

Follen Church Society

Unitarian Universalist

Have you ever thought about putting Follen in your will?

If Follen is like a family to you, please consider including it in your will.

A legacy gift is an act of enduring stewardship. Whether you are writing your first will or updating an existing one, we hope you'll consider a gift to Follen in your plans. It offers a way for you to help assure that Follen will be there in the future to open its doors to others as it opened its doors to you.

You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference in the world.

Bequests are for everyone and anyone. They are sensible and simple gifts. A charitable bequest allows you to be a philanthropist, while still keeping your financial options open.

You can use your will to give a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or a specific asset, such as real estate, or securities. Whatever you wish to give, we want to make it easy. If you have any questions, please contact Cas Groblewski, Chair of the Follen Legacy Society (see below). He will be happy to help you.

Follen can offer some guidance in understanding your options, and the UUA's Office of Legacy Gifts can offer more detailed guidance, along with some resources to facilitate making gifts. But neither Follen nor the UUA provides advice on the specific scale or form for your gift. You should consult your financial advisor and your attorney in making those decisions.

What is the Follen Legacy Society?

The Legacy Society is simply a group of Follen members and friends who have made a gift to Follen in their wills and want to encourage others to follow their example. Membership is voluntary: some people prefer to keep their bequests confidential. The only requirement for membership is that you tell the Society that you have put Follen in your will. No further proof or detail about the amount or the method is required or requested.

The Society, which currently numbers more than 20, meets about once a year for a dinner.

Where does the money go?

To assure the greatest flexibility in meeting the church's needs, Follen prefers to receive "unrestricted" gifts, however you are free to direct your bequest in any way you choose. Church policy is to place any unrestricted gifts in the endowments. Two thirds of such a gift goes into the Programs Fund, which is available to support church operations, and one third goes into the Heritage Fund, which is available for maintaining and improving the church's buildings and grounds.

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Our endowments have been growing in recent years, but they are still far smaller than a church of Follen's size should have. As of November 2014, Follen's total endowments (the Programs Fund, the Heritage Fund and several smaller funds) stood at about a million dollars.

How to get started

A few basic methods are listed below. If you have an attorney or financial advisor, you can discuss other options as well.

Simple bequest – This is by far the most common form of testamentary gift. You simply determine a percentage of your estate or a dollar amount that you wish to leave to Follen. The language for an unrestricted gift can be as simple as: “I give to the Follen Church Society of Lexington, Massachusetts, ___% of my estate for its general purposes.” or “I give to the Follen Church Society of Lexington, Massachusetts, the sum of \$_____ for its general purposes.”

Charitable Remainder Trust – This may be more suitable to some financial plans. A trust document is created during your lifetime, with a “pour-over” will to designate which assets are to be placed in a trust. The income from the trust would be paid to designated individuals for their lifetimes. Upon the death of the last income recipient, or after a term of a specified number of years, the trust terminates and assets are transferred to Follen, completing your gift.

Beneficiary Designation – You can name Follen as the beneficiary of your existing account in financial instruments such as a donor-advised fund, a retirement plan, an IRA account, or a life insurance policy.

These are just a few examples. There are many other methods of making a gift. Please discuss your options with an attorney or financial planner/tax adviser so your choices best meet your donation wishes and your financial plan.

For further information, please contact:

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Online information is available at:
www.uua.org/giftplanning