



Belin Memorial United Methodist Church

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Thank you for your interest in giving to the Belin Memorial United Methodist Church through its Endowment fund. Please share the information below with your attorney, accountant, insurance agent or other professional financial advisors.

You can give to Belin Memorial in a variety of ways; not just in the Sunday morning offering plate, but in creative ways that allow you to donate your assets in addition to income.

Through our Endowment Fund, charitable contributions can be made to the church in the same way as donations to any other charity.

Your gifts may be made in many different ways:

Outright Gifts:

Cash
Publicly Traded Securities
Real Property
Tangible Personal Property
Other Property

Planned Gifts:

Will Bequests
Estates
Insurance Policies
Income Programs
Retirement Plan Gifts

Leaving Your Legacy

A gift to Belin Memorial through its Endowment Fund will help ensure the ministries that have meant the most to you in your lifetime will continue into the future.

You don't have to be wealthy to give and may make gifts in memory or in honor of friends and family. Gifts can be designated to benefit certain areas of ministry. With planned giving, you decide what to give and how to give it.

Gifts to the Belin Endowment Fund can offer certain tax advantages to the donor.

About the Endowment Fund

The Belin Endowment Fund is a permanent fund established to manage donated funds, bequests, trusts and gifts to the church. The fund provides members and friends the opportunity to make gifts to the church that will become a permanent endowment of financial support, serve as a living memorial, and enhance church ministries.

The Endowment Fund provides a wonderful opportunity to support the church with a gift that can be utilized exclusively for church needs. It may also provide a needed reserve for church funding in times of crisis. Gifts to the Endowment Fund provide for services not covered in the normal operating budget of the church.

Ways to Give

Bequest in your will -- Give a fixed amount or item (or property) to the Endowment Fund. Some donors prefer to designate a percentage of their estate or donate the residual amount left in the estate after all other bequests are granted.

Appreciated securities -- Transfers of stocks or mutual funds may be made directly from your brokerage account to the Endowment Fund.

Beneficiary designations -- Donors may make a significant deferred gift to the Endowment Fund by designating the Belin Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan.

Personal property -- Personal property such as automobiles, works of art, antiques, coin or stamp collections, jewelry and other items also may be given to the Endowment Fund.

Life income plans -- Plans such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts may be set up to benefit the Endowment Fund. Donors receive a charitable deduction when the gift is made and income throughout their lifetimes. The remainder goes to the church upon the death of the donor.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is about giving for the long term. Some planned gifts to the Belin Endowment Fund can be made now. Some planned gifts are put in place now to take effect later.

When planned gifts are made to the Endowment Fund, we are giving to something that we believe will continue in perpetuity. Part of the sense of satisfaction that comes from making a planned gift lies in the knowledge that we can make a lasting impact; we can leave a legacy for generations yet to come.

Most church members think of giving in terms of “plate” offerings. Generally, we make a pledge to a stewardship or capital campaign based on our anticipated annual income. By contrast, a planned gift typically comes from our accumulated assets rather than our annual income. A planned gift may be a “once-in-a-lifetime” gift, or it may be a gift arranged to take place after our lifetime.

To get the process started, you are urged to seek the assistance of an attorney, accountant, insurance agent or other professional financial advisors.

Planned gifts can be as varied as the interests of the donor. They may include such items as stocks and bonds or other appreciated securities, insurance policies, retirement plans, art or antique collections, real estate or other assets. The gifts may be made through such vehicles as trusts, charitable gift annuities, a donor advised fund or a bequest in a will. Certain types of planned gifts provide added benefits to donors. For example, some provide tax benefits; some provide a life income arrangement as well as tax benefits.

Usually a planned gift reflects the personal situation of the donor and the nature of his or her assets. Planned gifts to the Belin Endowment Fund usually reflect life situations. For example, an older person has a large amount of stock of a particular company accumulated over many years which pays very little in the way of a dividend. Selling the stock would incur significant capital gain tax. That person may be willing to gift quantities of that stock to the Endowment Fund in lieu of cash gifts or that person may be willing to gift the stock to a life income charitable remainder plan for significantly increased income during the remainder of life with the remainder in the plan going to the Endowment Fund at his or her death.

