



Gift Planning

*Using the Gifts of God
to build up the People of God*

What is Gift Planning?

It is more blessed to give than receive. Acts 20:35

A planned gift is a gift deferred—a way of expressing your wishes *now* about how your resources are to be used *later*. A planned gift is a commitment made to protect those you love—and an opportunity to benefit the Church for generations to come.

Gift Planning is not separate from Christian stewardship, but is rather an important part of it. Planned giving offers ways—over and above our regular support of the church's on-going work—to share God's gifts with others, and to grow spiritually as we live out our vocations and ministries within the mission of the church.

Ways to Give

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

There are many varieties of planned gifts. A gift plan that works for one individual or family may not work for another, because the make-up of estates or accumulated assets is as different as the households themselves. The good news is that federal tax law provides the means for donors to direct the taxable portion of their estates to benefit the community and the Church.

Some gift planning vehicles will benefit the Church now, giving an immediate tax credit. Others will benefit the Church later, with a tax credit accruing to the donor's estate.

Some of the more important gift planning vehicles:

Bequest in your will

A gift made in your will—the most common form of deferred gift—provides tax relief to your estate, while ensuring that your commitment to the life of the church lasts beyond your lifetime. Care should be taken to ensure that the form and purpose of your gift is clear. A Gift Planning Officer can advise on the wording of a bequest. A lawyer's services are recommended for the making of a will.

Life Insurance

Life Insurance often allows you to make a larger gift than you might otherwise be able to make. You can assign a paid-up policy for which you have no further need, or obtain a new policy, naming the church as beneficiary.

By assigning ownership to the church, you receive tax credit for the cash surrender value and all future premiums.

Naming the church as your beneficiary will give tax benefits to your estate.

Gift Annuity

Gift and "Gift Plus" Annuities are available through the General Synod. They provide guaranteed income during your lifetime and a gift of money to the church at your death. In the case of "Gift Plus" Annuities, this gift is immediate. A portion of the annual income will be tax-free, depending on your situation at the time of the gift.

Annuities are especially attractive to people of retirement age and older.

Trusts and Gifts of Residual Interest

Individuals with substantial assets may wish to donate a portion of them to the church, while retaining use during their lifetimes. Besides cash and investment holdings, these assets may include property such as real estate or art.

Gift arrangements of this type require very careful planning, with professional assistance.

Gift of Appreciated Securities

People who have made significant capital gains from investments are often faced with large tax burdens when they sell them. By donating securities to the church, your charitable objectives can be addressed and your tax burden reduced.

Recent changes in tax law have made this type of gift very attractive to donors.

Christian Stewardship and Spiritual Growth

God has abundantly blessed every one of us. Our calling as God's people is to use God's gifts for the building up of people and for the benefit of God's world.

Planned gifts are an important way to share our gifts, helping to ensure the future of our church and its mission.

There are many new and creative ways to give, providing opportunity for everyone to leave a legacy through a planned gift. Tax law provides additional incentives for such giving.

Whether you choose to make a planned gift now or later, we encourage you to learn more about planned giving. By returning to God what is God's and contributing to God's work in the world, we grow spiritually while helping others.

Planned gifts can be directed to support programs in your parish, in the diocese or in the national church. Or you can direct your gift where you see a specific need at any of these three levels.

A planned gift to your Parish and/or Diocese could serve any of a number of purposes. You could choose to direct your gift to support programs such as:

Youth Ministry
Children's & Youth Camps
Christian Education
University Chaplaincy
Outreach Ministry
Social Justice
Evangelism
Clergy Education
Church Planting
Facility Expansions

Will my gift be used as I intend?

Your gift must be used as you wish. However, donor's intentions and the church's needs do not always agree. To ensure that the church will be able to honour your wishes, please discuss your plans with your Rector, the Diocesan Gift Planning Consultant, Stewardship Officer or your Parish Planned Giving Lay Representative.

To learn more about Gift Planning . . .

Consider attending a Wills Workshop or a Gift/Financial planning seminar in your parish or another parish. For more information, please contact the Regional Gift Planning Consultant for the Anglican Church of Canada.

Are You Intrigued?

Please request more information from. . .

Mr. Kevin Smith
Regional Gift Planning Consultant
Anglican Church of Canada
19 King's Bridge Road
St. John's, NL A1C 3K4
(709) 739-5667
Email: k_smith@nf.sympatico.ca