

Building for the Future – Planned Giving Programme

Last month, you learned a bit about the Board of Trustees and their role. We would now like to introduce an initiative being developed by the Trustees: The Planned Giving Programme.

Planned Giving is basically the process of making a significant charitable Living Gift during your lifetime, or a Bequest at death, that is part of your financial or estate plan.

A gift to Runnymede United Church, either while living or under a Will, can provide a lasting legacy that will further the impact of the Trust Funds described in the last article: Outreach and Justice, Congregational and Spiritual Growth, Building Improvement or Planned Giving. You can determine how you would like your gift to make a difference in the life and work of the church.

There are several ways in which a gift can be made:

- **Specific gift/bequest:** you can give or specify in your Will a gift of a specific amount of cash (or a particular asset, such as marketable securities);
- **Residual bequest:** in your Will, you can leave a gift of a percentage of the residue of your estate;
- **Contingent bequest:** in your Will, you can leave a gift that will take effect only in the event that the primary beneficiary or beneficiaries pass away before you do. In other words, Runnymede United would be an alternate beneficiary that will receive such gift only if the gift cannot be made to any primary beneficiary or beneficiaries; and
- **Named beneficiary:** you can name Runnymede United as the beneficiary of an RRSP/RRIF or an insurance policy.

In addition to benefiting the Church, there are benefits to you as well, such as tax credits and ongoing flexibility (e.g. a Will can always be changed) in undertaking this kind of planning.

If you are interested in Planned Giving for Runnymede United, you should speak to a financial or estate planner to understand the best option for you. It is also recommended that you inform the Church of your bequest and wishes. This is particularly the case if you wish to designate the bequest for a specific purpose. This will give the Trustees the opportunity to ensure that your bequest can be used as intended.

For more information, please contact plannedgiving@runnymedeunited.org.

(summarized from an article by Rachel Blumenfeld, TEP, a partner at Aird & Berlis)