

Planned Giving



COVENANT Presbyterian Church

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God,
love each other, and serve in the world.

Dear Covenant Community,

Everywhere I look at Covenant I see the legacies of those here today and those who came before us in life and faith. Those legacies helped build the preschool wing through which thousands of children have experienced the love of Christ and heard the good news of God's love for us. Those legacies helped build and renovate areas for children and youth, including the "Garage." These additions have provided a safe place for young people to gather and grow in their faith. When we built the new youth center, I don't remember older people saying, "but my children are grown and won't benefit from this place!" They saw the vision of hundreds of youth not yet here, not yet born, whose lives might be changed by the gospel of Christ spoken in that space. I think of the person, who just before his death, designated funds from his estate to help with expanding our facilities. He knew he would not live to see the new building; yet he still could see the value of investing in God's kingdom through Covenant.

These and many other areas and ministries were funded by Covenant members past and present. They all gladly made contributions to ensure that Covenant would not just survive in their time, but thrive in future generations.

As we look at Covenant over the next sixty years, what do you see God doing? How might you be a part of Covenant sixty years from now, long after you are gone? The booklet in your hands details a way that you can make lasting charitable contributions to God's kingdom through Covenant. "Planned giving" comes in many forms, from cash to securities to other assets, but each form shares a common attribute: Planned giving provides stability, strength and an enduring example to our church for generations to come.

Whether Covenant benefits from your planned giving or not, we encourage you to have a written plan —by will, trust or other mechanism — to pass along the assets that you built over a lifetime. Having such a plan ensures that *you* control how those assets are passed down, rather than the state and probate attorneys. We hope that Covenant can be part of your plan and your legacy, because planned giving has a tremendous, lasting impact.

Your planned gift can build the endowment funds that help ensure unexpected expenditures don't chip away at ministries we value. Moreover, an endowment will provide resources for new Spirit-led ministries. You also can designate your planned gift to go to something particularly meaningful to you at Covenant. The gift can be made while you are alive and/or it can come after your death.

One of my favorite verses in Scripture is tucked away in the sixth chapter of Deuteronomy, "We all drink from wells we did not dig." As you and I enjoy the fruit of gifts provided by those who have gone before us, so we have the opportunity to pay forward gifts for children, youth and adults who are not even here today. Imagine sixty years from now a child hearing the good news of Jesus, a youth grappling and growing in his or her faith as part of Covenant. Imagine someone the same age as you are now contemplating how best to pay forward the riches God has so generously showered upon us.

In gratitude for those who have gone before us, may we likewise be instruments of God's faithful provision.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,



Hal Oakley

What is a Planned Gift?

The definition of a planned gift to Covenant Presbyterian Church is straightforward: Any gift made, during the donor's lifetime or at death, that is part of the donor's overall financial or estate planning.

What a planned gift can mean spiritually, though, is far more than that simple definition conveys. A planned gift is an opportunity to express the values you hold dear and can be an extension of your faith and practice. With such stewardship, you can choose the legacy you would like to leave at Covenant.

Planned gifts can be made in a series of smaller installments or as one single gift. They can be as easy as changing a beneficiary designation or as complicated as a charitable remainder trust.

Many planned gifts use estate or tax planning techniques to maximize the gift and minimize its impact on the donor's estate. In contrast, gifts to Covenant's operating and building funds come from the donor's discretionary income, and while they may be budgeted, they are not considered planned gifts.

Whether the planned gift involves cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, artwork, partnership interest, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan or other assets, the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both the donor and to Covenant.

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Advantages of a Planned Gift

TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- Creation of a legacy that expresses your deepest convictions. It need not diminish current income or current assets.
- Potential income tax or estate advantages, or both, for you and your heirs.
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the future of Covenant Presbyterian Church and its ministries for years to come.

TO COVENANT CHURCH

- Endowment gifts serve as an enduring source of support for the growth of Covenant's ministries and the shepherding of its facilities.
- Growing endowments provide financial stability for the future of Covenant.
- Each commitment to the future is a building block toward a stronger church family and community.

How Will My Gift Be Used?

