

How to Phrase a Bequest to the Endowment Fund

The making of a will is part of our good stewardship as Christians. According to the Book of Common Prayer, it is the duty of Christians “to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.” There is great joy and peace in providing for our families and our communities.

The following language is for illustrative purposes only. Always consult your attorney.

The simplest form of a bequest is an outright bequest. It can take the following possible forms:

General Bequest

This specifies a fixed amount to be given to the Cathedral.

Typical wording is: “I give, devise, and bequeath to Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Fund \$xxxx.”

Percentage Bequest

In this case the bequest is expressed as a percentage of an estate or residuary estate. For example: “I give, devise, and bequeath to Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Fund xx% of my estate.”

Contingent Bequest

It is also possible to name the Cathedral as an alternate beneficiary to provide for a situation where the primary beneficiary dies before you or disclaims the property. This will ensure that the estate will be distributed to beneficiaries you select rather than unintended recipients.

Residual Bequest

It is possible to give the Cathedral the property that remains after other specific bequests have been made. A typical residuary bequest is: “All the residue of my estate, including real and personal property, I give, devise and bequeath to Christ Church Endowment Fund.”

Bequests can take other forms, which can provide for families for the remainder of their days, and then pass to the Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Fund.

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