



GUIDE TO CONSTRUCTING A CHRISTIAN WILL

WILLS & BEQUESTS

It is never too early to write a will; it can only be too late. Writing your will is the most important step you can take in planning your estate. Without it, the probate court will make decisions about the distribution of your assets and appoint guardianship of any survivor left in your care. No assets will be given to any charitable organization, no matter how important that organization was to you during your lifetime.

If you do have a will, this may be a good time to review it. Wills should be kept up-to-date and reviewed from time to time to mirror the changes that may take place in your life. A properly prepared will is a very effective means to accomplish many goals, including charitable intentions.

Consideration for Reviewing a Will

- Birth or adoption of children
- Children have grown or married
- Loss of spouse or loved one
- Divorce or marriage
- Move to another state
- Change in financial situation or holdings

A bequest can be written to give a stated amount to a charitable organization you specify, a percentage of your estate, or a residual amount (after expenses and other bequests have been deducted).

GETTING STARTED

Taking an inventory of all assets and liabilities is groundwork for a good estate plan. An Estate Planning brochure is available from First Pres to assist you in this process. It is important to share this information with children or the executor you may have named.

After you have compiled a comprehensive list, decide how you want your assets distributed. List your heirs and what you would like each to receive, including charitable beneficiaries you would like to support. Consider your personal goals for the management and protection of your resources.

There is more than one way to achieve your goals. As you familiarize yourself with the various estate planning concepts and charitable giving options, you will be able to make informed decisions regarding your plan. Consult with your legal and financial advisors to discuss and finalize your plan.

FORMALIZING YOUR WILL

Once you have considered how you would like your assets distributed, and to whom, you are ready to formalize your will. An attorney should do this, so that proper language and terms are used. Employing an attorney will ensure that your intentions are clear and concise. This prevents the possibility of misunderstandings and delays in probating your will and ensures your will complies with the specific requirements of your state.

A bequest can be made directly to the church through the First Pres Legacy Endowment Fund. You can make an undesignated gift or you can designate your gift to a specific purpose such as Mission, Worship, Youth, Christian Education, our historical facility, or for another use.

EXECUTORS

Once you have reviewed your assets and listed your beneficiaries, it is important to name the person(s) who will see that your wishes are carried out. The executor, subject to state law, maybe a friend, relative or representative from a bank or trust company. An alternative to your first choice should always be named.

