



TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

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Timeless
TIMELESS

Wills Program



TIMELESS GIVING
WILLS PROGRAM

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An Important Ministry to Your Congregation

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AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY TO YOUR CONGREGATION

WHO NEEDS THE TIMELESS GIVING WILLS PROGRAM?

Every church, regardless of size or annual budget, can benefit from establishing a Timeless Giving Wills Program. This program helps congregations:

- Explore the idea of a new planned giving program
- Promote a new or established Permanent Endowment Fund
- Highlight the work of members already adept at inspiring planned gifts
- Expand Christian stewardship to positively impact future ministry

Regardless of where your church happens to be on its stewardship path, your members will appreciate the practical and spiritual guidance and motivation offered by this program.

Research confirms that churches with such programs consistently garner more and larger bequests in addition to enhanced overall giving. Having a wills emphasis program sets the stage for many manifestations of giving that will impact the vitality of your church in years to come.

WHY IS THIS MINISTRY SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR CHURCH?

The Book of Discipline instructs each United Methodist church to “emphasize the need for adults of all ages to have a will and an estate plan and provide information on the preparation of these to the members of the congregation.”

Practically, the Timeless Giving Wills Program helps your church address the critical need for estate planning resources by providing educational and promotional materials, sermon suggestions and proven ideas for developing a program that clearly communicates information every adult church member should know. Spiritually, a wills emphasis program can lead to reflection and discernment for your congregation on how a legacy of giving can answer God’s call to continue to love our neighbors as ourselves.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

The Timeless Giving Wills Program provides churches a plan for promoting planned giving through bequests while avoiding the “one size fits all” approach. All congregations, whether large or small, can refine the elements of the program to fit the stewardship culture of their church and the educational requirements of members. In addition, you can tailor your wills emphasis efforts to best utilize the time and resources available to your congregation.

The Timeless Giving Wills Program also features resources for identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and thanking bequest donors. Along with the guidance and presentations available through the Texas Methodist Foundation development officer working in your annual conference, you will have access to a number of useful tools to encourage your members to make a bequest honoring their church.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

- Getting started is easy using this customizable approach to planned giving education. The Timeless Giving Wills Program includes:
- A step-by-step action plan to assist in determining your congregation’s needs regarding bequest education and guidance
- Tools to help church leaders determine program elements appropriate for your congregation and decide how to implement them into a straightforward and productive process
- Two-year flexible timelines to assist in scheduling communications and events that generate excitement and maintain momentum
- Program materials designed to deepen stewardship understanding including scripture references, suggested sermons and other resources to encourage an ongoing discernment of Christian philanthropy
- Microsoft Word documents, easily customizable for your congregation, including brochures, bulletin inserts, flyers and posters to help you inform members of this special opportunity to support the ministry of your church
- A cd-rom containing all materials used in the program
- A password-protected web site with access to all program materials, as well as new materials added as needed

HOW DO WE LEARN MORE?

To schedule an appointment to learn more about how the Timeless Giving Wills Program can have a enduring impact on the ministry of your church, contact **Darrell Loyless, Vice President of Advancement**, at [800/933-5502](tel:8009335502) or dloyless@tmf-



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