



Planning and Planting for the Future

The Black Mountain Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund

Patrick Henry wrote into his will that if he had left nothing in terms of worldly riches but had given his heirs a faith in Jesus Christ, then they were of all people most wealthy. Conversely, he added that if he had left them all the wealth in the world but had not left them a faith in Jesus Christ, they would have been of all people most destitute.

Fortunately for Patrick Henry's heirs he planned for their future and for the future of others through the ministry of his church. Recognizing that all he had was a gift from God, he was a steward of these gifts, faithfully planning and planting for the future. What was true for Patrick Henry more than 200 years ago, is still true today. Estate planning may be the single most important act of stewardship that most of us as Christians will ever perform. Whether we are in our senior years, contemplating retirement, or younger with a growing family, estate planning boils down to determining how, when, and to whom we will transfer the stewardship of what God has entrusted to us when we can no longer serve as stewards ourselves.

Regrettably, the vast majority of Americans do not have a valid estate plan. There are many reasons. You may not feel you have much to leave. You may dislike legal documents. Or, you may just procrastinate "letting life just get in the way". As author J. Clif Christopher writes "if you die without a plan... you take all those assets God has given you such as children, money, property, jewelry... and lay them on the judge's desk to decide what happens now."

*But do not
forget to do
good and to
share with
others, for with
such sacrifices
God is well
pleased.*

Hebrews 13:16



The members of BMPC have always been generous. We love to give of our time, talent and treasure. In the late 1990s the Session of BMPC established the Black Mountain Presbyterian Endowment Fund to provide members and friends an opportunity to extend their stewardship beyond their lifetime by making gifts directly or through planned giving to permanently fund the ministry and mission of our church. Small gifts and large bequests have made the BMPC Endowment Fund able to support our church's mission today and into the future.

In a conversation about the importance of estate planning new BMPC member Bobbie Johnson shared, *"I have always had my church in my will. When I first came here a year-and-a-half ago, Mike Begley told me about the Endowment Fund. A gift to the Endowment Fund is more than a gift to support the current work and ministries of the church. It is a gift in perpetuity which is carefully invested in a way that produces income to support that work far into the future."*

Estate planning offers BMPC members and friends the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. Bequests have the power to impact future generations. It is so easy to provide for our church in your will and still provide for your loved ones. It might be a simple bequest or outright gift. It might be designating BMPC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or leaving a tangible asset. It might be a gift of appreciated securities. The BMPC Pastors and Endowment Fund Board Members can provide guidance to you, your legal advisor, or financial planner on how our Endowment Fund is structured and how your gift will grow and be used.

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Bobbie Johnson
BMPC member

The BMPC Endowment Fund Board members wish to thank members, past and present, who have given to the Endowment Fund and current members who have shared their thoughts on stewardship. We also thank the PCUSA Foundation for its many resources.