Most everyone can make some form of a planned gift to the Belin Endowment Fund.

Giving Through Your Last Will and Testament: IS GOD’S WILL IN YOUR WILL?

A will provides an opportunity for you to remember causes and persons dear to you. A will is, in effect, a report to God on what you have done with your accumulated possessions.

You can make a gift that will cost you nothing during your lifetime because you make it in the form of a bequest in your last will and testament. The gift will come out of your estate at a time when you no longer have need of your property or other assets. To make such a gift you will need a valid last will and testament, and you will need to specify the gift in that document.

If you already have a current and valid last will and testament, you can add a gift to the Belin Endowment Fund through an amendment to your document called a codicil.

A current and valid last will and testament allows you to direct where your property will go at death, to whom it will go, and to a certain degree how it will be used after your death. A last will and testament is revocable during your

lifetime and competency. Because it doesn't take effect until your death, you maintain ownership and use of your property and other assets during your lifetime.

A last will and testament provides one of the simplest ways to make one or more gifts to persons and/or organizations, such as the Belin Endowment Fund, that you believe in and want to support. It allows every person having an estate to leave a tangible legacy. It also allows one's property and other assets to avoid being distributed under intestacy laws and the possibility of prolonged and costly probate.

The assistance of legal counsel should always be sought in the actual drafting of one's last will and testament as well as any other estate planning document.

Four Types of Bequests

One of the advantages of giving by will is the flexibility it offers. Here are four examples of bequests that can be made to the Belin Endowment Fund:

1. A fixed amount of money or a designated piece of property. You name the Belin Endowment Fund to receive \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, or some other specific amount, or a collection, a home, or parcel of land from your estate.
2. A percentage of your estate. Distribution of assets to the Belin Endowment Fund can be arranged on a percentage basis. The bequests to the church then remain in the same proportion to each other, despite fluctuations in the value of the estate. You can tithe your estate to the church.
3. A double-purpose bequest. A life income to a relative or other loved one can be assured while leaving a gift to the Belin Endowment Fund. This is accomplished by establishing a charitable remainder trust, a gift annuity, or other life-income gift in your will.
4. A residual bequest. Whatever property remains in your estate after specific bequests have been fulfilled is known as the residue. You can leave the residue of your estate to the Belin Endowment Fund. Even if you have named the church for a specific amount of money or a designated property, you can also leave all or part of the residue of your estate after all other bequests have been satisfied. Residual bequests are often much larger than specific bequests because family members or other heirs may die before you, and the church is named to receive any remaining assets.

Giving Through Testamentary Trusts

Testamentary trusts are frequently included in a last will and testament to provide financial support for your heirs either during the remainder of their lifetimes or for a number of years especially where age, disability, or

incompetency may be involved. Following the death of those heirs or at the end of the specified number of years, you may direct the remainder in the trust to benefit the Belin Endowment Fund.

Giving Through a Revocable Living Trust

This kind of trust is created by you during your lifetime for your own benefit, and is revocable by you during your lifetime. The revocable living trust has become very popular in recent years. It is used today by many people as a management vehicle or a way to pass assets outside of the probate process. The person creating the trust may serve as the trustee, naming another as successor trustee.

The trust pays out income and assets of the trust to you as needed during your lifetime. At your death, the assets remaining in the trust are passed as you directed in the trust document and generally will not need to pass through the probate process. At your death, the trust becomes irrevocable. Trust assets do have to be valued for estate tax purposes, however. You can direct that all or a part of the remaining assets in the trust pass to the Belin Endowment Fund at the final distribution of the trust assets. Also, during your lifetime, charitable gifts to the church may be made from trust assets if provision for such gifting has been included in the trust document.

Generally speaking, any gift arrangement to the Belin Endowment Fund that can be established through a last will and testament can be established through a revocable living trust.

Thanks so much for considering a gift to Belin Memorial through its Endowment Fund.

Please contact the church office for additional information.

“But just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”
2 Corinthians 8:2

This publication provides general gift giving information. This organization is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory service. State laws govern wills, trusts and charitable gifts made in a contractual agreement. For advice and assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.