Leaving a legacy to your church: Talking about bequests

Lori Guenther Reesor
January 23, 2019
About Lori

• B. Math (Statistics)
• Master of Theological Studies
• D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary, 2014
• Blog and research posted at www.lgresor.com
About Lori

- Stewardship consultant
- speaker
- writer
- theologian
- poet
- donor
- board member
- former pastor
- wife, mom
Please type in your questions

Moderator will read them out on your behalf.

We’ll also take question breaks during the presentation and again at the end.
“Remember the church in your will”

Six words for every bulletin
Four stories

• Why have a will?
• Why have a will?
• “We had so much fun giving that money away...”
• A celebration of generosity - bequest recognition event
“Go ask your parents...” a cautionary tale
• Why have a will? I have no kids...
• “We had so much fun giving that money away...”
• A celebration of generosity - bequest recognition event
• Celebrating generosity is one of the best stewardship sermons going!
Please type in your questions

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Do you yourself have a will in place?
Do people know that they can leave a bequest to your church?

Do they know what a bequest is?
Do people know that they can leave a bequest to your church?

Ask someone from PCC to come do a planned giving workshop at your church.
Does your church have a bequest policy?
Do you celebrate bequests and memorial gifts every year?
Do you nurture generosity in all of life, including legacy giving?
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Wouldn’t it be great if there was legacy giving materials for people in my congregation?

A series of colourful bulletin inserts and one-page handouts to explain what leaving a legacy to your church means...
Legacy in Your Will

A charitable bequest is a direction in your will that leaves one or more of the assets in your estate to a charity. A gift in your will is a meaningful way to support your congregation or The Presbyterian Church in Canada, while providing your estate with significant tax savings.

Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity is one of the best investments and most impactful gifts you can make. If you are 60 years of age or older, The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s gift annuities allow you to give a significant gift to your congregation or a PCC ministry that is important to you and receive a tax receipt and guaranteed income for life, at a fixed rate.

Life Insurance

A gift of Life Insurance is an easy way to leave a significant gift to a ministry that you care deeply about, for a relatively small financial outlay. It can be a creative way to make a meaningful gift that you didn’t think was possible, through either a new or existing policy.
By naming your congregation or The Presbyterian Church in Canada as the beneficiary of your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) or life insurance policy, you can provide a substantial future gift to a ministry important to you, while reducing the taxes payable by your estate.

When you transfer publicly traded securities – shares, bonds, or mutual funds – to a registered charity, you will not pay tax on the capital gain. Because you also qualify for a charitable tax receipt based on the asset's fair market value, the net cost of a gift of securities may be less than a gift of an equivalent amount of cash. This is a great way to make a gift to your congregation or The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
Bookmark, email, Google Keep, write on paper

- [https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/resources/](https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/resources/)
- Setting up legacy funds and endowments – a detailed guide

- Bulletin inserts and one-page information sheets on
  - Legacy Gift in your will
  - Gifts of Securities
  - Gifts of Life Insurance
  - Charitable Gift Annuity
  - Life Beneficiary gifts

Plus information sheets on:
gifts of cash, charitable remainder trusts and donor advised funds.
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A charitable bequest is a direction in your will that leaves one or more of the assets in your estate to a charity. A gift in your will is a meaningful way to support your congregation or The Presbyterian Church in Canada, while providing your estate with significant tax savings.
How to make a bequest

You can use the following assets to fund a gift through your will.

- Cash
- Appreciated Securities
- Tangible Personal Property

A gift can be for a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate (made after your debts have been paid and other legacies given). Simply instruct your lawyer to include a gift to your congregation, The Presbyterian Church in Canada or other charity. This can be done when first drafting your will or by adding a codicil to an existing will. (The codicil must fit the overall plan of the will.) Wills can be changed at any time. To have the greatest impact and accommodate changing ministry needs, gifts should be unrestricted or as broad as possible. Sample language is available from the Stewardship & Planned Giving office.
Example
When Grace and George married, they decided to make a will to distribute their assets when they died. They loved their congregation and made a gift of $50,000. As their family grew, they decided they needed to ensure their children’s financial security and changed their will so the gift became a percentage of their estate, rather than a specific amount. Grace and George love knowing that their estate will provide for the people and church they love.