You may allow future church leaders to determine how best to use your gift, or you may choose to direct the gift to support a ministry or ministries that are particularly meaningful to you. If no specific designation is made, the gift's proceeds will be placed in the Oakley Ministry Fund.

To consider various options, please contact the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, or a member of the Planned Giving Committee before finalizing your gift.

Endowment Funds at Covenant Presbyterian

Planned gifts can go to one or more of Covenant's endowments:

- ◆ **Oakley Ministry Fund:** Income From this fund will be used to support ministries and programs of Covenant as determined by the Session.
- ◆ **Worship and Christian Education:** Income from this fund will support worship, education, music, fellowship and other related Covenant ministries.
- ◆ **Outreach:** Income from this fund will support Covenant's commitment to mission/outreach—evangelism, education, community needs and development, etc.—in Huntsville, nationally, and internationally.
- ◆ **Property:** Income from this fund will support special projects and capital projects that enhance the physical plant, aesthetics, and safety of Covenant's building.

In addition, donors can give to a specific program or purpose.



Examples of Planned Gifts to Covenant

- ◆ Make a planned gift of cash or securities to Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ Make Covenant Church the beneficiary on an investment account. A beneficiary can be added to a bank account or certificate of deposits by use in a “Payable on Death” agreement. For an investment account and real estate (including your personal residence), use a “Transfer on Death” agreement.
- ◆ State in your will that a specific dollar amount, a specific percentage of your estate or specific assets be given to Covenant Presbyterian Church at your passing. Remember that your will only covers those assets that do not have a beneficiary designation attached.
- ◆ Create a revocable living trust and state in the trust that you wish to have a specific dollar amount, a specific percentage of your trust assets or specific assets be given to Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ Name Covenant Presbyterian Church as a full or partial beneficiary of an IRA, annuity, life insurance, or retirement account.

A visit with a planned giving specialist, a financial adviser, or an attorney can give you other creative ideas to satisfy your needs.



Who Can Help Plan Your Gift?

Our Senior Pastor or Associate Pastor would be pleased to meet with you as you begin your deliberations concerning a planned gift to the church.

Members of Covenant's Planned Giving Team also can visit with you and help you determine various planned giving options that might be appropriate for you. They can direct you to professionals who have experience with the various financial, tax and estate planning considerations of any gift that you wish to make. In all circumstances, however you should consult with your own legal, tax and/or financial adviser as you begin to finalize your giving plans. The information in this booklet is not intended as legal or financial advice.

To get started on the planned giving process, feel free to call the Covenant office at 256-881-4501.

Reaping What Others Have Sown

Examples of Special Gifts that have provided for Covenant in the past....

Donating to a fund to renovate the church kitchen.

Helping meet the cost of sending impoverished youth to summer camp.

Making up-front contributions to the Building Fund.

Covering the expense of the pastor's Sabbatical Leave.

Contributing to the cost of our pipe organ.

Naming Covenant the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust.

