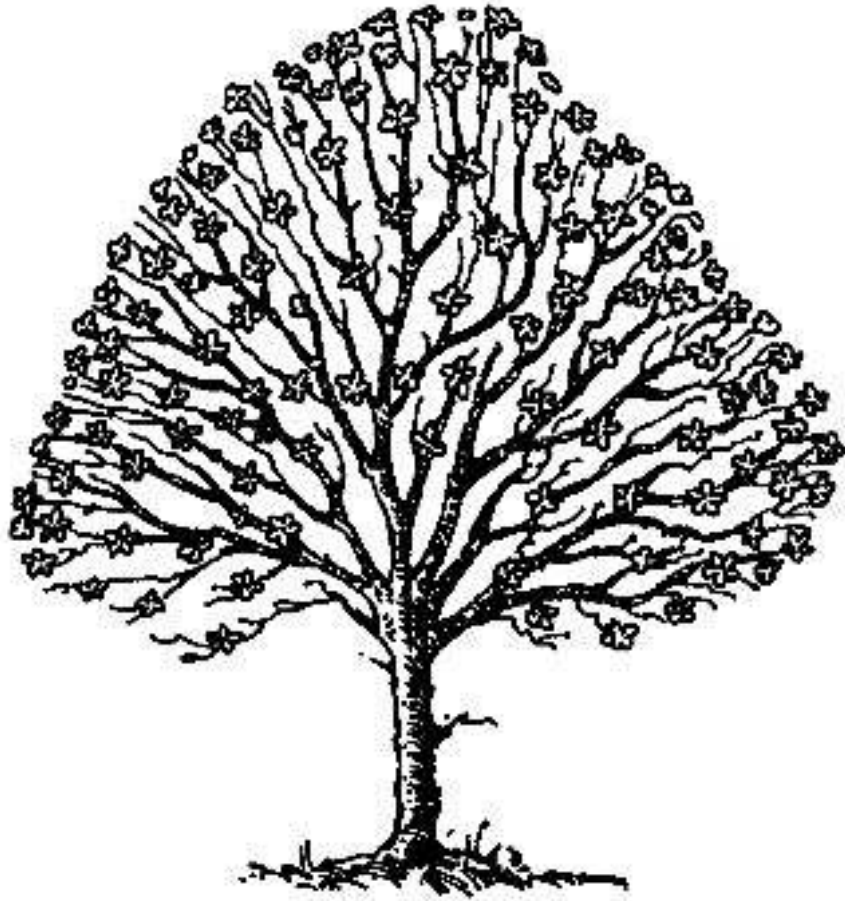


# Growing our Future



**Tree of Life Legacy Society**



## Legacy Gift Program Purpose

Seattle Unity's Legacy Gift Program is designed to enable congregants and friends of Seattle Unity help build the long-term prosperity of the church through bequests and other planned gifts. The intention of this program is to educate potential donors and to provide a means by which they can create a personal legacy with an enduring benefit to Seattle Unity through their generosity.

Most legacy gifts are made from a donor's assets, as opposed to regular tithing or annual gifts of cash. Legacy giving is not reserved for the affluent. Often, such gifts will come from the ministry's most dedicated and grateful members, even those with presumably modest means.

## Planned Gift

A gift, typically given from a person's assets rather than income, such as a bequest, a gift annuity, charitable trust, or other arrangement that is usually received upon the death of the donor. A legacy or planned gift usually requires the services of a professional to complete the gift arrangement. Estate planning is technical. Make an appointment with an attorney and consider consulting with other trusted advisors. It will become clear to you whether to include a bequest in your Will or Living Trust, or to include Seattle Unity on the beneficiary form of your IRA, life insurance policy or other instruments listed below.

## Tree of Life Legacy Society

If you officially notify Seattle Unity that your will or other binding documents provide a gift to Seattle Unity you will be enrolled in the Tree of Life Legacy Society. To thank the generous members who so lovingly sustain the mission of our church a "Tree of Life" plaque, engraved with their names will be placed in our new building. A legacy gift may go to one or more of four funds (Endowment, Reserve, Capital or Operations Funds) depending on the wishes of the donor.

## Legacy Gifts to Seattle Unity

The following are ways you can make a legacy gift to Seattle Unity. Bequests through your will are perhaps the easiest and most common method. Below you will find suggested wording for language to use in bequests in your will. An attorney should review and approve the language you decide to use. ***Use these as samples only and always consult legal counsel.***

## Identifying Seattle Unity

It is important that the proper legal name and address of the church be used when designating it as a recipient of your gift. In your documents, please list the recipient as:

**Seattle Unity • 200 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109**



## **Wills**

Almost everyone of legal age needs a will, but the fact is, more than half of Americans die without a will. If you have not made a will at the time of your passing, the state steps in and may not always act in accordance with your wishes.

