



**Congress, President
Make Permanent the
IRA Charitable Rollover**

If you are 70½ or older and have a Traditional or Roth IRA you may give up to \$100,000 to a charitable organization without being subject to income tax on the distribution. In addition, the gift satisfies all or in part the annual **Required Minimum Distribution** from the IRA.

We encourage you to consider an IRA Charitable Rollover gift to your local church or any United Methodist ministry of your choosing. You may make a direct charitable gift to fund your church’s operating budget, fund a special project or establish a permanent endowment fund to benefit your church in perpetuity.

It is wise to consult your IRA custodian or financial planner to assist you. **The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation** is available to assist you, as well. Please call us toll-free at 1-888-903-9863 or email us at wumf@wumf.org.

If you prefer to channel your IRA Charitable Rollover gift through the Foundation office to your local church or a number of United Methodist ministries, we are happy to do so. Please call the Foundation!

To Make a Charitable Rollover Gift

Please see the sample letter on the back of this page. (It require the federal tax ID number for your church or the charity you wish to benefit. Please call your church Treasurer.)

When you have completed and signed the letter, send it to your IRA Custodian and ask them to make a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to your local church or favorite charity. Be sure that the check is made payable to the church or charity, even if it is mailed to you.

Date: _____
Name of IRA Custodian: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Dear IRA Custodian,

In late December 2015, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation that made permanent the ability to rollover directly from an IRA to a qualified charitable organization. As the owner of IRA account # _____ that is in the custody of your organization, I request that you transfer from that account the sum of \$ _____ to the:

Church or Charity Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Treasury Tax ID Number: ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____

It is my intention to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from my IRA to be sent directly to _____ at the address listed above.

It is also my intention that this distribution ___ will / ___ will not (*choose one*) fulfill part or all of my IRA required minimum distribution for this year. However, if you require any further documents completed, please promptly send those to me.

Cordially yours,

(Signature)

(Print Name and Address)

March 2016
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#264 "Give each what would keep (them) above want, and bestow all the rest in such a manner as would be most for the glory of God." - John Wesley

Don't let this happen to you!

A few years ago Karen inherited shares of stock from the estate of a family friend. All the paperwork was completed by the estate lawyers and Karen received notice when the shares had been transferred to her name. When her church was in the process of a building campaign, Karen entered on her pledge card that she had stock she would like to redeem in order to pay her pledge. No one from the finance committee or church office contacted her to help her gift the stock to the church!

She didn't know who to contact in the secular world either so she left the stock invested. Years later she read in her church newsletter that the Wisconsin U.M. Foundation could process gifts of stock, which meant she could avoid paying capital gains taxes. She also could avoid paying a selling fee or commission. She was amazed! By following the Foundation's simple procedure, she could actually make a larger gift to her church than if she had sold the gift of stock herself and written a check to the church for the proceeds.

In 2015 the Foundation assisted 112 people in giving \$878,000 in stock gifts to different churches and ministries. By making these gifts through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, these individuals made sure that 100% of the proceeds from the sale were used for ministry.

For more information on how you can make a gift of appreciated stock to your favorite church or United Methodist ministry, please find the most current securities processing form on our website at <http://www.wumf.org/assets/ProcessingStockGifts.pdf>. Be sure to call us or send us a copy of the form so that we can process your gift as quickly as possible.

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street Ste 305
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Giving for the Glory of God

"Imagine the President of the United States and the Committee on Ways and Means sending out jugs, mugs, boxes, barrels, eggs, and buttons with their pictures on them to catch pennies to meet the fiscal needs of the great government of the United States!

Imagine the different states and counties holding fairs, festivals, concerns, and ice cream socials. With women cooking, sewing, and acting so that each community may meet its apportionment!

This would disgrace any earthly government in its own eyes and the eyes of the nations. Yet this is what Christians are doing year by year to finance the Kingdom of God!"

*-from Gems of Thought on Tithing, published 1911
By George W. Brown, a Presbyterian layman*

The early Hebrews mentioned only crops and herds in their base for a tithe. Later when the people settled and started raising olives and grapes, products such as oil and wine were included in the base. A generation or two ago people could not conceive of anything but cash as the base for a tithe. But with more people investing in the stock market, and in real estate, people can now consider tithing other assets as well.

For more information on giving with assets other than cash, visit our website at www.wumf.org or contact us at:

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April 2016
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#15-4 Give Willingly..... "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar—and to God what belongs to God." (Matt. 22:21)

Did you know?

