



ESTATE PLANNING

Made Easy

In a nutshell, estate planning is really what you want done with what you own. The good news is that you can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps now. Creating your plan for the future can be easy and even enjoyable. While an attorney should always draft your will, we can help demystify the process and prepare you for meeting your attorney with these simple steps:



1

ITEMIZE YOUR ASSETS

Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On the left side, write something you own. On the right side, write the name or names of the person(s) you wish to receive that item or asset.

2

ORGANIZE YOUR ESTATE

Make the process of organizing your estate and plans even easier by downloading our free estate planning guide (umfwvgift.org). This fill-in-the-blank guide walks you through the process of gathering information about what you own, your family, and your goals.

3

WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS

Consider practical questions, such as, "If I give my house to my adult son and my adult daughter, what will they do with it?" If you come up with a question that you can't seem to find a solution for, make a note to ask your attorney.

4

REVIEW YOUR PLANS FOR FAMILY

You can give some assets to family right away and others over time. Ask us how you can provide an income stream or a lump sum to a loved one and achieve your personal and inheritance goals.

5

CONSIDER MINISTRY

Remember to include any ministries that are important to you in your plan. If you have given during life, then consider providing for these organizations through your estate. Ask us about plans like charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities that can help your family and provide support for ministry.

6

VISIT YOUR ATTORNEY

Bring the information you have gathered and questions to your attorney. Your attorney can draft a will or trust that will achieve your goals. You complete the plan through a simple signing process.

7

UPDATE YOUR PLAN

Update your estate plan as your life changes. Marriages, births, and deaths are all events that may make you want you to revise your plans.

Call or e-mail to request your Estate Planning Guide or to learn about other tools we can offer to make your planning easier.

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

304-342-2113 info@umfwv.org umfwv.org



ENCOURAGING LEGACY GIVING

In Your Church

1

CONSULT WITH THE FOUNDATION

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia can help! Contact us to ask questions, to arrange meetings with your church's leadership or to explore resources.

2

BUILD A TEAM

Talk to the church's Board of Trustees. Work with the team to build a vision for the Planned Giving program. Provide education. The Foundation can help.

3

GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Working with your team, build a Gift Acceptance Policy. This document can help manage the expectations of donors and provide guidance for the church. The Foundation can provide an example to get you started.

4

CREATE A PLAN

Design a two or three year plan to guide your work. Include how you will help your congregation understand the possibilities of how to leave a legacy for the church. The Foundation has examples that can help.

5

PLANT SEEDS

Show gratitude for gifts. Invite potential donors to talk with you about planned giving. Consider creating an endowment to receive gifts from donors.

6

ESTATE PLANNING EVENT

Host an Estate Planning Event for your congregation as part of your plan. Invite the Foundation to speak on topics such as wills, estate planning documents, and planned giving options.

7

UPDATE YOUR PLAN

Remember that beginning this process is only the first step. Continually evaluate your plan and update it with your team.

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia can be your resource as you develop a planned giving ministry with your Church. Call us to schedule a visit or to explore our print and digital resources. We are here to serve.

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