MYERS PARK
COVENANT
CHURCH

Planned Giving is Important … and Simple

"What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." This line from the acclaimed musical, Hamilton, is poignant - but not entirely accurate. As you consider your own legacy at our church, you can see the garden. You can see the good things we do for people's lives, not only in our church, but in the community. Your planned gift to the church will help ensure that our garden will continue to grow and thrive.

How does one make a planned gift to the church? Here are the five most popular methods:

1. Gift included in your Will
2. Church named as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
3. Church named as a beneficiary of an IRA or investment account
4. Charitable trust
5. Real property (house, land, etc.)

Technically, there are also many other ways depending on your objectives and personal financial situation. A financial advisor can help, but the best way to get started is to call our Chief Operating Officer, Tripp Caldwell.

There are many financial advantages to a planned gift, depending on the type of gift and amount. We can't cover them all here; instead, let's address the common roadblocks people often face when deciding to make a planned gift.

Roadblock #1: I need to take care of my family. Of course, family comes first; but if your assets allow, giving to the church not only helps the church but reinforces to your survivors the importance of charitable giving and the Christian value of sharing of one's resources. A common method of taking care of the family first is to designate that initially a certain dollar amount will go to your survivors, then next, a specified dollar amount will go to the church, and anything above that goes to the survivors. This ensures your heirs get the minimum amount they need before the church receives anything.

Roadblock #2: I'm too young to think about it. Every adult regardless of age should have a Will; and if you already have one, it's easy to include the church in it. Also, naming the church endowment as a beneficiary of a group or low-cost term life insurance policy is easy, cost efficient and can readily be changed.

Roadblock #3: My gift would be too small to matter. Not true! All gifts matter regardless of size. When you make a planned gift of any amount and notify the church, your name is added to the list of Friends of the Covenant. Having your name on this list will encourage others to give, thereby leveraging your gift.

Roadblock #4: My future is too uncertain to make a long-term gift to the church. Many of our members work for employers who may transfer them to another location someday. Others are concerned they may be called upon to support family members in declining health. Everyone's life is potentially full of these types of uncertainties; but most planned gifts are as easy to undo as they are to put together. Please do not let these types of uncertainties, which we all face, deter you from making a planned gift to the church.

Roadblock #5: I want to focus my giving on the annual stewardship campaign. Thank you! This is important; but keep in mind that making a planned gift will not reduce your ability to contribute to our annual operating fund. Most planned gifts are made from one's estate and don't involve reducing one's income or assets during one's lifetime. Both types of giving are important to the ongoing health of the church.

Here at our church, we have Friends of the Covenant - families and individuals who have made arrangements for a planned gift to the church. We want you to be a Friend of the Covenant too! Your participation is important to the future of the church and easy to do. **Take the first step today by contacting Tripp Caldwell at 704.743.4998 or tcaldwell@cornwellcenter.org.**

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Planned Giving Acknowledgment

I, _____,

on this _____ day of _____, 20_____,

commit to naming Myers Park Covenant Church
as a beneficiary in my will or other estate plans.

I have made the following provisions. While inclusion of this information is optional, it will help our church to plan for the future.

Type of Gift: _____

Estimated Amount: _____

Myers Park Covenant Church **may / may not** *(please circle)* include my name among their **FRIENDS OF THE COVENANT** members. The purpose of this listing is for recognition and inspiration to others.

PLEASE LIST MY NAME EXACTLY AS FOLLOWS *(please print)*

_____

MAILING ADDRESS

_____

_____

ESTATE ATTORNEY *(name, firm, contact information)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Donor Signature *Date*

_____

Myers Park Covenant Church Representative *Date*