The average tax refund in Wisconsin is \$2330! How will we spend our tax refunds? We know that some taxpayers do not receive a refund. But, of those who do, how do they spend it? The most popular answers are: 1) Pay off Debt; 2) Have fun – do something special or buy something special and 3) Save it. On most lists of ideas the thought of 4) Giving it Away to a favorite charity is either last on the list or never makes the list!

If we're going to "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God," what are we called to give away? As people of faith we may wish to consider giving a tithe (10%) or some portion of our tax return to the church to say thank you to God for the jobs we have and the earnings we receive.

Consider tithing. If the average refund is \$2,330 and 10 people tithe at \$233 each, the total giving to your church would increase \$2,330. That might pay most of the heating bill for the winter or help you do something new and creative for Vacation Bible School.

Your tithe might be more or less than average, but a gift of \$233 would save 23 lives at \$10 apiece for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. Gifts totaling \$2,330 would also make a big difference in paying the mission giving through our apportionments for a number of churches – for some it would pay their apportionments in full, for others it will cover 1/10 of the total or one month.

What is God calling you to give?

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Many people will receive tax refunds from the IRS for their 2015 income taxes. Following are some "one-liners" you can use for your Sunday bulletin or monthly newsletter. Feel free to adapt them in ways that will be most meaningful for your congregation.

1. Try tithing. Give the first 10% of your tax refund to Church.
2. Giving 10% of your tax refund is a good way to start Tithing.
3. Tithing can be a new way of life. Start by donating 10% of this year's tax refund to the church.
4. Try "first fruits" giving ... Give the first 10% of your 2015 Income Tax refund to the church.
5. Ever thought about tithing? Start by giving the first 10% of this year's tax refund.
6. The rewards of tithing can start with 10% of this year's tax refund.
7. "Who, me? Tithe?" Why not try it by giving 10% of your 2015 tax refund.
8. Tithing is rewarding. Reward yourself. Start with 10% of your 2015 tax refund.
9. Giving 10% of your 2015 tax refund is a great way to start your life as a tither.

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May 2016
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#193 Giving Should be Done Regularly -- "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come." (1 Cor. 16:2 - NRSV) "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (1 Cor. 4:1)

We are called to be "servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." As stewards of God's gifts, we look for ways to share them with others regularly - without fear! Are you finding it difficult to share your gifts—especially financial gifts--regularly as you watch and wait during these tenuous times in our history as a nation and a church? If so, you might consider making a life income gift. Yes, by giving a gift, you may have more resources available now to give regularly. Plus, you have the assurance of knowing that a larger gift will benefit your church and other favorite charities upon your death.

How? Through a Charitable Gift Annuity, which allows you to receive income during your lifetime, and to benefit your church and other favorite charities afterward. Charitable Gift Annuities can be established with a gift of \$2,000 or more and the income rate is dependant upon your age at the time of your gift.

For more information, please contact our office and we'll be happy to run a personalized illustration for you.

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Biblical Stewardship Principle:

Giving should be done regularly.

Quotes for Bulletins/Newsletters:

Planned Giving One Liners

1. Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship - saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family and showing charity towards others.
2. Remember, if you have no will or trust, state laws will determine who will inherit your property at your death. State laws do not include your church or any other charity as your beneficiary.
3. Consider naming the church as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. The gift could be a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after other gifts are made, or part of the estate left if designated heirs are deceased.
4. Giving to the church through your will or trust is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. When the estate plan is prepared, consider a gift to the church.
5. Life insurance is a way to make a larger gift to the church than you might otherwise be able to afford. Consider naming the church as beneficiary of any insurance policy.
6. Anyone can make an endowment gift. Any size gift may be made as an endowment. You may do this now or as part of your estate plan.
7. Think about the part you want to play in our church's future. You have the opportunity to support this ministry in many ways. Naming the church as a beneficiary in your estate plan, or making an endowment gift, can assure your continued participation in this ministry far into the future.

Be Faithful

Faith-filled Ways to say “Thank You” to God this summer:

As you plant flowers in your garden, say thank you to God for their gift of color. Give at least as much back to God as you spend on flowers this year.

Use your time and talents to raise money for outreach. Do you have a garden? Do you have more zucchini than you can eat? What about tomatoes, beans, or sweet corn? Maybe you have some friends and neighbors who would gladly give a gift toward a mission of your church in exchange for some of your vegetables – fresh, frozen, or canned.

Put a container in the middle of the kitchen table and invite family members to make a special offering – perhaps even \$1/day to say thank you for a joy each day.

If your grocery bill tends to rise during the summer because more people are home and you have more visitors, try planning your menus around what’s on sale each week. Then with the money you save, you can make an extra gift to the mission and ministry of the church.

