

## CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING OPTIONS

### PROVIDING FOR GENERATIONS

As a community shaped by the Bible, we are generous! It is who we are! The goal of the "Fulfill the Promise," stewardship campaign is to inform, inspire, and challenge our congregation, not only to support the general annual budget of our church, but to reduce our church's indebtedness and make provisions for the next generation through legacy giving. The world tends to value people in terms of dollar wealth, but both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament offer a different way of valuing people. All persons have sacred worth in the eyes of God. All are to be treated with respect and love although some are easier to love than others. Tithing or proportional giving is the way the Israelite community worked out a fair way of giving so that a person who makes \$20,000 and gives \$2,000 or 10% is equal to person who makes \$100,000 and gives \$10,000. Jesus honors the gift of two copper coins of the widow over the larger gifts of the wealthy. (Luke 21:1-4, Mark 12:41-44) Tithing is the way our community of faith says that "Everyone's gift is important." The discipline of tithing also encourages us to be good stewards or managers of our resources. If we could give 10%, save 10% and live on 80% of our income, our families and nation would be healthier.

#### **Three Pockets of Giving:**

Each of us have three pockets of resources from which we can support our church. The first pocket is a percentage of our regular paycheck or income. Some people give a tithe which means 10% of their income, and some give less or more than a tithe. This first pocket supports the Annual General Budget of the church. It is helpful if this is given monthly in worship or through an automatic deposit from a bank.

The second pocket of giving comes from our accumulated assets such as savings, collectibles, stock, real-estate, homes, cars, boats, or other goods. This is called our net worth. A question worth asking is : "Am I as generous with my net worth as I am with my annual income?" Please consider a gift from your second pocket to help reduce the church's debt. In this brochure, there are several creative ways to do this which will benefit the church.

The third pocket involves including the church in your will, life-insurance policy, or by listing the church as a beneficiary of an investment such as a 401, IRA, gift annuity, etc. The advantage of giving in this way is that after your death, the family does not have to pay taxes on this gift which will come directly to the church. There are many possibilities for third pocket giving. There could also be some advantages for you as well. For example, some persons have given their home to their church, while continuing to live in it until they no longer need it. In this brochure there are a number of planning options. At the present time, a primary goal of the Monte Sano UMC is to reduce our debt, but in the future, these assets could greatly enhance exciting ministries for the next generations.

We are fortunate to have the United Methodist Foundation of North Alabama to help us with estate gifts, charitable gift annuities, and an endowed gifts. For more information, or for a personal consultation, about any of these ways of giving, please contact the church office (256) 533-6083, or the United Methodist Foundation of North Alabama at (205) 503-5650.

**Cash:** The IRS allows for 50% in most cases of a donor's adjusted gross income to the church. They provide a 5-year carryover for deductions that exceed the 50% of the adjusted gross income.

**Charitable Bequests:** Donor designates a church to receive specific, general or residuary bequest from a **Will or Revocable Living Trust.**

**Beneficiary Designations:** Donor names church to receive part or all of life insurance proceeds or remaining principal in retirement, brokerage, or financial accounts.

**Securities:** Current value of appreciated securities held for more than one year may be given to churches. These include common and preferred stock, corporate bonds, Government bonds and securities, and mutual funds.