

CONNECTING FOR THE FUTURE

What if you could make a permanent difference in strengthening the mission and vision of Clear Creek Church of Christ? You can, by including Clear Creek in your estate plans when you create or revise your will or living trust.

The new **Clear Creek Church of Christ Endowment Fund** will help in “Connecting People to God and to Each Other” far into the future by sustaining life-changing ministries. Just as the tiny mustard seed can grow into a mighty and useful plant (Mark 4:31), each gift to the Endowment Fund will keep on growing and supporting our ministries.

Giving is an Act of Faith

God calls us to be faithful stewards of our possessions. As Christians, we gratefully acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

One option for acting on that faith is to include your church in your plans for giving – either in the present or in the future.

This information will help you understand why Clear Creek needs your gift, and how you can give to the church.

How Will My Gift Be Used?

Once you have decided that making a present gift or leaving a future gift to Clear Creek is an act of faith, to what can you give?

Clear Creek has a myriad of vital ministries that could benefit from a gift to the endowment fund. You may either designate your gift for a particular purpose or leave it undesignated. Unrestricted gifts offer the advantage of allowing the church to allocate resources as the needs we must meet change over time.

How and What Can I Give?

There are many ways to give, and the best gift for you depends on your goals and personal circumstances. To ensure that your wishes are met and your plans are properly carried out, you will need a will or other estate planning document. Potential gifts that you could consider with your attorney or financial advisor include:

- * *Outright Gifts.* A present gift to your church is always welcome and appropriate. Usually such gifts are in cash, but any type of property, stocks, bonds, or other assets could be given.
- * *Real Estate.* Many types of real estate -- primary residence, farm, business or vacation home -- may be given to your church. In a gift with retained life estate, a personal residence can be given now, while you continue to live there. You might be able to get a current tax deduction. All prospective gifts of real estate are reviewed for marketability and are confidentially inspected for potential hazards.
- * *Wills.* One of the simplest ways to make a gift is through your will or trust. You can name Clear Creek Church of Christ as the direct beneficiary of specific assets, of a portion of your estate, or of your residual estate after payment of other bequests. (Read more about Bequests [here](#)) – takes you to page 3 & 4 in this handout

* *Deferred Gifts.* You may also make a deferred gift to your church. You may have heard of many of these:

- charitable remainder trust
- charitable lead trust

Act Now

Five recommended steps in planning your gift:

1. *Pray.* Prayerfully consider making a gift to Clear Creek's endowment fund.
2. *Study.* Ask your advisors about leaving a gift to the Clear Creek endowment fund. Decide on a gift that is best for the church, your circumstances and your estate. Remember that gifts can be made during your lifetime and not just at death.
3. *Remember no gift is too small.* Leaving a gift of any size to an established endowment lets your gift and the gifts of many others enjoy the benefits of growing together to leave a lasting gift of income to the church.
4. *Prepare your written document.* The information presented here is general in nature, and you should contact your own professional advisor to learn how this information relates to your individual circumstances. With your advisors, prepare a written document, such as a will or trust, with specific instructions about your wishes.
5. *Designate your gift.* Please designate your gift as follows: "Clear Creek Church of Christ - General Endowment Fund."

For confidential information on making a gift to Clear Creek's endowment fund, contact:

Send mail to the church office or contact one of the following:

Ben Vance

Jake Hendrix

One of the elders

Giving is an Act of Faith ... and Love.

Bequest Overview

Make a charitable gift to Clear Creek through your estate and retain access to your gift asset, should you ever need it during your lifetime.

A bequest may be right for you if:

- You would like to make a gift to Clear Creek
- You want the flexibility to change your mind

- You want continued access to your gift assets, should you need them
- A current tax deduction for your gift is not important to you

How It Works

1. You make Clear Creek a beneficiary in your will, or a designated beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other asset.
2. Clear Creek receives your gift when your estate is settled.

Your Benefits

1. Continue to support your church after you are gone
2. Make a larger gift than might be possible to make during life
3. Retain access to your gift assets should you need them
4. May save estate taxes and probate costs

As you consider an estate gift to Clear Creek, it may be useful to know some of the bequest options available:

- You can make your bequest unrestricted.
- You can restrict your bequest to a specific purpose. For example, a gift may be earmarked for an area you feel strongly about, e.g., “Children’s Ministry”, building fund, etc.

Once you’ve decided on the type of bequest, determine how the bequest will be identified. You have at least four options.

First, you can include Clear Creek in your will or trust for a specific dollar amount.

Second, you can name Clear Creek to receive a percentage of your estate.

Third, you can plan to leave the residue of your estate, which is the amount left after the bills have been paid and specific bequests have been made.

Fourth, you can bequeath specific personal property, such as artwork, a gift of securities, or a piece of real estate.

If you wish to receive information on how to include Clear Creek in your estate plans, complete a request for information card and mail to the Church Office using the address below. You may also obtain information by calling 423.877.6232 or emailing office@clearcreekcoc.org.

Codicils Make Changes Easy

The codicil is an amendment of a will that adds to or modifies one of the provisions. For example, if you want to change the personal representative named in your will, you can do so with a codicil. If you want to add the name of someone to receive a bequest, you can use a codicil.

1. Codicils are just as legal and binding as the original document. Some of our friends use codicils to add Clear Creek to their wills or to adjust the amount they had previously decided to give.
2. Codicils are inexpensive. A quick call to your attorney will tell you just how reasonable this form is compared to other estate planning documents.
3. The codicil presents an easy way for our friends to include Clear Creek in their estate plans. It's not necessary to go through the time and expense of rewriting the entire will. We can even send you a sample form to use.

This information is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice.

Please consult your attorney, tax professional or investment professional for advice.