



TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION
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TIMELESS GIVING WILLS PROGRAM

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An Important Ministry to Your Congregation

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WHO NEEDS THE TIMELESS GIVING WILLS PROGRAM?

Regardless of where your church happens to be on its stewardship path, your members can benefit from the *Timeless Giving Wills Program*. Whether you are just exploring a planned giving program, have begun promoting a permanent endowment fund, or have members already adept at inspiring planned gifts, your congregation will appreciate the guidance and motivation offered by this important ministry. Having a will's emphasis program sets the stage for many manifestations of giving. Research confirms that churches with such programs consistently benefit from more and larger bequests and enhanced overall giving.

WHY IS THIS MINISTRY SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR CHURCH?

The Book of Discipline instructs all United Methodist churches 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 speaking, the *Timeless Giving Wills Program* helps your church address the critical need for estate planning education in a way that clearly communicates timely information every adult member needs to know. The result is church members who are comfortable making estate planning decisions that will ultimately help fund the ongoing ministry of your church.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

The *Timeless Giving Wills Program* provides churches a unique 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 other words, this program allows you to tailor your wills emphasis efforts to best utilize the time and resources available to your congregation.

The *Timeless Giving Wills Program* also offers features and materials to identify, cultivate, solicit, and thank bequest donors. Along with the guidance and educational presentations available through the Texas Methodist Foundation development officer working in your annual conference, you will be provided with other tools useful in encouraging your members to make a bequest honoring their church.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

Getting started is easy with a step-by-step action plan to assist in determining your congregation's needs with regard to bequest education and guidance. Your church's leaders determine the elements of the program appropriate for your congregation and decide how to implement them with tools provided to make the process straightforward and productive. Flexible timelines covering two years assist in setting a schedule of communications and events to keep your wills emphasis efforts on course.

Designed to deepen stewardship understanding, program materials also include scripture references, sermon resources and other materials encouraging an ongoing discernment of Christian philanthropy. Additional materials, customizable for your congregation, include brochures, bulletin inserts, flyers and posters to help you inform members of this special opportunity to support the ministry of your church.



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