



"From Where I Sit ..."

Is Your Church Included in Your Will?

Deferred giving is noticeably absent in the life of the CME Church! Over the years the financial needs of our congregations and our denomination have been met by the generous tithes and gifts of faithful members. Through the support of these generous givers, conference claims have been paid, budgets have been reached, repairs have been made, and buildings have been built or renovated. But as seasoned members have made their transition to the heavenly shores, fewer members are left behind with the same determination to give or the same commitment to sacrifice for the work of church.

This circumstance is not unique to the CME Church alone! Most local churches, black or white, large or small, urban or rural, are facing the challenge of increasing costs and fewer members to help undergird their pressing needs. What is uniquely different between black churches and white churches is the number of white parishioners who not only support their churches while they live but also plan for the support of their churches after their death through deferred giving.



There are several means of deferred giving including remembering your church in your will. Granted few members leave a will and of those who do, even fewer (if any) ever include a special gift for their church. Yet our white Christian brothers and sisters have long chosen to provide for their churches in this manner!



In addition to leaving a bequeath in a will, another alternative method to bless your church after your death can be accomplished by naming your church as a sole or shared beneficiary of an insurance policy.

Additional deferred giving options include Estate Planning with a financial planner (preferably certified) and Trusts. These options differ as do the resources, needs, intentions and beneficiaries differ. There are no simple answers, but no decision can be made without some serious planning and heartfelt dialogue within the family. The challenges of the present and future can be addressed through forward thinking proposals that are designed to facilitate change without the sacrifice of our faith or our doctrine. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me ...*

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the
Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)