

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANNED GIVING

NO ACT OF KINDNESS, HOWEVER SMALL,
IS EVER WASTED.

—Aesop

What is planned giving, anyway?

Planned giving, gift planning, legacy stewardship. These are terms you've probably heard from different charitable organizations. They are some of the names given to charitable giving made from a person's assets rather than their income, the ultimate purpose of which is to support the work of a charity beyond the death of the donor. In other words, gift planning is a bequest left to your church or another non-profit organization in your will, or a life-income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity.

I give to the Pledge and Plate every year. Isn't that enough?

Many parishes have budgets that stay relatively stable from year to year. Very little "extra" is available to grow existing ministries, to create new ministries or to provide for other needs within the parish. The plate and annual pledge are usually sufficient to fund a parish's basic costs but are not adequate to expand ministry programming or make any significant property repairs or upgrades.

A gift planning program helps your parish build an endowment, a permanent fund that is a resource for ministry and the good works of your church, supplements the operating budget and allows all parishioners the opportunity to make a real difference in the world. Additionally, most people pay their annual pledge from their current income. However, planned gifts are funded from

accumulated assets. That means that when you decide to make a planned gift to your church, it should not impact your own personal budget. In fact, there are several types of life-income gifts that can actually supplement your income for the rest of your life.

Why hasn't anyone talked about Planned Giving before?

Planned Giving is fairly specialized compared to Annual Giving. Many parishes simply do not have the experts on hand to effectively teach parishioners about the different types of planned gifts available and help them choose which would work best for them. Colleges, universities and national charities have full-time staff to do the job, but your parish may prefer to use its limited resources for ministry, not fundraising.

Where do we go from here?

The Episcopal Church Foundation has been working around the country for years helping Episcopalians establish their planned gifts for their own local churches. The Foundation's goal is to serve as your parish's development office. Its mission is to help Episcopalians support the work of their own parish. To learn how you might benefit from your own planned gift, consult the Foundation's website (www.episcopal.foundation.org) or call 800-697-2858. There are local representatives available to talk about the variety of options you have.