Making a will is your opportunity to express, in legal terms, your priorities and concerns for the people and institutions in your life. After giving thought to what you wish to accomplish with your estate plans, contact your attorney to have your will drawn up. A simple will is usually inexpensive. Even when the will is more complicated, its cost is minimal for the peace of mind it buys—and often for the taxes it saves. Attorneys generally charge by the hour, so if you are clear and organized in what you want to do, it will take less time with the attorney and thus cost less money.

The Washington State Bar Association has an excellent website that provides information regarding wills, along with an attorney referral list. You can do a search by clicking on [www.wsba.org](http://www.wsba.org). Attorneys recommend that you should review your will every five years.

## **General Use Bequest**

“I give, devise and bequeath to Seattle Unity at 200 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109 (     % of my estate, or a specific sum of money, or description of property, or “the rest residue and remainder of my estate”) to be used for its general tax-exempt purposes and without other restrictions as to use.”

## **General Use Bequest to Seattle Unity Endowment Fund**

“I give, devise and bequeath to Seattle Unity at 200 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109 (     % of my estate, or a specific sum of money, or description of property, or “the rest residue and remainder of my estate”) to (add to/create) a permanent endowment of which the CPI-adjusted principal is kept intact and only the income and/or appreciation expended, to be administered in accordance with the policies established by the Seattle Unity Board of Trustees.”

## **Gifts of Life Insurance**

Life insurance is another way to make a gift to Seattle Unity. You can purchase a new policy and make the church the owner and beneficiary; the premiums can be made as contributions to Seattle Unity and become tax deductible. You may also make Seattle Unity the beneficiary of a percentage or all an existing policy by simply updating a beneficiary form. Contact your life insurance company to do so.

## **Life Income Gifts**

Life Income Gifts provide you and your designated beneficiary an income for life in exchange for your gift. They can be established in several ways, the most common of which include a Charitable Gift Annuity, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or participation in the Pooled Income Fund.



## **Make the Church a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plans**

You may name Seattle Unity as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. There is a tax advantage to doing this as the church does not pay tax on this distribution. To list Seattle Unity as a beneficiary, contact your retirement plan advisor.

## **Gifts of Appreciated Assets: Stock/Real Estate**

In addition to considering a bequest to Seattle Unity, you may discover that you have assets which could be given outright to the church now or given with the provision that you receive an income for life (charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable remainder trust, etc.). You may have highly appreciated assets that do not provide much income but cost too much to sell because of capital gains tax. These may be given to the church without capital gains tax, provide income to you, and offer further tax advantages to you.

## **Donating an IRA**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 opened powerful new options to gift distributions from your IRA if you are age 70 ½ and above to the church and other qualified public charities.

If you have more IRA income than you need, and if you are 70 ½ or older, you may gift up to \$100,000 of your IRA to charity so you could fulfill your annual pledge or make an additional gift from your IRA if you qualify. It is very easy to make the gift by directing your custodian to transfer an amount or a percentage of your IRA directly to the church. Check with your financial advisor as to whether the amount of the transfer is completely deductible because it is going directly to Seattle Unity. It will count toward your required minimum distribution. It is about as simple a gift as you can make, whether you itemize your deductions or not.

You may contact your IRA custodian directly on how to make an IRA Charitable Rollover to the church and other favorite charities.

## **For More Information**

To repeat, always seek the counsel of an attorney and a financial professional when considering the options discussed here or others. If you want additional information from Seattle Unity, please contact Gayle Macy (206.243.1611 or [flourdzn@aol.com](mailto:flourdzn@aol.com)) or the Minister, or a member of the Board of Trustees.

## **Thank You**

Finally, whatever you decide and whatever the plans you come up with, Seattle Unity and its future members are grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and your generosity. By planning a future legacy gift to Seattle Unity, you help make sure your spiritual home — our church — is a vibrant and healthy one far into the future. We bless you.



## Legacy Gift Notification Form

As an expression of my commitment to Seattle Unity, I take pleasure in notifying you that I have included a legacy gift in my estate plans to benefit the mission, vision, and future of Seattle Unity.

Date my legacy gift was signed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of legacy gift arrangement:

\_\_\_ Bequest in my will \_\_\_ A Living Trust \_\_\_ Life Insurance Policy \_\_\_ Trust Agreement \_\_\_ IRA or retirement fund  
\_\_\_ Charitable Gift Annuity \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** My gift will be approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate.

### I would like my gift to be used to support:

\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Operations Fund

(Though this notification is an expression of my current plans, I understand that I may modify or revoke it and that it is not a legal obligation binding me or my estate.)

**Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I give you permission to include my name as a member of the "Tree of Life Legacy Society"

\_\_\_ I would be willing to make a short testimonial about why I gave a legacy gift.

I would like to be listed as follows [please print]: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form to:** Rev. Diane Robertson  
Seattle Unity  
200 8<sup>TH</sup> Ave N.  
Seattle, WA 98109

