

Our Mission

The United Methodist Foundation is a ministry of the Church for the church whose mission is to build the church for generations to come.

We fulfill this mission by investing in people, churches and related institutions, and innovation.

We envision a church where people live out their faith through the wise use of their God-given resources.



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Year-End Giving Opportunities

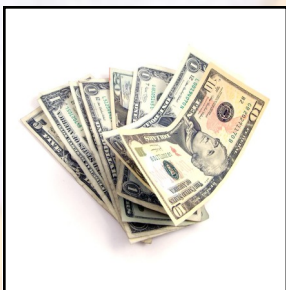
Advent is a time to prepare our heart for the coming birth of Christ. It is a time of expectation and self examination of the stewardship of our time, talent and treasure. As we celebrate Advent, Christmas and Epiphany this year, consider how you can give back to the One who gave so much for you.

This brochure is produced by the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. and is to be used to promote year-end giving to benefit churches and related institutions. The Foundation does not engage in rendering legal or tax advisory services. Please consult your professional advisor(s) as it pertains to your individual situation.

Year-End Giving Opportunities

How Might You Give?

Sometimes gifts at year-end are lump sum contributions to complete a pledge or long-term commitment. Other gifts are over and above your regular contributions which help the church expand its mission and ministry. And, at times, it may be a way to honor a loved one or the memory of one who has moved to the church triumphant. Whatever the case may be, year-end is a wonderful time to give thanks and celebrate what God has done in our lives and the lives of those we love.



GIFTS OF CASH: This is the simplest and most flexible way to make a gift. Many have found great joy in giving to the church if they receive a year-end bonus.

In an effort to receive tax credit in the year of the gift, make certain you use an offering envelope, include your full name and address, and make certain the gift is received by December 31. NOTE: Checks dated in one year and RECEIVED in the following year will be eligible for tax credit in the year it was received.

GIFTS OF INSURANCE: Do you have a policy you no longer need? Naming the church as owner and/or beneficiary of the policy provides an easy way to make a gift and to receive a current income tax deduction. Policies that make good gifts include those for which their primary purpose no longer exists; i.e., protection of grown children's college funding, mortgage insurance for a paid-up mortgage or other "obsolete" policies. Any future payments you make on a donated policy will also be tax deductible.



LIFE INCOME GIFTS & ESTATE PLANNING:

The *Charitable Gift Annuity* and *Charitable Remainder Trust* are two life income gifts that provide not only an income stream, but also a charitable tax deduction for the donor. If these gifts are funded with appreciated securities, capital gains taxes are avoided.

Naming the church or related ministry as a beneficiary in your *will* or *living trust* is another way to support the ministry you love at year end. Leaving a legacy in this way makes a statement as to your faith and sets an example for others to follow. If you already have a will yet have failed to name

the church as a beneficiary, a simple codicil is all that is required.



GIFTS OF STOCK: Consider a gift of stock that may have substantially increased in value and that you have held for more than one year. By gifting the stock directly to the church, you will receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value on the date of the gift, and you will avoid any federal capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on the sale of that stock. However, if you own stock that is worth less now than when you purchased it, you may be better off to sell the stock first, take the capital loss on your tax return, then contribute the proceeds. The combined amount of the deductible loss and the charitable deduction may total more than the current value of the stock.

The United Methodist Foundation offers electronic *stock liquidation services*, free of charge, to all United Methodist ministries in western North Carolina. Call our office to see how easy this transaction can be. Plan early! Gifts of securities can take several days to process.



GIFTS FROM A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT: If you are over the age of 59 ^{1/2} and have an IRA or other tax-favored retirement account, you may prefer to withdraw an amount sufficient to fund your charitable gifts for the year. Although you will normally report the income on your tax return when you itemize your deductions, you are entitled to a corresponding deduction for the amount of the gift. This can result in a "wash" for tax purposes, with no tax owed on the amount withdrawn. Check with your tax advisor to see if this would be a beneficial way for you to make a gift this year. You can also designate your church as a beneficiary of a retirement account.

