



The Virginia United Methodist Foundation
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Glen Allen, VA 23060
www.VAUMFGifts.org
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804.521.1121 or 1-800-768-6040 ext. 121

Making a Charitable Gift through Your Will or Estate

Your will is among the most important documents you will ever sign! It is a truly personal document in which you express your wishes about the disposition of your property after your death. Your will is a statement that reflects how you wish to distribute your property and bestow gifts on the people closest to you and on charitable organizations most meaningful to you during your lifetime.

Many people find that including charitable organizations in their wills is a sensible and satisfying way to support the work of organizations in which they strongly believe. A bequest remains the most popular vehicle for distributing property after your death because it does not affect your current assets, income or lifestyle. By directing in your will that a portion of your estate be paid to one or more charities, you can leave an enduring legacy – probably one that is larger than you could have created during your life.

It is important to have a will. Should you pass away without a will (i.e., die “*intestate*”), state laws direct who will receive your estate. No charitable gifts will be included unless you name the charity in a valid will.

Please include the full legal name of the charity in your will.

The full legal name of the Foundation is The United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference, Inc.

There are several ways to make a bequest. Consult with your attorney/advisors to make sure that the bequest you choose makes sense as part of your overall estate plan. Tax ID# is available upon request.

- **SPECIFIC BEQUEST:** a gift of a particular dollar amount or a particular piece of property (such as stocks, bonds, real estate) to a charitable beneficiary.
- **RESIDUARY BEQUEST:** a gift of all or part of the property remaining in your estate after debts, expenses, and specific bequests. When you use a percentage instead of a specific amount, your gift will stay relatively the same in proportion to your entire estate, regardless of how your assets increase or decrease in value. Sample language:

*“I give, bequeath and devise[dollar amount or description of property] **OR** [all, or ___percent of] of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference, Inc., of Glen Allen, VA, [to be used at the discretion of its Board of Trustees; or for a designated church or ministry; or for a designated purpose].”*

- **CONTINGENT BEQUEST:** A gift that takes effect only if the named beneficiary/ies does not survive you.

Anyone considering a planned gift should consult with his or her attorney, tax accountant, or financial planner before executing any legal documents.

Learn more about these services by contacting The Virginia United Methodist Foundation in Glen Allen, VA at 804-521-1121 or 1-800-768-6040, ext.121, or email foundation@vaumc.org. We are available to visit with local church committees, to present seminars on endowment and planned giving and/or to consult with donors in creating a comprehensive estate design with charitable intent.