



**FIRST CHURCH**  
GUILFORD CT • FOUNDED IN 1643

By leaving a **Planned Gift** you are ensuring that **First Congregational Church Guilford** can continue to serve children, families and the community. You will help to guarantee that First Congregational Church Guilford can continue its mission for another 300+ years.

### **Good Stewards**

As people of faith, we are called to be “good stewards” of the assets with which we have been entrusted. Good stewardship calls for financial planning and estate planning to ensure the financial security of our families and loved ones.

We must also consider how we will provide for the church or ministry that we love and serve to secure its foundation and vitality for future generations. One way you can achieve these goals is through a Planned Gift.

### **What is a Planned Gift?**

Planned gifts are planned for during the donor’s lifetime but not realized by the beneficiary until the donor’s death. A planned gift is an expression of you and your family’s values and commitment to Christian stewardship. A planned gift is an expression of you and your family’s values.

It’s a way of saying that after your family and loved ones, these are the causes that matter most and providing for them is important to you.

There are many other ways to plan a gift. There are gifts that pay you income in retirement, and gifts that help reduce or avoid income and estate taxes. How you make your gift is important but more important is the fact that your planned gift meets your personal, financial and charitable goals.

Planned gifts are a wonderful way to create a meaningful legacy for you and your family. A planned gift does not require great wealth. It is a win for you and a win for the church or ministry.

## **How To Create a Planned Gift:**

### Make a Planned Gift Through a Bequest in Your Will:

- Before creating an estate gift for First Church, we encourage you to speak with your legal and / or financial advisor.
- Designate a planned gift (bequest) in an amount that is appropriate for you.
- Direct your bequest, so that First Church can use your gift to grow the endowment.

### Charitable Gift of Life Insurance:

- Give an existing policy to First Church, assign all claims to First Church and name First Church as the beneficiary.
- Apply for a new life insurance policy naming First Church as the policy owner and beneficiary.
- Name First Church as the beneficiary of your existing policy (designating any percentage of the policy to the organization). If you have an IRA, tax advantages exist to have IRA go to charity and direct your life insurance to living heirs of the same dollar amount.

### Make a Planned Gift Using Your IRA or 401(k):

- If you are 72 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can instruct your IRA administrator to make a distribution of up to \$100,000 directly to First Church.
- At any age, you can call your IRA or 401(k) administrator and change your beneficiary to First Church.
- Using your IRA can have significant tax advantages, not only for you, but your heirs.

### Transfer upon Death:

Perhaps the simplest (like a beneficiary change) designate First Church to receive a bank or brokerage account or a stock help in a holding account. This transfers the asset without going through probate court like a will designation.

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Would you like to talk to others who have set up planned giving to First Church?

We have members who are willing to share with you.

Once you have decided to support First Church with an endowment gift, now or in the future, it is helpful to confidentially let one of the Trustees know of your plan.

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### Bequest Toolkit/Sample Language:

- When creating an estate gift for First Church, we encourage you to speak with your legal and/or financial advisors to assist in your planned giving.
- Sample Language for making an unrestricted dollar-specific bequest:  
"I give and bequeath the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) to First Congregational Church Guilford at 122 Broad Street, Guilford, CT 06437 for its endowment."
- Sample Language for making a residuary bequest:  
"I give and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ percent ( \_\_\_\_\_ %) to First Congregational Church Guilford located at 122 Broad Street, Guilford, CT 06437 for its endowment."

**For more information about creating a Planned Gift  
contact Gail Thompson**

[gthompsonct@gmail.com](mailto:gthompsonct@gmail.com) or (203) 915-1944

### **Our Legal Name and Address:**

First Congregational Church of Guilford, CT Inc.  
122 Church Street, Guilford, CT 06437