

# A Will to Give

A newsletter for those who want to leave a legacy.



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## Dream Big for God, Be Generous, and Plan for It

KEVIN MILLER, LEAD EVANGELIST

Though the Boston Church is not perfect, there is a great sense that we are experiencing a revival. Over the last three years, the Boston Church has seen over 600 people become Christians. We haven't seen these kinds of open doors in over two decades. The evidence of a youth revival of college students, young professionals, and teenagers becoming Christians and dreaming has been overwhelmingly encouraging. And in the midst of the success of the mission, we are also making efforts to teach the Bible to our children, strengthen families, and help us all walk a spiritual path—all with a great sense of unity. And we praise God.

**Nevertheless, in the midst of these wonderful blessings, many in our congregation who have the gift of generosity are asking, "If I give more money now, or if I leave more of my money to the church at the end of my life, what will it be used for?"**

Simply put, the needs are great, and God's vision is grand.

Funds are needed for supporting foreign mission plantings in Europe and beyond, supporting leadership and staff development programs for our broader fellowship inside and outside of New England, for local ministry support in Boston, including purchasing long-term meeting locations, and continuing to help the



Kevin Miller and Melissa Miller

poor—just to name a few. There are so many needs and opportunities to help build God's Church—dream big for God, be generous, and plan for it. Thankfully, some in our fellowship have already begun to give *above and beyond* to support these causes. Let's take a closer look at how one of these programs is having a real impact in our church.

In the past, the Boston Church sent teams of people out to plant churches and spread the gospel. It was an epic and sacred thing to be a part of, but it was costly. At some point, after sending so many for so long, it weakened the Boston Church and depleted our resources.

It is in view of this history that we have created

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Boston Church of Christ  
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a number of different support programs that require additional funding. One such program is called the **Antioch Initiative**.

The Antioch Church was a strong church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. And yet we read in Acts 11 that Barnabas went to Tarsus to bring Paul to join this already strong church. Why did he do that? We read a chapter later in Acts 13 that the Spirit called Barnabas, Paul, and the church in Antioch to send them out for the first Gentile mission. So we see that an already strong church brought in more strength so that it could eventually send the strength out. This is how the world can be won for Christ. Strong churches with strength to give send out their strength to other churches.

With this in mind, the Antioch Initiative is a way for the Boston Church to build an on-deck circle of trained ministers. When churches call and ask for help, our church can send out our own but also have ministers ready to fill the gaps so that our church can continue to thrive and grow. Over the last few years, the Boston Church has already begun to send church leaders out to cities like Berlin, Charleston, and Gainesville to help lead those churches. Praise God that those churches are already beginning to show signs of health and revival.

Earlier in 2024, we received a phone call from the church eldership in Gainesville, Florida, asking how we felt about sending one of our best ministry couples, Cash and Maria McHargue, to help them. We felt that the Spirit was moving and gave our whole-hearted blessing to the McHargues to go.

Because of the Antioch Initiative, we were already in the process of bringing in a young, competent couple who wanted to move to Boston for more training and to be a part of the Spirit's activity here. Rob and Chelsea Novack were already interviewing when the McHargues were called. What were the Novacks interviewing for? For an on-deck position in the Antioch Program, waiting for the potential of a region leader role to open up. As a result, the McHargues were able to

go, the South Coastal region in Boston hired the Novacks, and the church didn't skip a beat.

As Boston continues to progress, other churches are going to reach out for help. And though giving them advice and training has its merit, often the help they will need will be in the form of providing trained ministers who know how to bring people together in the way we are doing.

The weekly contribution of the church primarily goes to support church operations and pay for our existing staff positions and expenses. However, developing and maintaining an on-deck circle of ministers through the Antioch Initiative requires additional funding from other sources. Furthermore, there are other leadership development programs such as Chance of A Lifetime (COAL), the New England School of Missions (NESM), and RevivEE that are also having an impact and require funding beyond our regular operations. So many of the young ministers in these programs are using what they have learned in Boston and are helping churches across our broader fellowship.

Thank you so much for your sacrifice and participation in God's vision. We believe that God is calling us all to dream big, to be generous, and to plan for it. God is also calling the Boston Church to be generous, to minister locally, but to be prepared to help other churches. Our prayer is that God will multiply our impact and our resources, that His Name will be honored, and that His churches and His people will be strengthened.

**To learn more about legacy giving to the church, please contact:**



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## Year-End Giving: Turning Assets Into Philanthropy

Christmas is a time to celebrate the greatest gift of all. It is also a deeply meaningful season of reflection and thoughtful giving—both to loved ones and to organizations that help make a difference for others. If you plan to support fellowship, connection, and authentic Christianity through a year-end gift to Boston Church of Christ, consider the following gift options that let you make a powerful difference in our ministry while providing you with useful tax and planning benefits.

### Appreciated stock

If you own appreciated stock that you have held for over one year, you might consider using it to make a powerful donation. Like a gift of cash, this gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction for the stock's full value (if you itemize). But there's an extra benefit as well—no capital gains tax is due on the stock's appreciation.

**Example:** Several years ago, George and Ramona purchased stock for \$5,000 that is now worth



\$15,000. If they transfer stock to us (NOT cash it out and give us a check) before year end, they enjoy a double tax benefit:

1. The gift qualifies for an itemized charitable deduction of \$15,000.
2. They owe no capital gains tax on the \$10,000 appreciation.\*

### An IRA distribution

If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA directly to Boston Church of Christ. No tax is due on the transferred amount (up to the annual aggregate limit of \$105,000 in 2024), and your gift counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due—generally starting at age 73. This can be a smart alternative to giving cash.

**Example:** Celia, age 80, must take an IRA distribution of \$10,000 this year. She decides to make a QCD of \$10,000 directly to Boston Church of Christ. The tax-free distribution counts toward her





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RMD, and we can use the gift right away. Celia can do this every year if she chooses.\*

IRA owners age 70½ or older who want to create another income stream in retirement might consider the special one-time QCD option. This uses your tax-free distribution (up to \$53,000 in 2024) to create a charitable gift annuity (CGA). The transfer counts toward your RMD, and you receive a lifetime income stream for you and/or your spouse. Spouses may combine distributions from their own IRAs into a joint-life CGA. Contact us for additional information.

## **A donor-advised fund**

If you have already set aside money for charitable giving in a donor-advised fund (DAF), it is easy to support us by requesting a grant from your DAF. This has no impact on your current finances since the gift comes from funds already earmarked for charitable



purposes. Use the easy QR code on this page to make a donor-advised fund gift at any time. Please notify us if you do make a grant so we can acknowledge the gift and thank you for your generosity.

## **A Personal Approach**

When you support Boston Church of Christ, you join us in practicing the full ministry of Jesus. If you want to make your gift even more meaningful, remember that you can make a gift in honor or in memory of someone special. You can also add a future gift in your will or through a beneficiary designation, creating a legacy and ensuring support for our ministry for years to come.