

An interim report from the Legacy Planning Committee February 2017

The Legacy Planning Committee, a subcommittee of the Stewardship Committee to which it reports on a regular basis, has completed its quiet campaign of one-on-one personal appeals to members and friends of the congregation to make a commitment to including TUCW in their estate planning. These efforts have produced a group of 16 "charter members" of the Legacy Society. The Legacy Society includes as members only those who have made written confirmation of their commitment to include the church in their estate planning. These efforts followed a public announcement of the appointment of the LPC and the distribution of brochures to the congregation.

What is next?

We have been informed that a donor has set aside significant funds to match legacy gifts made to UU churches and seminaries. As soon as the details from the matching funds are known from Shelter Rock the LPC would like to begin a more public phase of its work. We felt the announcement of the matching grant would give us a powerful tool to re-invite the congregation to consider their estate planning with the added incentive of knowing that their gifts would be worth even more because of this donor's generosity. Unfortunately, we still have not received word that the plan is operative or what its terms are, and this has delayed this phase. As soon as we receive this confirmation we will set in motion the following 5 steps. We hope this will be soon so as not to overlap with the annual budget drive.

- 1) Public announcements at both services of this unprecedented opportunity, to be accompanied by Legacy forms distributed with the order of service or placed on seats in the sanctuary. Members of the LPC would be available in the lobby to answer questions.
- 2) A separate eblast laying out the advantages of making a legacy gift now, and how to do it.
- 3) A similar announcement in Soundings.
- 4) An announcement giving the names of current members of the Legacy Society and an invitation to dinner in May for all those who have filled out the form informing us of their commitment. It is planned that this dinner will be an annual event and worth the investment of church funds to annually reinforce to Legacy member the importance of their gift and our appreciation for it.
- 5) The ordering and placement of a plaque in the church lobby identifying an up to date list of members of the Society which will be initially unveiled at the May dinner.

The form we are currently using lays out possible ways to direct their gifts to specific purposes. This is simply good practice to let people have some say about how the money is to be used when it arrives. The options and uses to which Legacy funds can be directed are those agreed upon in close collaboration with the Endowment Committee and church Treasurer in the Spring of 2016. The form also stresses the various options by which Legacy gifts can be made. The form asks for some detailed information as to what method the donor has chosen, so that when the situation arises triggering the bequest in the future that the church can ensure that the wishes of the donor are carried out.

A recent addition to the form, necessitated by the expected terms of the matching grant, is "Should this gift be made tomorrow (occasioned by the death of the donor) what is the dollar

amount the church would receive?” The amount reported will only be used for matching fund purposes and in no way constitutes a commitment that this would be the value of the gift in the future. It is simply a figure we will need to have in order to submit requests for matching funds later this year. Thankfully, we have a head start in obtaining these funds because of what we have already accomplished as we think that all of our new legacy members will could toward the match.

Longer term issues for which decisions need to be made:

After the winter rollout relating to the matching grant and the May dinner, the Legacy Planning Committee’s work would be completed. Who will take responsibility for ongoing tasks of soliciting new legacy gifts, supporting donors as they make their choices, and running future annual dinners? The main issue here is how best to regularize and continue Legacy efforts as an ongoing priority of the Church.

Options to consider:

This could be a regular responsibility of a standing committee like the Stewardship Committee, or a subcommittee of it as the LPC has been.

It is also possible that the best people to recruit new members of the Legacy Society are the members of that society themselves. Since all members of the LPC are also charter members of the Legacy Society we could participate in those discussions. But there should be some formal link between the Society and the regular administrative structure of the Church.

Alternatively, the Trustees might want to exert more direct influence since this is so important to the long-term survival of TUCW.

Or the LPC could be redefined as the “Legacy Development Committee” with new or added members.