

Springboard

Planned giving: A good idea whose 'time has come!'

When I was in college at Centenary, I joined a new program, the Centenary School of Church Careers, aka CSCC. This was the dream of Dr. D. L. Dykes, long-time senior pastor of FUMC



Shreveport. As we started the first day of the program, he welcomed all the new students enrolled in CSCC by saying, "There is nothing quite like a good idea whose time has come!"

Planned giving is generally defined as a gift to a church or charity that is specifically planned and will come to fruition in the future. While this "future" is often after the life of the donor, the gift can be made in other ways and time periods.

This type of charitable giving is certainly not a new idea as it has been around for years, but it recently has been the focus of increased attention by mainstream media. In many ways, planned giving is a "good idea whose time has come!"

Planned giving has moved to the front burner as the U.S. ages. Many of us baby boomers will spur an estimated 30 trillion dollars in wealth transfer over the next few decades. This means that the timing is right to start thinking about your charitable goals. And with the

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HEARTSPRING METHODIST FOUNDATION

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Spirit

Stronger together: Heartspring, TMF to join forces

WE ARE HAPPY to announce the boards of Heartspring Methodist Foundation and Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) have voted unanimously for the two organizations to join forces. While there are still several steps in the approval process, and nothing would be finalized until after the 2018 Texas Annual Conference, we wanted to share the great news of this pending combination.

Both foundations have a long history of providing financial resources to individual Methodists, churches and agencies in service to their ministries. We believe that combined, Heartspring's and TMF's complementary strengths will allow us to offer more resources and even better customer service to you.

"Simply put, we will be stronger together," says Rev. C. J. Taylor, Heartspring president and CEO. "We are excited about the opportunities ahead, and look forward to providing even better service to the Texas Conference and beyond."



The new organization will move forward with the best offerings and features of both foundations to deliver a wide range of high-quality investment options, loans, leadership platforms, grants, legacy giving and strategic discernment resources to the Methodist churches, agencies and individuals we serve.

"We have the deepest respect for Heartspring and believe that by consolidating tangible resources and strong leadership with a common mission, this partnership will substantially enhance the ability of our United Methodist community to fulfill God's purposes," says Tom Locke, TMF president.

If you currently work with either foundation, nothing will change at this point. We will be sharing more details soon. Until then, we welcome your phone calls or emails if you have questions.

Heartspring: C. J. Taylor or Krystol Wheeler at 800-521-9617 or office@heartspringmethodist.org.

TMF: Tom Locke or Curtis Vick at 800-933-5502 or tmf@tmf-fdn.org. ■

Staying informed: 2018 tax seminars

KEEPING UP with the changing financial regulations that apply to churches and clergy can be challenging. Heartspring Methodist Foundation and the Texas Conference once again are sponsoring two Clergy and Church Finance Tax Seminars in 2018 to help.

Clergy Tax Session

Learn about changes to current tax laws and payroll issues related to ministers, including employment status, housing allowances, reimbursable expenses, tax-free benefits, retirement plans and

more. The presenter will be using the 2018 version of Zondervan's "Minister's Tax and Financial Guide," a copy of which is included with your registration. This seminar is approved to offer three credit hours of continuing professional education (CPE) credit; there are no prerequisites to attend.

Church Finance Session

This session focuses on relevant changes to current tax laws as they apply to churches — particularly relevant this year given the recent tax overhaul. It also covers the basics of general church finance, including how to handle unique issues related to church employees and contractors, reimbursement plans, charitable gifts, tax deductible contributions, expense reimbursement, financial records and reporting, and more. The presenter will be using the 2018 version of Zondervan's "Church and Non-Profit Tax and Financial Guide," a copy of which is included with your registration. This seminar is approved to offer 2.5 credit hours of continuing professional education (CPE) credit; there are no prerequisites to attend.

