

# Giving Through a Bequest

One of the easiest ways to leave a lasting legacy of generosity is through a bequest to your church or favorite United Methodist charity in your will. This gift allows you to plan for your estate and how it is used after your passing. You should consult with your attorney to help write and specify the bequest, make sure your will uses correct legal (corporate) language, and that your intentions and goals for the gift are clear in all final documents.

## What is a Bequest?

A bequest is a gift of your personal property such as stocks and bonds, sum of money, asset, etc. Through your will, you direct this property to a church or charity of your choice.



## Bequest Gift Options

- Give a fixed dollar amount.
- Give a percentage of your estate.
- Give a portion, or the remainder (residuary bequest), of your estate after heirs are taken care of, and expenses are paid.
- Give a specific dollar amount to start an endowment that protects the principal of your gift (the initial gift amount). The Foundation will permanently hold your initial gift and only pay generated investment income to the church or charity, to ensure your gift will last far into the future.

## Examples of Bequest Language

### Bequest language for naming a church in your will:

“Wesley United Methodist Church, a nonprofit corporation, or its successor.”

### Bequest language for gift types:

- A General Bequest of a fixed dollar amount may be worded: “I give to \_\_\_\_\_ (church or charity name), a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (Alabama/Florida) nonprofit corporation, or its successor \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (exact dollar amount).”
- A Specific Bequest of a certain asset from your estate may be worded: “I give to \_\_\_\_\_ (church or charity name), a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (Alabama/Florida) nonprofit corporation, or its successor \_\_\_\_\_ (description of the asset/property).”
- A Residuary Bequest, after other bequests and expenses are paid, may be worded: “I give to \_\_\_\_\_ (church or charity name), a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (Alabama/Florida) nonprofit corporation, or its successor \_\_\_\_\_ (specify “all” or insert a specific percentage) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.”
- An Endowment Bequest, to benefit your church or charity far into the future, may be worded: “I give to The Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation the residue and remainder of my estate as a permanent endowment gift to benefit \_\_\_\_\_ (church or charity name / legal name of beneficiary).”



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