Remember, God doesn’t take vacations from us! If you’re heading out on a special vacation – enjoy! Give thanks for the memories you’ll make by signing up for online bill pay through your bank. Then your offerings will be sent to the church automatically whether you’re on vacation or in your regular pew each week.

Honor those you love with a special gift to the overall mission and ministry of the church through our apportionments. “A-portion-ment for others” can be a wonderful way to remember loved ones as a part of their gift for birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones.

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July 2016

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#196 *A part of all you receive should be returned to God.*

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will be bursting with wine." (Proverbs 3:9-10 NRSV)

"Remember who you are!"

"It's summer vacation. Do we have to go to church?"

"Does God take a vacation from you?"

"NO.... All right, I'll get in the car."

When we remember who we are, we gladly give God the "first fruits" of our time, our talents, and our treasures. As members of the United Methodist Church, we have all taken vows pledging to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. These are vows we take each time new members join our community of faith. We say, "we renew our covenant with you, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. These are vows we make and renew 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! This is the opportunity that is ours as followers of Christ.

"Does this mean I can never take a vacation?" No. But, when you do, remember that God doesn't take a vacation from you!"
Give the "first fruits" to God - mail them to the church if you're gone. Better yet setup an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through your church or bank, and you will not have to worry about your gifts & tithes to the church. Then enjoy your vacation! Have fun! Enjoy the sun!
And ***remember who you are!***

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Biblical Stewardship Principle:

A part of all you receive should be returned to God.

Quotes for Bulletins/Newsletters:

Stewardship is what we do with all we have, all we are, and all we can become. It is a spiritual journey in life, responding to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

It begins with the affirmation that we are children of God. "God so loved us," we are told in the Gospel of John. That's where our stewardship begins.

- † Do you believe that you are a child of God?
- † Do you believe that God loves you?

Your answer to those questions will guide your stewardship throughout your life!

"Giving to live is, in fact, the only way to live fully. When each of us shares what has been given to us, we gain a new life. If each of us hangs on to what we have, it will never seem enough. Even the richest people in the world think they need more if they don't have the habit of sharing what they have. They are letting what they have determine who they are."

-Douglas M. Lawson

September 2016
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#210 You cannot serve God and Money. "No one can be a slave of two masters; you will hate one and love the other; you will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matt. 6:24)

A senior high Sunday School class gathered together, again, for their first series of classes in the fall. The topic was "What does Jesus say about money?" The one passage almost everyone knew was, "You cannot serve God and money."

One of the boys shared that he had taken a new job that was going to require him to work all day every Saturday and every Sunday morning. The group responded, "You can't do that, we need you in this class!" He replied, "But, I'll be here for youth group at night." One of the girls asked, "What do you need the money for?" He replied, "Car insurance and gas money, for sure. Then, there's other stuff I want. My parents said that if I bought a car I had to be responsible for it."

One of the leaders asked, "Now, how much of what you expect to earn by working every Saturday and Sunday do you really need to cover your car expenses?" After thinking for a while and putting pencil to paper, he answered, "I probably only need to work on Saturdays to earn enough for my car expenses. Maybe I could talk to my boss and only work every other Sunday morning or one night a week, instead. She did ask me if Sunday mornings were okay because she knew I was a member of this church. I told her it was okay because I didn't want to lose the job. I'll go over there today right after church and see what I can do. I know I'd really miss being in class with all of you, too. Thanks!"

And, Jesus said, "Let those with ears to hear, listen!"

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair
Biblical Stewardship Principle:

You cannot serve God and Money.

A sample letter to be used as a stewardship invitation:

Dear _____,

Each year, our church has a time of special emphasis on stewardship. During this time, we think about the many things that God has done in our lives and the kind of response we can make by pledging some of our money, time, and talents to the church.

Think about our church and the programs it offers for members of all ages. Consider also the ways our church makes a commitment to mission by assisting and working with others in our community and in the world. We can respond to God with thanks for all the things God has done in our lives. One of the ways we can say "thank you" to God is by making a commitment to our church. Think about the ways you can make such a commitment of your money, your time, and your talents.

Enclosed you will find a commitment card that we hope you will complete and bring with you to place in the offering plate during worship on Stewardship Sunday. We believe that whatever you have to offer as your commitment to God and to God's work with our congregation is very important. YOU are very important to us, and we give thanks to God for your presence with us.