Speakers

Frank Sommerville will present the Tyler seminar. An attorney with the law firm of Weyer, Kaplan, Pulaski and Zuber, PC, he has served nonprofit institutions of all sizes as a bookkeeper,

February 13 at Marvin UMC, Tyler
February 26 at St. Paul's UMC, Houston

Seminar Schedule

8:45 am	Registration
9:15 am	Clergy Tax Seminar
12:15 pm	Lunch on your own
12:45 pm	Registration (PM session only)
1:30 pm	Church Finance / Legal Update Seminar
4:00 pm	Wrap up



accountant, auditor, tax advisor and advocate, litigator and legal advisor. Sommerville also is a discussion leader for the Texas Society of CPAs (TSCPA) on nonprofit issues. His law practice concentrates on taxation, church and nonprofit legal issues, estate planning, probate and related taxation.

Rev. Nate Berneking will present the Houston seminar. He is director of finance and administrative ministries for the Missouri Annual Conference. He attended seminary at Emory University's Candler School of Theology a few years after his work as an attorney in corporate law. He served as pastor in St. Louis and Chesterfield, Missouri, before joining the staff of the Missouri Annual Conference. Berneking wrote a book on clergy finance, published in 2017.

Sign up today

Register and pay online at www.heartspringmethodist.org. Walk-in registration is available, but space and supplies are limited and those not pre-registered will be added on a first come, first served basis. Contact Krystal Wheeler at 713-533-3780, 800-521-9617 or office@heartspringmethodist.org with any questions. ■

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recently approved tax overhaul that ups the individual deduction, planned giving vehicles may be a way to provide tax benefits for charitable giving without itemizing your tax returns.

The most popular planned gift is a simple bequest in a will, but there are options that may better suit your needs by providing immediate benefits while deferring the gift. Planned giving vehicles include gift annuities, charitable trusts, life estates, donor advised funds and others.

We invite you to visit our website www.heartspringmethodist.org for more information and to give us a call or personal visit. We love to help our friends find ways to help their church and other charities they support.

Planned giving: a good idea whose time has come!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C.J. Taylor'.

Rev. C.J. Taylor

Charitable gift annuities: The gift that keeps on giving

GIFT ANNUITIES are a great vehicle to fulfill your charitable goals. Set up one today to return an immediate tax deduction to you, *plus* lifetime income for you *and* a loved one, *and* give long-term financial support for your church or charity.

How it works

- You transfer cash or stock to Heartspring Methodist Foundation
- Heartspring creates a gift annuity to benefit your church (or other charity) after your life

- You receive a fixed income for life (and that of your spouse's, if desired); interest rate is based on your age
- You gain a charitable tax deduction for the gift; some portion of the income may also be tax-free
- After your life, your church or other charity receives the remaining balance as a gift to be used as directed by you.

Benefits

- Significant gift to charity
- Fixed income for life
- Charitable tax deduction
- Partial bypass of capital gain
- Possible tax-free payments

The power of generosity

While a gift annuity provides tax advantages and financial peace of mind, perhaps most importantly, it allows you to continue supporting the church's ministry long after you are gone.

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Financial Corner: Delivering strong 2017 performance

AS THE YEAR CLOSED, I did not expect I would be reporting even better numbers than those we saw at the end of Q3 2017, but here we are. NASDAQ was up 29.64 percent, the DOW was up 28.11 percent, the S&P 500 was up 21.83 percent and every S&P 500 sector's performance improved as well. Information Technology led the way again (up 38.83 percent) and while Telecom Services and Energy were still lagging (down 1.25 and 1.01 percent, respectively), they were better than in Q3 2017. Our most popular investment portfolio, Diversified Moderate, continued its strong performance and returned 14.43 percent for 2017, net of all fees. We continue to be committed to providing high quality, long-term, diversified and socially responsible investments. ■