It costs less than you think.
Your death can trigger the sale of many assets – appreciated securities, vacation properties, RRSPs, businesses – that may mean your final net income and subsequent taxes are significant. The receipt from a bequest can reduce the taxes owing from your estate. If your bequest exceeds 100% of your net income, the excess may be carried back to the previous tax year or forward as part of a Graduated Rate Estate plan. Gifts of securities left directly to a charity will also avoid capital gains taxes.
Benefits

- Support transformational ministry far into the future
- Make a gift of any size and your present income will not decrease
- Make changes at any time
- Reduce the taxes on your final tax returns

Please seek professional advice to tailor legacy gifts to your circumstances.

For further information, please contact:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Stewardship & Planned Giving
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
plannedgiving@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/waystogive
Charitable Registration No. 10785 6619 RT0001
Please type in your questions

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Publicly Traded Securities

Gifts with Impact

When you transfer publicly traded securities – shares, bonds, or mutual funds – to a registered charity, you will not pay tax on the capital gain. Because you also qualify for a charitable tax receipt based on the asset’s fair market value, the net cost of a gift of securities may be less than a gift of an equivalent amount of cash. This is a great way to make a gift to your congregation or The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
How to donate securities to your church

The Presbyterian Church in Canada will receive gifts of securities for any of its ministries – *Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D, Gifts of Change* – or for any congregation in the PCC. At your direction, your broker electronically transfers your securities to the PCC’s brokerage. You receive a charitable tax receipt based on the fair market value of the stock on the day it was donated. The stock is sold soon after the PCC receives the transfer and the proceeds (reflecting any change in value from gift date and minus the broker fees) go to the PCC congregation, program, or ministry.

You may also wish to consider donating listed securities in your will. Because capital gains will not be taxed, your estate may realize considerable tax savings.

Download a transfer form from: presbyterian.ca/waystogive or ask us to send you one. Give one copy to your broker to complete the transfer and send one copy to the PCC to ensure the gift goes where intended.
### Example

Alan wishes to make a gift of $50,000 to support *Presbyterians Sharing*. See the difference in taxes paid if he sells the shares and then donates the proceeds, versus donating the shares directly to the church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sells Shares, Donates Proceeds</th>
<th>Donates Shares to the Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Value of the shares &amp; Donation Receipt</strong></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Original purchase price of shares</strong></td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Capital gain</strong></td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Taxable gain (line 4 x 50%)</strong></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Donation tax credit (calculated at 46%)</strong></td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Tax on capital gain (line 5 x 46%)</strong></td>
<td>$6,900</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Net tax savings (line 5 – line 6)</strong></td>
<td>$16,100</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Cost to make gift (line 1 – line 7)</strong></td>
<td>$33,900</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
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</table>
Ms. Smith wants to gift 1000 shares of ABC stock to her congregation with a market value of $50 a share; she bought them at a cost of $20 a share (they’ve appreciated by $30 per share). Should she sell and donate the shares or donate directly?

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<td>4. <strong>Taxable gain</strong> (line 3 x 50%)</td>
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<td>5. Donation receipt</td>
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| 7. **Tax on capital gain**  
   (4 x 46%) | **$6,900** | **$0** |
| 8. Net tax savings  
   (line 6 – line 7) | $16,100 | $23,000 |
| 9. **Cost to make the gift**  
   (line 1-line 8) | **$33,900** | **$27,000** |
Benefits

- Know you are supporting transformational ministry
- Give in a cost-effective way, with significant tax savings
- Leave a legacy during your life-time or through your estate

Please seek professional advice to tailor legacy gifts to your circumstances.

For further information, please contact:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Stewardship & Planned Giving
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
plannedgiving@presbyterian.ca
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- [https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/resources/](https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/resources/)
- And last but not least

- **Legacy Giving Sunday materials for 2018.** Readings, stories from other PCC congregations, children’s time, liturgy, sermon – it’s all here.

- N.B. Worship resources do *not* have a “best by” date and can be used anytime 😊
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Contact us

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• Lori Guenther Reesor on LinkedIn
• lori@lgreesor.com
• lgreesor.com includes my blog, writing, thesis etc.
• @lgreesor on Twitter

Karen Plater, Jim MacDonald
• The Presbyterian Church in Canada
• kplater@Presbyterian.ca  phone: 1-800-619-7301 ext 272
Thank you!