

## Estate Planning #2 - What?

Dear Fellow Child of God,

When we begin to think about estate planning, it is fitting to ask the question **Why**: "Why consider an estate plan?" This gives us the opportunity to think about how we want people to see Jesus through our lives even after we go to heaven.

A second question worth thinking about is **What**: "What can your estate plan impact?" Simply answered, your estate plan can deeply impact whatever you want it to.

In the world around us, the thought process often goes something like this: *"We have children. We love them. They could use our help. We're going to leave our estate to them."* This is often the conclusion because bettering their children's earthly financial situation seems like the most important impact they can make.

If you've already thought this through, and your plan is to leave your accumulated resources to your children, you have taken an important step as a steward of all that God has given you. Still, as God's child through faith in Jesus, you also have the opportunity to make an even broader impact through your estate plan. Because of Jesus and his life-giving gospel message, you can impact people's lives *eternally*.

Here are two suggestions when determining what your estate plan will impact.

First, ask yourself: *"What ministries am I passionate about?"* Perhaps it's your local congregation's ministry within your community. Or, if you're reading this letter, you've probably already demonstrated a passion for GPLHS. Perhaps it's our synodical work in general or a specific area of ministry (ministerial education, home missions, world missions, etc.). Identifying your ministry passions will assist you in determining which ministries you seek to impact with an estate gift.

Second, ask yourself this question: *"What type of funding will enable me to make the greatest impact?"* Would you prefer to offer gifts to a "General Fund" (day-to-day operations)? Or would you prefer offering gifts to an "Endowment Fund" (a gift that keeps on giving)? Would you prefer to specifically "Designate" your gift? Or would you rather leave your gift "Undesignated" and allow the ministry's leaders to determine where your gift can best be used? Your funding preferences will enable your gift to have the impact you desire.

There are numerous ministry and funding options for your consideration. We'd be delighted to assist you in custom fitting your estate plan to accomplish what you have in mind.

May God richly bless your family and the ministries you can powerfully impact through your estate plan.



*P.S. If you would like to have an initial meeting to talk about estate planning, please contact our Mission Advancement Office at 605-886-0672.*