



Personal PLANNING Newsletter

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WINTER 2019



New Year, **New Planning Strategies**

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Get the Most from **NEW TAX RATES**

Although the **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** was passed more than a year ago, you might just now be noticing its benefits.

With 2018 behind us, it is time to start thinking about tax season. As you work to file your taxes, you will see how the law affects you and, once you do, you will be able to better plan for 2019 and beyond.

The biggest change you will likely see this year is an increase in the standard deduction—it has been nearly doubled. Many people who have itemized in the past may find they are better off taking the standard deduction.

There are several tax-advantaged ways you can give to support the causes that matter most to you
—even if you don't itemize.



Consider making a gift of
AN APPRECIATED ASSET TO CHARITY.

You will avoid capital gains taxes that you would have to pay if you sold the asset.



Consider making an
IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER GIFT.

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift to our organization directly from your IRA. This will count against your required minimum distribution and help you avoid income taxes on the distribution.

With either option, you can take the standard deduction and still make a gift in tax-advantaged ways. If you would like to learn more about ways you can take advantage of tax-wise strategies, please call or email us. We can help.

Congress increased the standard deduction to \$12,000 for people who are individual filers and to \$24,000 for joint filers.

With the new limits on state and local tax deductions, **consider offsetting the higher burden with charitable donations.**



The standard deduction is available to taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions.

A New Friend

or a New Opportunity?

Whether you love charitable gift annuities or have never heard about them, we have important news to share. Recently, we increased the payout rates for charitable gift annuities, which are sometimes referred to as CGAs. This means higher payments to annuitants. It has been years since charitable gift annuities looked so good.

A gift annuity is a simple contract between you and our organization. When you fund a CGA with us, we agree to send you fixed payments for life. No matter what the economy does, the payments we promised to you will not change. Once all payments have been made, we will distribute the remaining portion of your gift. In this way, you can benefit from the benefits while also supporting your church.

Payment rates are designed to provide a nice payment while also helping to ensure that your gift will be available to support the long-term health of the mission of your church. This is the first time rates have changed since 2012. They are based on your age at funding, and for some ages the payment rates have increased by half a percentage point. Here are a few examples of the new rates. It is only a sample, and there are rates for every age.

Age	Old Rate	New Rate
65	4.7%	5.1%
70	5.1%	5.6%
75	5.8%	6.2%
80	6.8%	7.3%
90	9.0%	9.5%

Last year gift annuity rates increased for most donors. This is the first time rates have changed since 2012.



A gift annuity offers you fixed payments for life at attractive rates with other significant benefits.

Want to share the benefits? Ask about a gift annuity that pays you and another person for as long as either lives.



You also receive other benefits such as an income tax deduction this year, and all remaining funds support our mission. There are capital gains advantages if you fund one with appreciated assets, such as stock (by transferring, never selling it). Use our online calculator or call or email us and we can tell you what your exact rate and tax benefits will be. Be sure to lock in your rate now and start receiving these great payments.

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THE LEGACY *You Deserve*

What will your legacy look like? *If you start planning today, you may find your legacy is richer and more meaningful than you ever thought possible.*

With just a little planning, you can leave a legacy of love and support so that your good works continue well into the future. Fortunately, we have the right tools and an experienced staff to help make planning amazingly simple and easy for you.

With our free, no-obligation estate planning guide, you can easily plan your legacy. You can work through the planner on your time and in the privacy of your home. You are always in control. Our planning guide will help you think through the types of issues you will want to consider in order to provide for family and support your church and the causes that you care about. Call or email us today to request a copy of our free estate planning guide.



Don't leave your legacy to chance.
Some simple steps can give you the legacy you deserve.



Planning your legacy can give you benefits today, such as payments from a gift annuity or capital gains tax benefits.

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