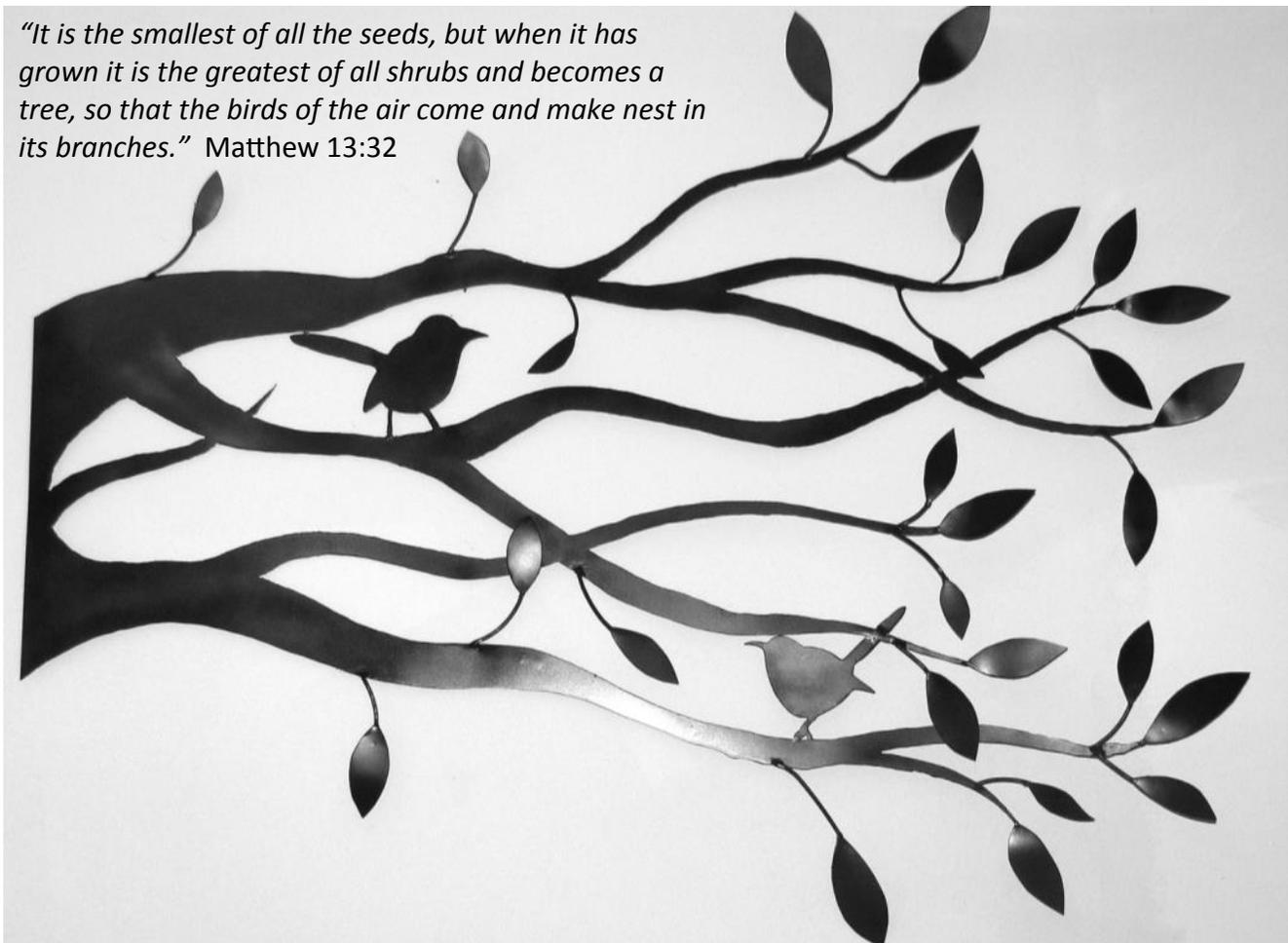
"We are rooted and grounded in love" Ephesians 3:17

Tips to Make Planned Giving Easier

- ◆ Planned giving is an area where a little help can make a big difference. All you need to start the process is a desire to create a lasting legacy. Then visit with one of our pastors, a Planned Giving Committee member or your professional advisers to discuss options that might be appropriate for you.
- ◆ Be certain that you identify Covenant Presbyterian Church completely and correctly in any legal documents. For instance, to identify the church on a beneficiary designation consider using the wording: “The beneficiary is: 100% to Covenant Presbyterian Church of 301 Drake Avenue in Huntsville, Alabama.”
- ◆ Don’t overlook listing Covenant Presbyterian Church as a contingent beneficiary. Estate assets pass to contingent beneficiaries only if no primary beneficiary is living.
- ◆ Beneficiaries can receive a percentage of the total. For instance, 80% to my lawful living children, equally or the survivor and 20% to Covenant Presbyterian Church of 301 Drake Avenue in Huntsville, Alabama.”

Be aware that the declaration of beneficiaries in a will can be superseded when you specifically name a beneficiary of an asset. For example, if you name Covenant Presbyterian Church as a beneficiary in your will but declare another person or organization as a beneficiary of certain stock holding, then that stock goes to the person or organization and is not governed by the will.

“It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of all shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nest in its branches.” Matthew 13:32



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