Giving Legacy a Voice

Every year the vast majority of Americans who pass away do so without having prepared a valid last Will and Testament. Approximately 65% of Americans do not have a Will.

This statistic is especially astounding, since state and federal laws provide some significant incentives for the preparation of a Will. These incentives are designed to make it easy for very personal wishes to be known and followed – wishes that deal with child custody, property distribution, and a legacy of values. Not to mention the fact that, in many cases, a carefully planned Will serves to actually minimize costs related to settling an estate.

For more information about giving, contact:

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Moravian Ministries FOUNDATION

Moving ministries forward, ***together.***

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How to Make a Legacy Gift

Most of us support our church and our favorite Moravian ministries regularly during life, so why wouldn't we do the same when we pass into the more immediate presence of our Lord?

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How do you do that?

Make sure you have a Will.

While almost all of the reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of a Will can have a devastating impact on an estate and the family left to pick up the pieces.

Here is a look at what constitutes a valid will that can stand up under the probate process:

- A Will must be signed by a person of legal age. In most states, this is age 18.
- The document must be the product of a person with full capacity to state their Will.
- The document must have been created with full intent of taking effect at death.
- A Will must be signed free of fraud, undue influence, duress or coercion.
- Most states require that the Will be signed in front of witnesses.

These simple steps are all that is required to constitute a valid Will. It is recommended that individuals consult their attorneys to guard against anything that might delay the process of probating an estate. Your Will is your opportunity to carefully articulate your wishes, your values, and your legacy.

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Create your own legacy.

There are a number of ways you can include your church and other Moravian ministries and organizations in your plan to create a legacy. One of the easiest ways to fulfill your charitable goals and help continue our work, is through an outright bequest. Your attorney can draft language making a gift through us of a specific asset, percentage of your estate, or the residue (what's left after specific bequests are made to your family). Your estate qualifies for a charitable deduction for the gift. Similarly, you can create a perpetual fund with Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) that pays a fixed percentage or set amount to your favorite causes into perpetuity under your name and you simply name your fund in your Will. Another option is to create a tax-deductible split interest gift, which will provide lifetime income to a family member or friend. Examples of these include gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, etc. For additional information on planning options, please contact us. We look forward to helping you create your legacy!

Making a legacy gift to charity.

In considering your plans for the future, you may not only be thinking about how to help your family and save on estate taxes, but also how you might benefit one or more charitable organizations. A legacy gift permits you to leave a lasting impact and often provides valuable tax savings. A charitable gift is one of the easiest gifts to make. You can create a bequest of any dollar amount, gift specific property, or designate a percentage of your estate in your Will or perpetual fund. If you wish to make a gift of your IRA or 401(k) plan, this can usually be done by filling out the beneficiary designation forms provided by your plan administrator.

FREE Wills Planning guide

Using the Guide to Planning Your Will & Trust, you can organize what you own and state who you intend to benefit. Once your guide is completed, we encourage you to visit with your advisor to finalize your plan. Please call or email us for your FREE copy.