Peace,

Stewardship or Finance Committee Chairperson

This letter is adapted from *The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry, Vol. 2*
by Donald W. Joiner and Norma Wimberly
Copyright 1996 by Abingdon Press

November 2016

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

Giving breaks the temptation of greed. *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, NIV)*

God's law of the harvest applies to the spiritual sowing we perform through our stewardship. Our seeds are our good works: our financial giving, our prayers, our study, our service, and our worship. No farmer would sow sparingly or haphazardly and expect a beautiful, bountiful harvest. And neither should we.

Second Corinthians describes the Apostle Paul's attempt to raise money in order to help the Christians in Jerusalem. The Gentile churches are more prosperous than the Jerusalem churches and there has been contention between the Gentile and Jewish churches over the need to follow Jewish practices, such as circumcision and diet, in order to be a follower of Christ. So Paul is collecting money for the churches in Jerusalem *both to help the churches with less and to create a sense of unity among them all.*

In the United Methodist Church today, we follow the same principles presented by the Apostle Paul. Our apportionment system supports the mission and ministry of the church by asking each congregation to contribute in proportion to the size of their membership and their operating budget. This pays for such things as new church starts, church revitalization, minority and ethnic ministry, clergy education, Africa University, other overseas missions, campus ministry, health and welfare ministry, camping, clergy and laity leadership development, and our Bishop and the conference staff required to make these things happen.

Perhaps your church has paid or is on track to pay 100% of your share this year. Celebrate your commitment to the unity of our denomination. If you will pay less than 100% of your apportionment this year, consider a year-end campaign to meet your need, or to get closer. Next year, plan to increase apportioned giving by 10% or more, say from 50% to 60%. Also consider paying one-twelfth of apportionments monthly so you don't leave it until year's end. What is God calling you to give? Call us if we can help.

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HAS INFLATION ERODED YOUR GIVING?

Most of us do not think much about the effect of inflation on the value of the dollar. We know that grocery prices increase, that gasoline prices change quickly, and that heating costs for natural gas and electric go up over time.

What we may not think about is how inflation, over years, lowers our giving to the church if we do not increase the amount we give. If you gave \$5.00 a week in 2006 and did not increase your giving since then, that \$5.00 a week is now, ten years later, only worth \$4.18. In order to keep up you would need to now be giving \$5.97 a week just to stay even with what you gave in 2006.

Here is a chart of giving levels as examples:

This Amount Given Per Week in 2006	In 2016 Is Worth	Would Need to Be This Amount In 2016 To Stay Even
\$ 5.00	\$ 4.18	\$ 5.97
\$ 10.00	\$ 8.37	\$ 11.95
\$ 20.00	\$ 16.74	\$ 23.89
\$ 40.00	\$ 33.48	\$ 47.79
\$100.00	\$ 83.70	\$119.47

Without intending to, each year that our givers keep their giving the same over time, they are actually giving less to our mission and ministry each year. As you can see from the chart, it makes a big difference over a ten-year period.

If you have not increased your giving over a number of years we encourage you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving this year. The Mission and Ministry of our church depends on your generous and loving financial support.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return. Luke 6:38 (CEB)

<http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

December 2016
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Have you considered giving an extra special gift to the church this Christmas? As you "make your lists and check them twice," how will you say thank you to God for the ultimate gift we celebrate in the birth of Jesus?

The wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What will we offer Jesus this year? Consider a special gift of time or talents. How about a special treasure - cash or a gift of stock?

We invite you to consider a special year-end gift to your church in order to help meet your connectional giving goal through our apportionments. This gift is a gift that will literally spread the love of Christ throughout the world. Or, consider a special year-end gift to support a building project or a new program ministry in your congregation.

Year-end gifts are in addition to our regular tithes and offerings. If you'd also like to make a gift to a ministry or fund that keeps on giving, we can help. The Scholars Award Program, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Bishop's Relief Fund, Seminarian Scholarships, and the Grants Fund for Creative Ministries are just some examples of gifts to consider. Please call us for more information. And, have a blessed Christmas!

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Biblical Stewardship Principle:

God will give you rewards far in excess of what you give.

Quotes for Bulletins/Newsletters:

How to Keep Christmas Well

In "A Christmas Carol", Dickens wants each of us to discover what old Scrooge had to learn the hard way: The only way to hold on to something is to give it away. This is the paradox of giving: The one who gives (from substance and without counting the cost) is the one who is most grateful. Besides being a donor, the generous person is also a beneficiary. That's why Scrooge says, "I thank you fifty times," and also why he asks the gentleman, quite sincerely, to do him a favor by accepting the gift.

Ever afterward, Mr. Dickens says, it was said of Scrooge "that he knew how to keep Christmas well." Like any good steward, Scrooge kept it well by giving it away. And so, as Mr. Dickens observes at the conclusion of his story, "May that be truly said of us...every one!"