GIVING FROM THE BARN, NOT JUST THE WALLET:

A GUIDE TO TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING & LEGACY PLANNING

SLIDE 1: GIVING FROM THE BARN, NOT JUST THE WALLET (An Introduction)

> Welcome to our presentation guide. When we talk about financial stewardship in the church, our minds naturally go to the weekly offering—giving out of our regular cash flow or checking accounts (our "wallets"). Today, we want to expand that view. We want to discuss asset-based giving, or "planned giving." This means looking at the resources, investments, and property God has blessed us with over a lifetime (our "barns"). Our goal is to show you how you can use these tools to make a lasting kingdom impact, protect your family, and navigate tax rules wisely.

SLIDE 2: APPRECIATED STOCK: MAXIMIZING IMPACT, MINIMIZING TAX

Core Concept: Donating appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares directly to the church instead of selling them first.

The Financial Advantage:

- Avoid Capital Gains Tax completely on the growth of the investment.
- Claim a federal income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the shares.
- The church receives 100% of the asset's value tax-free because it is a ministry.

Friendly Takeaway: *By transferring the stock intact, you keep Uncle Sam's hands out of the pie. The church gets the whole asset, and you get a larger tax deduction.*

SLIDE 3: THE OVER-70½ BLESSING: IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Core Concept: Traditional IRA owners aged 70½ or older directing their retirement account administrator to send a distribution straight to the church.

The Financial Advantage:

- Satisfies your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligations.

- Excludes up to $111,000+ per year entirely from your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).
- Lowers your overall taxable income bracket, which can save money on other taxes.

Friendly Takeaway: *It satisfies the government's mandatory withdrawal rules, but the money never touches your personal tax return. It flows directly to ministry tax-free.*

SLIDE 4: DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS: STRATEGIC & FLEXIBLE GIVING

Core Concept: A flexible "charitable savings account" that acts like your family's giving checkbook.

The Financial Advantage:

- Contribution Benefit: Put cash, stock, or assets into the fund for an immediate, substantial tax deduction in high-income years.
- Tax-Free Growth: The money sits safely in the fund, growing completely tax-free.
- Flexible Distribution: You take your time recommending grants from the fund to the church over coming months or years as ministry needs arise.

Friendly Takeaway: *You get the tax break today when you need it most, then carefully and prayerfully hand out gifts to the church as time goes on.*

SLIDE 5: LEGACY PLANNING: LEAVING A CLEAR MAP FOR THE FUTURE

Core Concept: Using a simple will or living trust to take care of your loved ones first, and then establishing a future gift for the church.

The Financial Advantage:

- Specific Bequest: Leaving a fixed dollar amount or a chosen piece of property.
- Proportional Bequest: Leaving a percentage (e.g., a 10% tithe) of your estate, which naturally scales with inflation and keeps your family's needs balanced.
- Residual Bequest: Directing the leftover balance or "crumbs" to the church after all family needs, debts, and other obligations are completely met.

Friendly Takeaway: *Estate planning is a final act of stewardship and love. It leaves a clear map for your family and ensures your faith outlives you.*

SLIDE 6: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS: THE STRATEGIC TAX SWAP

Core Concept: Naming the church as a beneficiary on life insurance policies, commercial bank accounts, or traditional retirement accounts (IRAs/401ks) outside of a will.

The Financial Advantage:

- The Problem: If your children inherit a traditional retirement account, they face heavy income taxes on every dollar they withdraw within 10 years.
- The Solution: Name the church as the beneficiary of the tax-heavy retirement account (the church pays 0% tax). Then, leave clean, tax-free assets like cash, land, or life insurance payouts to your children.

Friendly Takeaway: *Protect your kids from a massive tax bill by swapping which assets they inherit. Give the heavily taxed accounts to the church instead.*

SLIDE 7: CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS: INCOME & LEGACY

Core Concept: Placing large assets (like a farm, land, or large stock portfolio) into a trust that provides you with lifetime income before blessing the ministry.

The Financial Advantage:

- The trust sells your highly appreciated asset completely tax-free.
- The trust pays a predictable, steady income stream back to you or your spouse for life.
- When you pass on, the remaining principal transfers beautifully to the church.

Friendly Takeaway: *Secure your retirement, lower your taxes, and lay a powerful future foundation for the church all with a single advanced tool.*

SLIDE 8: PRACTICAL STEPS: STEWARDSHIP AND PEACE OF MIND

- **1. PRAY:** Seek God's wisdom regarding the resources and blessings trusted to your care.
- **2. REVIEW:** Log into your accounts online this week and verify your current beneficiaries.
- **3. CONSULT:** Take this summary guide to your trusted personal CPA, financial advisor, or estate planning attorney to build a plan that works best for your situation.

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