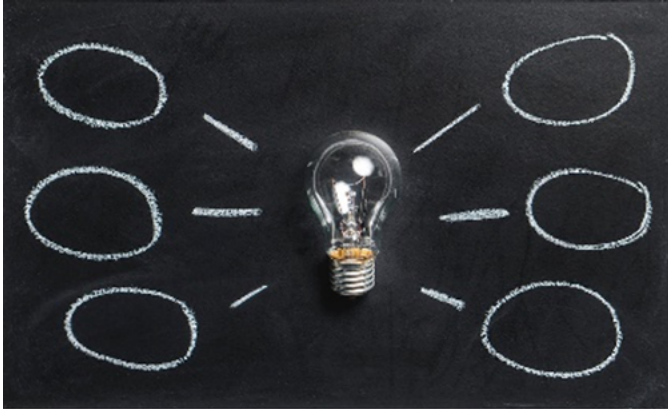


Six Easy Ways to Include Your Ministries in Your Will

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“Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work.”

—Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God

Chances are, you’re supporting several ministries that God has placed on your heart. Have you considered creating a gift for those ministries in your will?

Many Christians like the idea of naming their ministries in their will. Their reasons include:

- **Logic.** If I’m giving now, it makes sense to continue my giving after God takes me home.
- **Consistency.** When I die, I don’t want my giving to die with me.
- **Dependence.** Ministries rely on the ongoing support of God’s people.
- **Love.** I love the people who carry out these ministries, along with the people they serve.
- **Stewardship.** I want to steward God’s resources well by investing in His work long-term.
- **Legacy.** I want my legacy to reveal how much I prioritize God’s work.
- **Impact.** A gift in my will could be my largest gift ever, and I want to use it to impact others for Jesus Christ.

Do you feel the same way? If so, here are some easy ways to name your ministries in your plan.



1. Name as (contingent) beneficiary of your life insurance

This approach requires simply submitting a change of beneficiary form, making your ministries either the primary or secondary beneficiary of your life insurance benefits. Married couples may wish to name the surviving spouse as the primary beneficiary. The secondary (contingent) beneficiary would receive the death benefit if the primary beneficiary is no longer living. You need only contact your agent and complete the form.

2. Name as (contingent) beneficiary of your IRA

This, too, is as easy as contacting your IRA custodian and completing a change of beneficiary form. Your ministries can be named as primary beneficiaries or, if you're married, as contingent beneficiaries. Giving from your IRA is also tax-efficient; unlike individuals, nonprofit organizations are not required to pay income taxes on these gifts. Instead of losing money to taxes, those funds can be put to good use by the ministries you choose.

3. Establish a POD for your bank or brokerage accounts

A Payable On Death (POD) account can be established for bank or brokerage accounts by contacting your financial institution and completing a POD form. Doing so allows you to name a beneficiary for these accounts, much like naming a life insurance or IRA beneficiary. Setting up a POD also allows those accounts to bypass the cost, publicity, and delay of probate.

4. Communicate final distribution instructions on your Donor Advised Fund

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable giving fund that functions much like a private foundation. If you have established a DAF, be sure to provide your administrator with clear instructions and a list of ministries you wish to bless with any remaining fund balance.

5. Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity with your ministries

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an arrangement with a charity in which they agree to pay you (and your spouse, if applicable) a fixed lifetime income in exchange for a lump sum gift. You receive the income during your lifetime, and your ministry receives the remaining balance at the end of the term.



6. Amend your will or trust to include an amount or percentage for your ministries

The next time you update your will, consider including your ministries. Some people like to tithe their estate, carving out 10% for charity. People with children may treat their ministries as “another child” and give to these organizations a share equal to what they have earmarked for their children. For example, someone with three children may name “ministry” as a fourth child and distribute 25% to each child, including ministry. The 25% for ministry can be further divided among a handful of ministries.

Our stewardship at the end of our lives is just as important as our stewardship during our lifetime. If you haven't already done so, pray and ask God to grant you wisdom to understand His plan of stewardship for you. If that includes ongoing investments in the Lord's work, then some of these suggestions may prove to be easy ways to accomplish those wishes.