

Creating a Legacy

Gifts of Cash

Writing a check to the Reformed Church Home is the simplest and most direct way to make a donation. Cash donations entitle you to an income tax deduction for the amount of the gift, up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income in any tax year, with five years to carry over any unused deduction.

Matching Gifts

You may be able to double your gift to the Reformed Church Home if the company you work for or have an association with has a matching gift program. Check with your employer's Human Resources Department. Send the matching gift form provided by your employer to the Reformed Church Home Development Office. The Reformed Church Home will give you credit for both your gift and your company's matching gift. You may deduct the portion you contribute on your federal income tax return.

Gifts of Securities

Making a gift of appreciated securities can be more advantageous than giving cash. If you give "long-term" appreciated securities (held more than one year), you can deduct their full fair market value, regardless of what you originally paid for them. Your total deduction is limited to 30% of your adjusted gross income in any given tax year, but you can take any unused deduction over five succeeding tax years. And, you pay no capital gains tax on the donated securities. The deduction for "short-term" securities (held less than one year), is limited to their cost basis.

How to Transfer Securities

a) Physical Stock Certificates

If you are holding the physical certificates, send them unendorsed to the Reformed Church Home Development Office. Mail a stock power for each certificate in a separate envelope. Sign the stock power exactly as it appears on the stock certificate, and do not fill in any other information. Enclose a letter stating the purpose of your gift. Please do not use a transfer agent to re-register the securities in the Reformed Church Home's name.

Valuation of your gift

For publicly traded securities, the value of your gift for both income tax and gift crediting purposes is the average of the high and low per share value on the date of the transfer. For securities transferred by mail, the date of transfer is the postmark on the envelope. For wire transfers, it is the date on which the securities actually enter the Reformed Church Home account.

Retirement Accounts

Qualified retirement plan assets are the most tax-burdened assets you can own. Many people do not realize that if they die with no surviving spouse, any remaining balance in their qualified plan will be subject to multiple levels of taxation -- including federal estate tax, income tax, state inheritance tax, and even generation skipping tax -- that can claim 50% or more of its value.

It is often advantageous, therefore, to donate such assets to charitable organizations. This can be done by naming the Reformed Church Home the beneficiary of all or a portion of your retirement plan, by gifting any remaining plan assets through your will, or by directing remaining plan assets into a testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust that provides income to your heirs for life or a term of years, after which the principal reverts to the Reformed Church Home. The Development Office can assist you in developing an approach that best meets your needs.

b) Securities held by a Broker or a Bank

Instruct your broker or bank to wire transfer the securities to: Bank of America: DTC#0955: for Credit to Bank of America, N.A. Reformed Church Ministries to the Aging General Fund: Account #51-16-200-8542811.

Life Insurance

It is easy to name the Reformed Church Home as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Just fill out a Change of Beneficiary form available from your insurance provider and give us a copy for our records. There is no immediate tax deduction available for this gift, but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that the Reformed Church Home will eventually benefit, and your estate will receive an estate tax deduction. You can also transfer ownership of a paid-up policy to the Reformed Church Home and receive a tax deduction now for the cash surrender value (technically, the "interpolated terminal reserve value") of the policy on the date of transfer. In certain cases, you may arrange to give a partially paid-up policy to the Reformed Church Home, receive a deduction for the cash surrender value of the policy, and deduct any premium you continue to pay. The Development Office can assist in developing a strategy that best meets your needs.

Bequests

Bequests via your will or revocable living trust can allow you to leave a significant legacy to the Reformed Church Home. Since bequests are deductible for federal estate tax purposes, and subject to an unlimited deduction, gifts through your will or trust can save Gifts of Personal Property you and your heirs estate taxes and allow you to make a much larger donation than you might have thought possible. For more details on how to make a bequest, and sample language for different kinds of bequests, please contact the Development Office.



Please turn to the back cover for a brief description on other less common types of gifting options.

Life Income Gifts

If you are considering making a gift to the Reformed Church Home, but are concerned about giving up a portion of your income, a life income arrangement may be advantageous for you. For example, if you were to transfer cash or marketable securities to the Reformed Church Home, you could receive fixed income payments for the remainder of your life, an immediate tax deduction, and reduced estate tax exposure. If you transfer appreciated property, such as securities or real estate, you will eliminate or greatly reduce the capital gain tax you would otherwise owe on the appreciation if you sold the asset. If you transfer low yielding property, such as securities that pay a small dividend, you may actually increase your income from the asset.

We offer a variety of life-income plans, including:

Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts that can benefit both you and the Reformed Church Home. The Development Office will be glad to work with you in identifying an option that will maximize your tax and estate advantages and meet your specific objectives. We are always happy to provide you with an illustration at no cost or obligation.

Gifts of valuable personal property -- such as works of art, antique furniture, books, jewelry, and collections can benefit both you and the Reformed Church Home. Such gifts, provided they qualify under IRS related use rules, can reduce your estate tax liability and qualify you for an income tax deduction based on their full appraised value. If you are interested in making a gift of personal property, please contact the Development Office to determine if the property is appropriate for the Reformed Church Home's use.

Tribute Gifts

Gifts in memory or in honor of an individual can be made during one's lifetime or through bequests. Naming opportunities and restricted gifts toward a particular project or program are just two ways to pay tribute to someone special in your life. The Development Office can guide you through the opportunities at the Reformed Church Home.