



SEMINARY OF THE  
SOUTHWEST

AN EPISCOPAL SEMINARY

# LEGACY

AN ESTATE AND CHARITABLE PLANNING NEWSLETTER

## Giving Back to the Place That Gave So Much



The Rev. Dr. Susan Barnes is an alum of Seminary of the Southwest from the Class of 2001 and currently serves as rector of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, MN. She recalls her time at the seminary fondly and, in the experiences of her time within the community, finds reason to make sure she gives back to the place that gave her so much.

In college, I came to visit a friend living on Harris Park and wandered into the seminary chapel. I was moved by the simple, elegant beauty of the place, the vista onto the ancient oaks. There was a feeling of holiness there, for which I had no words at the time.

That memory returned when I came back 30 years later. After an art museum career, I had the privilege of experiencing seminary studies and community life full time. I made the most of both. I loved the place and the people. My classmates ranged widely in our theology. At the turn of the millennium, those stresses were acute in the American church. We cared enough for one another and for our common life that we worked through them together—an invaluable lesson for the leaders we became.

As Associate Rector for 11 years at St. Matthew's, Austin, I stayed closely connected to the seminary and served in various ways, most recently both as a donor and team member endowing the chair in memory of the Rt. Rev. J. Milton Richardson, who was Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, when I was growing up there.

Thanks to the work of Bishop Richardson, I had been reared with the importance of endowments. Planned giving made great sense to me when St. Matthew's began a campaign to grow its own. St. Matthew's and the seminary were the first institutions named in my will. Thanks to my experience with planned giving, it will be a part of the comprehensive campaign launching soon at St. John's.



### Find Your Path to Planned Giving

Contact Wally Moore, Director of  
Major Gifts and Planned Giving,  
at [wally.moore@ssw.edu](mailto:wally.moore@ssw.edu) or  
512.439.0326 to learn how you  
can make a lasting gift to Seminary  
of the Southwest.

### Inside:

- » 4 Ways to Help Before Dec. 31
- » Beyond a Basic Will
- » Discover the Path of Giving at the Seminary

# 4 Ways to Help Before Dec. 31

## Make a Difference With These Tax-Smart Gifts

The end of the year will be here before we know it. Start planning now for how you want to make an impact this year. There are many ways to give to our organization, several of which offer attractive benefits for you while supporting our important work. Here are four popular ways to help before the year comes to a close:

**Give cash.** Cash is the simplest way to give to support our current needs. To document a cash gift of any amount, you must have a dated receipt from us. Make certain you receive one. A canceled check provides sufficient documentation only for gifts less than \$250.

**Give appreciated stock.** When you give appreciated stock to us, we'll sell it and you'll eliminate all the capital gains tax you would have paid had you sold it. Your gift will be deductible at its full fair market value on its date of delivery if you have held it for more than one year.

**Donate an insurance policy.** A gift of a life insurance policy you no longer need makes a perfect year-end gift. To qualify as a deductible gift, our organization must become the policy owner. For most types of insurance policies, your tax deduction is usually the cost basis or the fair market value of the policy—whichever is less.

**Make a gift from your IRA.** If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charity such as ours. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.



### Can't Make a Gift Today?

Consider including a gift to us in your will or living trust. This flexible donation option allows you to make an impact without giving up any assets today. Even a small percentage of your estate can make a big impact. Return the enclosed survey to request sample language you can share with your attorney to complete your gift.



Contact us for helpful tips about getting the most from your gift this year.

# Beyond a Basic Will

## 9 Ways to Upgrade Your Estate Plan

**1 Make updates.** Update your will or trust after significant life events, such as a change in marital status, death, birth, or moving to another state. Remember that tax changes occur often and may alter the effectiveness of your estate plan.

**2 Choose someone you trust.** Choose a personal representative, also known as an executor, to handle the various responsibilities of administering your estate. This could be a close friend, family member or experienced financial institution.

**3 Appoint a financial representative.** Known as a power of attorney, this person handles your financial affairs in the event that you are unable to do so yourself.

**4 Make your life-sustaining wishes known.** Draft a living will, which spells out your preferences for medical treatments you would and wouldn't want to keep you alive.

**5 Check up on insurance plans.** Evaluate your life and medical insurance periodically. Make sure that you have enough to cover changing needs.

**6 Watch your investments.** Your finances are your future. Meet with a financial expert to ensure your investments are still meeting your goals.

**7 Give a gift.** Take advantage of the annual gift exclusion, which allows you to give up to \$14,000 to any number of people in 2016 without the gifts becoming subject to gift tax.

**8 Support a favorite cause.** An unlimited amount of money can be given free of federal gift and estate taxes to a qualified charitable organization, such as ours, during your lifetime or at your passing.

**9 Appoint a health care agent.** This person handles your health care decisions in the event you are unable to do so yourself.

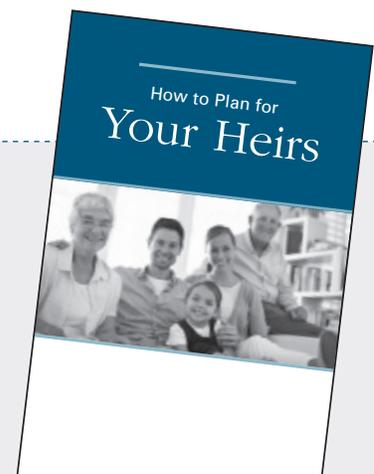


*A gift to us through your estate is a tax-wise way to extend your support into the future. Contact us today to discuss your options.*

## DON'T MISS OUT ON MAKING YOUR STATEMENT



Your estate plan is an opportunity to leave a lasting impression of the values that define your life. Our FREE guide ***How to Plan for Your Heirs*** will help you make the impression you want. Simply complete the enclosed survey for your copy.





Wally Moore

# Discover the Path of Giving at the Seminary

Wally Moore is the new Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving for Seminary of the Southwest. Wally has lived in Austin for three decades and has been a nonprofit development professional for much of that time. He is a parishioner at All Saints' Episcopal and is excited to be working to advance the mission of the seminary through planned giving.

Planned giving is a method of support that enables friends of the seminary to make larger gifts than they could from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for the seminary and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate.

Whether a friend of the seminary uses cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc., the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both our donor and the seminary.

## What Are the Tax Benefits of Planned Gifts?

Donors can contribute appreciated property, receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer. Donors who establish life-income gifts receive a tax deduction for the full, fair market value of the assets contributed, minus the present value of the income interest retained; if they fund their gift with appreciated property, they pay no up-front capital gains tax on the transfer. Gifts payable to charity upon the donor's death do not generate a lifetime income tax deduction for the donor, but they are exempt from estate tax.



## Giving to the Seminary

Contact Wally Moore at 512.439.0326 or [wally.moore@ssw.edu](mailto:wally.moore@ssw.edu) to learn more about planned giving.

## 3 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT NOW

1

**Return** the enclosed survey to request your FREE guide *How to Plan for Your Heirs*.



2

**Visit** our website to learn more about how we use your gifts to support our mission.

3

**Contact us** if you have any questions about helping our organization with a gift this year or in the future.



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