MAKE A DIFFERENCE
with Your Year-End Giving

Give appreciated securities

If you give shares of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to your church, you receive an income tax deduction for the full value of your gift. You also avoid the capital gains tax you would incur if you sold the securities yourself. The church sells that gift tax-free and receives its full value. You may also sell stock that has gone down in value, give the proceeds to your church and apply the realized loss on your tax return.

Give from your IRA

If you are 70.5 or older and must take a required minimum distribution from your traditional IRA, you may roll over up to $100,000 to your church, the foundation or other qualified charity. The charitable transfer isn't considered income, so it's tax-free, and it counts toward your minimum distribution. To qualify, your IRA trustee must send the funds directly to your church or charity.

Give from a will or trust

A bequest from your will or trust is a way to leave a legacy to your church as a statement of lifelong Christian stewardship. Just add a one-page addendum or codicil to your document to make the bequest. And if you don't already have a will or living trust, we strongly encourage you to have one written, and consider a bequest to your church when you do.

Give now, make a difference over time

A donor advised fund lets you make a tax-deductible gift now and additional distributions over time. You make an initial gift to the foundation and then periodically advise how the fund should be distributed to your church or other charities. The fund will be invested so it can grow, and you may add to it at any time. It's a convenient, low-cost alternative to a family foundation, and the fund can become permanent, with family members named as advisors upon your death.

Multi-Year Grouping Strategy

The increase in the standard deduction means that itemizing tax deductions each year won't make sense for many donors. Many taxpayers won't collect the necessary deductions to surpass the new standard deduction threshold. And the elimination or reduction of so many popular deductions will only put itemization further out of reach.

A tax-smart strategy to overcome this issue is called "bunching," where a taxpayer groups together their deductions into a single year in order to surpass the itemization threshold. In off-years (or "skip-years"), they take the standard deduction.

Using this strategy, donors contribute multiple years' worth of their charitable giving in one year to receive a greater deduction. By placing that money in a donor-advised fund, the donor creates a cache of available funds to continue their regular yearly support to charities. They can maintain their steady stream of charitable giving in a tax-efficient way.

These are just a few options to consider. Please consult with your financial or tax advisor before making a gift to determine what's best for you.