

**“Without counsel plans fail, but  
with many advisers they succeed.”  
-- Proverbs 15:22**

## Wills and Bequests

[www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org)

*American Baptist Foundation*

As Christians, faith and salvation are primary concerns, but what about the other important responsibilities and considerations?

- ✓ Who will provide for our loved ones when we are not here?
- ✓ Have we put everything in place?

There are many things to consider. But making a will is one of the most important.

To find out more information about wills and bequests please contact:

American Baptist Foundation  
PO Box 851,  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
(800) 222-3872, ext 2035  
or (610) 768-2035



American Baptist  
**FUNDATION**  
[www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org)



*Connecting People who Care  
to Ministries that Matter*

This communication is not intended as legal or tax advice. Prospective donors should seek advice from an independent qualified estate and/or tax professional.

# A Will is an act of Love...

## Establish a will

Establishing a will is a chance to express your love for all that you care about most deeply in life. It ensures that your wishes for your family and other beneficiaries, including the ministries that you have faithfully supported throughout your lifetime, are carried out.

Without a will the courts may decide what happens to your estate. The ministries that you care about will be left out. If you desire to make a charitable bequest to support your American Baptist church, region, or other American Baptist ministry, it is essential to have a legal will.

## This act of love allows you to:

- Provide ongoing support for loved ones who may be dependent on you
- Name a guardian to care for any minor children.
- Make special bequests.
- Name a personal representative.
- Remember your local American Baptist church, region, or other American Baptist ministry.

*The American Baptist Foundation strongly encourages donors to seek the advice and services of a qualified estate lawyer to ensure your bequest is established appropriately.*

## There are many ways to make a bequest to support American Baptist ministries:

- You can leave a specified sum of money
- You can leave a percentage of your estate.
- You can leave specific property, such as real estate, stock, or other property.
- You can designate all or a portion of the remainder of your estate after all named beneficiaries and debts are settled.
- You can name a ministry as a contingent, or secondary beneficiary if a relative or other primary beneficiary predeceases you.

## Named Endowments

For donors leaving sizeable bequests, you may choose to establish a named permanent endowment that will pay annual income to your church, region, or other ministry.

The Foundation manages approximately 300 endowments and distributes income to hundreds of ministries around the world. Call the Foundation office for more information.

*The American Baptist Foundation encourages gifts for our partners: the Multi-Region Corporation (composed of a majority of American Baptist regions), American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and American Baptist International Ministries.*

## Sample wording:

Utilizing the American Baptist Foundation in your planning process has several benefits. There are two simple steps:

1. Designate the **American Baptist Foundation** as beneficiary.
2. Provide a letter of direction to the American Baptist Foundation specifying your specific church, region, or other American Baptist ministry or mission. Multiple designations can be made.

Your letter of designation can be changed at any time without cost.

## Will Panning Guide

Taking an inventory of your assets, debts, advisors and other financial and personal considerations is an important step when creating or changing your will. A complete Will Planning Guide is available by calling or writing us, or visit us at [abcofgiving.org](http://abcofgiving.org).

### Communication is Key:

*Whether it is a spouse, family member or friend – your personal representative needs to know all the details of your estate. This is one person from whom you should have no secrets. He or she will need to be fully informed of your financial affairs.*

## Interested in Learning More

about Planned Giving opportunities that serve both your financial needs and American Baptist Mission?

Simply complete, detach and mail this form to:

**American Baptist Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 851**  
**Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851**

A Foundation representative will promptly respond with free, no obligation information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_