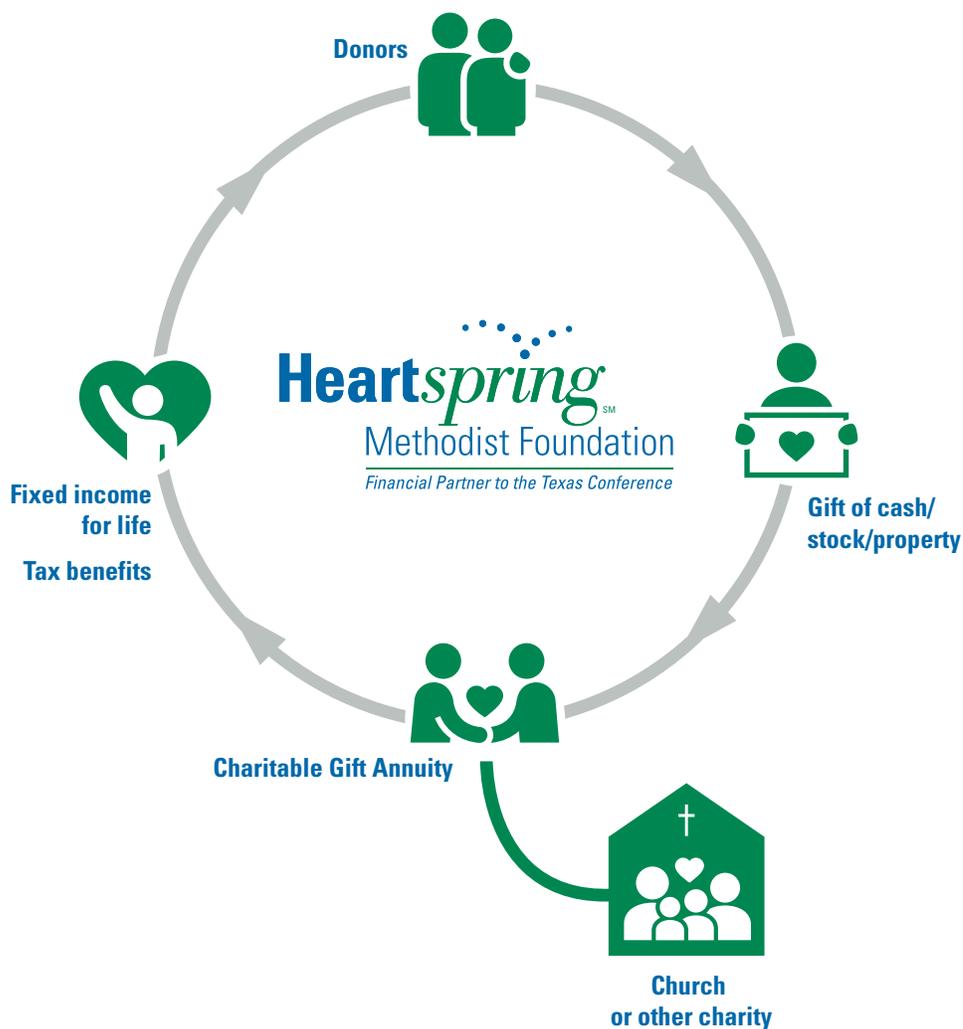
One-stop shopping for financial information

For those of you who want more detailed market data, reports on Heartspring fund performance, and other investment and financial news, visit the Financial Corner on our website www.heartspringmethodist.org/financial-corner. There you'll find our most current performance, as well as other tools and resources, such as market news and commentary from our fund managers, updated monthly.

HEARTSPRING FUND PERFORMANCE VS. BENCHMARK

For the period ending December 31, 2017





Example: Giving with a charitable gift annuity

Joe and Mary Wilson had been instrumental in setting up their church’s food pantry and knew how much good it did for their community. They decided to establish a gift annuity to fund its continuing operations in the future and give them a dedicated income stream and tax benefits right now. After working with their financial advisor and Heartspring, they gifted a stock portfolio to start a gift annuity, listing the church’s food pantry ministry as the beneficiary. After the lives of Joe and Mary, the church will receive a lump sum of the remainder balance as a gift to be used specifically for the food pantry. Joe and Mary can feel confident their charitable goals have been met and the ministry they love will continue on long after they’re gone.

Annuity rates

Rates depend on your age, and are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. Annuities may be established for the life of one person or for a couple. The rates below are subject to change; please contact us for current rates. ■

Single Life

AGE	RATE
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90	9.0%

Two Lives

AGE	RATE
70/75	4.8%
80/85	7.3%

Spirit

The Heartspring *Spirit* is published quarterly by Heartspring Methodist Foundation for clients, friends and members of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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