



Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Legacy Gift Program

Our Legacy Gift Program is an opportunity for Members and Friends to bequeath a gift to the Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire (UUMSB), honoring their spiritual home and helping to ensure its long term vitality.

Legacy Gift Program Q&A

What is a bequest?

A bequest is a gift that is designated in your will or estate planning document that is transferred upon your death. It is a common gifting approach that does not affect your cash flow while you are living.

Can I leave a percentage of my estate instead of a fixed amount?

Certainly. You may decide to leave a fixed dollar amount or a % of your estate, financial assets, etc. Your estate planning attorney or advisor can help you structure the appropriate language.

What types of gifts can be given?

Financial assets (e.g. cash, stock) provide the greatest flexibility and generally have a lower “conversion to cash” cost than fixed assets such as real estate, artwork, etc. For this reason, financial assets are encouraged.

Can I make a gift or bequest anonymously?

Yes. If you wish to remain anonymous, only the Board of Trustees, our banking institutions and the Finance Committee members will know the source of the funds.

Do I need to I notify UUMSB if I make a bequest in my will?

No, but it is helpful if you notify finance@uumsb.org when you include a bequest in your estate planning documents.

What will the funds be used for?

Funds will generally be used for special or non-recurring needs. For example, UUMSB is a relatively young congregation with a historic building that will need ongoing maintenance. As a result, capital improvements to our building or organ would be good uses of legacy gifts.

Where will the funds be held?

UUMSB will generally be holding the funds in an investment account managed by Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) until such time as the funds are needed. The UUA maintains a “common endowment” fund which pools congregations’ funds and invests according to UU principles. Please refer to the UUA Common Fund website for more information (uucef.org). If there is a near term need for the funds, they will be held in our checking account until dispersed.

Are there tax advantages of a bequest?

We are not in a position to offer tax or estate planning advice. These types of questions are best left to your estate planning or family attorney, or tax advisor.

Can I restrict how the funds will be used?

Yes, with approval from the Finance Committee. Having said that, unrestricted funds provide the congregation with the greatest flexibility when a financial need arises.

Can you provide sample language for a bequest?

Your family or estate attorney can provide you with specific language. Many people use something along the lines of “I bequeath to Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire, Inc., a Massachusetts religious corporation (TIN 04-3409601), the following: [insert here: monetary amount, percentage interest, fractional interest, specific real property, tangible/intangible personal property].” UUMSB is located at 1089 Main Street, P O Box 783, Housatonic, MA 01236.

I’d like to make a gift now. Can I do that?

Absolutely. Gifts are always welcome and would be governed by the guidelines outlined in this brochure as well as the congregation’s Gift policy.

I have other questions. Whom do I contact?

You may contact any member of the Finance Committee or send an email to finance@uumsb.org

Thank you for considering a gift to UUMSB!

1089 Main Street, P. O. Box 783, Housatonic, MA
finance@uumsb.org
www.uumsb.org