



Evangelical Congregational Church

TO KNOW CHRIST AND
MAKE HIM KNOWN

Office of Planned Giving

Letter from the John P. Ragsdale, D.Ed., Planned Giving Officer:

I would like to introduce you to a new ministry of the Evangelical Congregational Church – The Office of Planned Giving. The term “Planned Giving” refers to the ways one can use ones assets to support the ministry of the church for the long term. The purpose of this Office is to assist the entire denomination in promoting total life stewardship, through the means of “Planned Giving.”

Many followers of the Lord Jesus Christ believe firmly in the need to regularly support their local churches, and also give faithfully to the global outreach of the church. We recognize the importance of preparing people for ministry and thus give to the work of the Evangelical School of Theology. We support out camping programs and help to care for our retirees. Yet, too often, we do not plan for the distribution of our assets to reflect our lifelong commitments. Many allow the state to determine how their assets are distributed, when they go to be with the Lord. A “Giving Plan” for our assets will give clear direction to our heirs, may provide significant estate tax benefits, and can also be used to enhance current income and reduce taxation during our retirement.

There are many people within the membership of the E.C. Church, who have expertise in various aspects of “Planned Giving.” I have completed the certification of the National Planned Giving Institute, which is part of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Others have had “Planned Giving” training provided by other national organizations. We have accountants and lawyers who are experts in the tax and legal aspects of a “Giving Plan”. Some of our institutions have development officers, who provide counsel in the developing of a personal plan, ensuring that ones commitments and desires are expressed accurately. This office will seek to provide counsel to those who are interested in learning more about the ways they can protect and care for the distribution of their assets. I will work to coordinate the efforts of our institutions to avoid duplication and ensure efficiency in providing our services across the denomination. I will be available on a limited schedule to visit churches and provide a seminar addressing the need for a “Giving Plan”. I will also be glad to meet personally with individuals who desire a personal and confidential consultation.

Finally, a very popular and common tool in “Planned Giving” is the Gift Annuity. The E.C. Church has set up a separate Gift Annuity Fund and will welcome Gift Annuitants to use this service. Final distributions from this fund will help in the long-term ministry of the E.C. Church to our world.

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