

*Old Presbyterian Meeting House*

# *Leaving a Living Legacy*

PLANNED GIVING AT THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE

The Meeting House legacy started in 1760 when Alexandria's Presbyterians began worshipping in Assembly Hall on Market Square in Alexandria. In 1775 the original Meeting House was constructed. Today, many generations later, members of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House congregation continue to build on the legacies of the past to make the Meeting House the wonderful gift it is today: a vibrant church family making a difference in worship, teaching, ministry and mission – in our congregation, our community, and the world.

Every member of the Meeting House congregation is encouraged to consider a planned gift that will provide for the church's ministry and missions for generations to

come. The gift of such a living legacy can have a large impact; in many cases, it can be the donor's single largest gift to the church.

Planned gifts can be large or small, and can be made by making a simple provision in a will or in numerous other ways. Such stewardship is the way we respond thankfully to God for our diverse and many resources - sharing our wealth, both spiritual and material, is one of the cornerstone principles of our Presbyterian heritage.

The Meeting House has made a difference to you. Now, create a legacy that ensures the Meeting House will continue to make a difference in the lives of people for generations to come.



## What is a Planned Gift?

A planned gift is a form of charitable giving that is made in the context of your estate planning. Planned gifts take many forms.

While the objective of a planned gift is to provide enduring support to the Meeting House, it also offers possible tax benefits in the form of income and estate tax deductions. Some forms also offer a continuing source of income to you and your spouse (or others).

And your legacy gift can be focused in the area that is most important to you - nurturing the young, ministering to those in need, enhancing the church and its programs, or sharing our spiritual and material resources with the less fortunate in our community and our world.

## Who Can You Talk To

Our Senior Pastor is deeply engaged in the Legacy Program and would be pleased to meet with you as you begin your deliberations concerning a planned gift to the church. The Church Business Administrator can assist you in reviewing the various planned giving options. Another source of assistance is a representative of the Presbyterian Foundation who works with the Meeting House and who specializes in Planned Giving.

## Advantages of planned gifts

### For the donor:

- The satisfaction of knowing that you are securing the future of the Meeting House and its missions for generations to come.
- It need not diminish current income or assets.
- Potential tax advantages for you and heirs.
- Participation in the Legacy Circle.
- Creation of a legacy which perpetuates values - a planned gift to the Meeting House is an ongoing testimony to your family and friends of your values and commitment, and a personal expression of faith and support.

### For the Old Presbyterian Meeting House:

- It creates a much-needed endowment to support the many needs of this historic church and its missions.
- The growing endowment provides financial stability for the future of the Meeting House.
- Each commitment to the future is a building block toward a stronger church family and community today.





## The Legacy Funds

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House has established four funds into which planned gifts can be directed.

### General Legacy Fund

This provides funds for the overall mission of the church, both now and well into the future. We encourage you first to consider a gift to the General Legacy Fund because this will permit the church to direct the funds to areas with the greatest need at the time your gift is given or matures. We endeavor to use the General Legacy Fund toward areas of lasting impact inside and outside the church walls.

### Church Missions Legacy Fund

Provides funding for local, national and global mission programs and projects, including but not limited to, feeding the hungry, housing for the needy, promoting peace in the world, and other causes as may be designated by the Session.

### Worship, Education, and Special Programs Legacy Fund

For guest ministers, guest choirs, and soloists, and other types of programs to enhance the worship services of the

church; for guest lectures, and other types of programs for the Christian education programs of the Church; for scholarships for students studying in colleges, universities, seminaries and similar institutions; and other such initiatives designated by the Session.

### Building and Grounds Legacy Fund

Provides funds for capital improvements to church grounds and buildings, and for major maintenance needs of the physical facilities of the church as determined by the Session.

*“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that ... you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

*2 Corinthians, Chapter 9*

# How to Make a Gift

## Retirements Accounts and Life Insurance Policies

One of the **easiest** ways is to make a **planned gift** is to name the Old Presbyterian Meeting House as a beneficiary on your retirement accounts and/or life insurance policies. Just check with your plan to see which form you'll need – this can take as little as ten minutes to update!

A number of assets are typically administered and distributed outside your will, including retirement accounts – such as an IRA, SEP, 401(k), 403(b), and a Keogh plan – and your life insurance policies. Make sure that your beneficiary designations are up to date on all these accounts so that the assets will be distributed correctly.

## Bequests by Will

A bequest allows you to control your assets now – and benefit the Meeting House in the future. If you already have a will, a simple amendment to it will get the job done.

The following are illustrations of some of the common types of bequest you can make in your will:

- *I give, devise and bequeath [% of my estate] OR [\$ specific amount] to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia.*
- *After all of the foregoing bequests have been fulfilled, I give, devise, and bequeath the residue and remainder of my estate to ...*
- *In the event none of my children are still living, I give, devise, and bequeath the residue and remainder of my estate to ...*

## What if I don't have a will?

If you don't have a will, the first thing you should know is that – you should! If you wish, the church can provide a list of local attorneys who have been recommended by members of the congregation to prepare their wills. (This list is for information only and does not constitute an endorsement by the Meeting House.)



## Gift Acceptance

Gifts of cash, publicly-traded stocks, and other liquid assets are always acceptable by the church. Certain gifts may require more complicated handling or review, such as gifts of life insurance, interests or split-interests, personal or real property, or closely-held securities; these involve special issues and will be considered on a case-by-case basis before being accepted by the church. Gifts may be tentatively accepted by the Pastor or Business Administrator. Final determination of the acceptance of a gift is made by the church's Session.

## How Can I Learn More?

Contact the church office at 703-549-6670 to talk with the Pastor or Business Administrator or email [finance@opmh.org](mailto:finance@opmh.org). We would be happy to serve you in any way as you discern how and where you would like to make a planned gift.

*Old Presbyterian Meeting House*

323 S Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314 | (703) 549-6670 | [opmh.org](http://opmh.org)