

# Circuit Rider Dispatch

Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

# Sowing and Reaping a Harvest Through Planned Giving

Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' John 4:35-37

Recently I met with a church committee to discuss an unexpected gift the church received. It was from a recently departed member who had the foresight to sow into their ministry with a gift in his/her estate. This

unexpected "harvest" came at an opportune time for the congregation as they have many projects and ministry needs that will continue to be supported through the generosity of one who planted a seed of philanthropy in their estate. Like many churches throughout the Holston Conference, this church is facing an aging membership and consequently a funding issue with loyal contributors passing away.

Rather than continuing with the "business as usual" approach of depositing the gift in the local bank, the church is investing the gift in the Foundation's <u>Balanced Growth Fund</u> with expectations to greatly exceed the ROI on any CD. In addition to taking advantage of the Foundation's investment services, the church is moving forward with a planned giving promotional plan to help additional members envision what a bequest can do for the kingdom through the church and foundation.



The Foundation exists to help local churches in the Holston Conference to promote, secure and steward planned giving among their congregants. If you or your church needs assistance in either planting "fruit trees" or harvesting what has already been planted, contact <a href="Paul Bowman">Paul Bowman</a> today. We have free resources, a strategic plan and consultation services for individuals and churches. We look forward to helping you either sow or reap in abundance for His church.

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#### YOUR PLAN

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#### WASHINGTON NEWS

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### **Got Stock?**

If you are like many people, you may be concerned about taxes rising. Despite the uncertainty in the economy, there is a way that you can lessen your tax burden and increase your future income. If you own appreciated assets such as stock or real estate that are producing little or no income, one idea is to transfer these assets to fund a charitable remainder trust. The benefits of this trust include a charitable deduction, potential for increased income paid out for life, and bypass of capital gains tax on the sale of your appreciated property. To learn more about the benefits of creating a charitable remainder trust, visit our website or call us at 1-866-690-4080.

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