



AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Living Legacy Program Bequests

## Bequests

A bequest is a charitable gift through a will. Bequests are the foundation of the American philanthropic tradition. A bequest enables the donor to make a significant charitable contribution that may not have been possible during his/her lifetime.

*Why should a donor consider our nonprofit?*

- To reduce his/her estate taxes
- To create a lasting legacy in his/her name or in memory of a loved one.
- They will make a lasting impact your work.

*How does it work?*

- The donor consults with his/her advisor to determine the type of charitable bequest that is best for him/her.
- The donor could make an outright gift through his/her will.
- The donor could set up a plan which provides income to a beneficiary.
- The donor follows the sample language for the type of bequest being established.  
(See below)
- The donor notifies the nonprofit that he/she is including the nonprofit in his/her will.

*What are the types of bequests?*

**Specific Bequest** – The donor designates the nonprofit to receive a specific dollar amount or specific piece of property.

Sample language: I give and bequeath the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to the nonprofit organization, to establish the [name of donor or family] Fund.

**Residuary Bequest** – The donor gives the \_\_\_\_\_ nonprofit all (or a portion of) his/her property, after all debts, taxes, expenses and all other bequests have been paid.

Sample language: I give and bequeath to the nonprofit organization, the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to establish the [name of donor or family] Fund.

**Contingent Bequest** – In the event of an unexpected occurrence, the donor's property will be used to create a fund at the \_\_\_\_\_ nonprofit, rather than pass to unintended beneficiaries.