



Planned Giving

To: Clergy and Worship Leaders

At the 131st General Assembly in Edmonton, Alberta, the Assembly approved the following recommendation:

That congregations be encouraged to designate one Sunday during the month of May 2006 to highlight the ministry of Planned Giving and the legacy of faith and hope it can provide for generations to come.

In order to help worship leaders in preparation for that Sunday, the Planned Giving Office provides the attached worship resources. Feel free to use the resources as they are or to adapt them to your own circumstances and style. If you would like the resources in electronic form, you may download them off the internet at www.presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving.

If a Sunday in May is not suitable, I would encourage you to find some other Sunday during the year to focus on the ministry of Planned Giving. The stewardship of accumulated resources has been a neglected aspect of our denomination's teaching and preaching. As a result, most congregations have not caught a vision of how planned gifts can expand the life and mission of the church far into the future, and most of our members have never even considered the many ways they can leave a vital legacy to the church from their accumulated assets.

If your congregation has a stewardship committee or a team of people responsible for promoting planned giving, this service would be a wonderful opportunity to use them in the leadership of the worship service. You could also invite someone who has made a planned gift (e.g. included the church in their will or acquired a gift annuity) to talk about why they have made such a planned gift and what it means to them. It would also be appropriate for someone who has been the beneficiary of a planned gift (e.g. someone who has received funding for a mission trip from a congregational endowment fund) to talk about what the gift has meant to them.

Finally, Joan Masterton and I would love to hear how your Planned Giving Sunday went. If you prepare original prayers, sermons, etc., please pass them on to us. We want to develop a library of worship resources on Planned Giving that congregations can use in worship throughout the year. And may God bless you as you seek to share this important aspect of the gospel with your people!

Yours in Christ,

Herb

Rev. Herb Gale, Associate Secretary for Planned Giving

P.S.

You will also find enclosed in this *PCPak* a copy of the inaugural issue of the *Provisionaries* Planned Giving Magazine. We hope you will find the magazine to be both informative and inspiring. It is designed to tell, not just the *how* of planned giving, but the *why* as well. We hope that this will be first of many issues of the magazine, for truly there are many, many stories that need to be told about the difference planned giving can make in the lives of individuals and the church as a whole. I would like to make one correction in the published magazine. In the interview with Lorna van Mossel, I neglected to state that she served as a citizen court judge in the Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge and Brantford areas of Ontario from 1985-1993. I sincerely apologize to both Lorna and the readers for this oversight.