which is a legal change or addition to the will.

Who should be my executor/ executrix?

Choose someone who can take on the responsibilities of settling your estate. Having more than one executor may be a good idea. Consider, also, someone from a younger generation.

Have I remembered the church in my will?

People leave a portion of their estate to the church in their wills for the same reasons they gave a portion of their earnings to the church while living. If you wish to remember the church, you must state this clearly in your will.

Where may I get help before I talk to my lawyer?

The United Church of Canada offers a complimentary Will Workbook to get you started. Your Regional Gift Planner can meet with you and your family to discuss your wishes.

Always consult a lawyer (or a notary in Quebec) to structure or update your will.

Sample Wording

- I leave \$____ to the ABC Congregation of The United Church of Canada (include address), or if such congregation does not exist at my death, to XYZ Congregation or to The United Church of Canada.
- I leave ____% of my estate to the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada.
- I leave the residual amount of my estate to The United Church of Canada.
- I leave \$____ to The United Church of Canada Foundation/ Fondation de l'Église Unie du Canada.

Benefits of Making a Bequest

- Your gift helps to ensure that our church will be there for future generations.
- You choose the area of our church that is to be supported by your gift.
- You make a statement of the values in your life.
- You have peace of mind that your wishes are clear.
- Your estate obtains a charitable donation receipt.

What Our Donors Say...

“With small children, a mortgage, and working expenses, it was difficult to think how we could offer the church more than our regular offering. A bequest made sense to us. It is a way we can make a statement about the things that are first in our lives.”

—Carolyn and Blaine Woodall, Viking, Alberta

“I have included The United Church of Canada in my will to honour the commitment of my parents. I feel strongly that we must share our good fortune—in life and in perpetuity.”

—Lorri Apps, Winnipeg, Manitoba

If you would like a copy of our *Will Workbook* or further information on making a bequest, please contact your Regional Gift Planner whose card appears in this folder or call The United Church of Canada at telephone: 1-800-465-3771, ext. 2027; e-mail: giving@united-church.ca

See the United Church website at:
www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto/planned
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