



PLANNED GIVING

A strong, prospering church requires good leadership, an engaged congregation, and a solid financial footing to carry out its mission.

While regular financial support is vital to sustain programming in the short-term, “planned” gifts are necessary to ensure a stable financial foundation for the long-term. Making plans now benefits not only our *current* congregation, but future members of the United Church of Christ in Norwell and allows our church to remain a Christ-centered, inclusive community for many decades to come.

The key is planning. Even if you are just beginning to think about long-term donations (no matter what size) it is vital that the planning process begin now. Acting while you are thinking about it, not delaying until some later date, will ensure any future gift is thoughtfully and carefully planned.

While donations without restrictions are the most flexible for the church, other types of gifts to benefit a certain ministry or other purpose will also be considered.

The first step is easy: contact a member of the Finance Committee or our Church Treasurer, John Dawson, to discuss the various forms that Planned Giving can take. The following are some examples of various financial options and their associated benefits.

LONG-TERM PLANNED GIVING (*gifts that are realized after passing*)

“LEGACY” GIFT/BEQUEST: A “legacy” gift or bequest is one that is made during your lifetime, but benefits UCC Norwell after your passing. A bequest is easy to do—simply add a line to your will (tailoring your estate plan to your personal financial and tax circumstances). Your generosity (no matter what the size of the gift) is tremendously welcome, and your gift will make a difference in the future life of the church and its ability to serve the congregation and the world beyond.

RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS: Retirement plan assets can sometimes be the most heavily-taxed assets in one’s estate. Naming UCC Norwell (or any charitable organization) as the beneficiary of these assets can help avoid that tax liability. You may also designate UCC Norwell as a “percentage beneficiary” or “contingent beneficiary” of a retirement plan.

BANK/INVESTMENT ACCOUNT: Financial accounts can be an uncomplicated and inexpensive way to give a special gift to UCC Norwell. Your financial advisor can help set up the process to make UCC Norwell a beneficiary of a particular investment or bank account.

SHORT-TERM PLANNED GIVING (*gifts that are realized during your lifetime*)

In addition to the types of special long-term gifts, there are also short-term gift options that are popular alternatives to conventional cash donations:

APPRECIATED SECURITIES: A gift of appreciated common stock or mutual fund shares can reduce potential capital gains tax burdens, while benefitting UCC Norwell enormously. It may be beneficial to make such gifts through a Charitable Gift Fund that can be opened through numerous financial institutions.

CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER: If you are over 72, you can make donations of up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions (RMDs). As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into a higher tax bracket and prevent phaseout of other tax deductions.

REAL ESTATE: When you give appreciated property that you have held longer than one year, you qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction that eliminates capital gains tax. Another benefit is you will no longer have to manage that property's maintenance costs, property taxes, or insurance.

OTHER GIFT METHODS:

There are many other Planned Giving tools that your financial advisor could help you choose so you and your family could make a special and rewarding gift that would ensure the future of UCC Norwell. Some examples are the following:

- Life insurance policies naming UCC Norwell as the beneficiary
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Trusts

When considering any Planned Giving or special gifts, it is important that you have your own financial advisor or lawyer review your wishes to make sure your planning is prudent and legal. While we welcome and encourage you to begin the process of Planned Giving now, we also want to make sure that it is the right financial decision for you and your family and that the process is done correctly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and thank you, in advance, for considering a Planned Gift to the United Church of Christ in Norwell.

For more information on Planned Giving, please call Church Treasurer John Dawson at 617-645-3135 or email him at john.dawson@ashurstbeacon.com. You may also contact the church office, Leanne, or Ashley and they can help make the connection.