



Circuit Rider Dispatch



Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

Legacy Sunday: Sowing for a Harvest for Future Ministry

Generational Shift:

Every year greater numbers of the "Greatest Generation" and "Baby Boomers" are leaving our fellowship for a greater promise of things to come. In addition to incredible testimonies of sacrifice and service, they also leave a hole in the annual support of the work of the local church. Finance committees, trustees and staff cope with shrinking budgets while also working harder to reach more and more of the lost or needy. Faced with the reality of a significantly aging membership, most American churches, experts point to this generational shift increasing even more rapidly beginning around 2018, when the rate of deaths in our country increases.

The Dilemma:

The dilemma for our local church leaders is to continue "to serve Christ by setting disciples on fire with Spirit-filled, risk-taking love for all God's children" while increasing budgets meet a continued and dramatic decrease in the faithful contribution base. For the layperson and clergy who possess a vision for their church to continue to be relevant, there seems to be only two options to consider: trim ministry which eventually results in the decline of the effectiveness of the local church or ***proactively seek a new funding base***. The Holston Conference Foundation is here to assist those who wish to face this dilemma with a strategic and effective solution.

An Effective Solution:

Recently Roger Redding and Paul Bowman preached on "Legacy Sunday" at Munsey Memorial in Johnson City. Spurred by the dogged determination of Church Trustee John Anderson (who is also a Foundation board member) and the leadership of Chair John Taylor, the Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committee carefully constructed a strategic plan to educate and elevate the [importance of charitable estate planning in their church](#). Understanding not only the pressing financial needs to reach "the least of these" through vital ministries that are at the heart of Methodism, Munsey's leadership is proactively creating an awareness of what gifts through bequests, trusts or real estate can accomplish not only today but for many years. With helpful information like the Foundation's [Personal Information Record Book](#), an awareness of estate planning is shared with church attendees as individuals not only think about their own legacy and the impact their gift can have on current and future ministry.



Sowing for Future Ministry:

2014 will be a significant year sowing for a future harvest of ministry in the community served by Munsey, not only in Johnson City but globally. "Legacy Sunday" kicked off several strategic efforts that will continue throughout the year with announcements in Sunday Schools, [bulletin inserts](#), newsletter testimonials, a workshop, etc. The committee's goal is to help Munsey members to envision what their legacy gift can accomplish in continuing the work and ministry near and dear to the individual's heart. The Holston Conference Foundation is available to assist churches throughout the conference in variety of ways to meet their dilemma with a very effective solution that will result in not only meeting expanding budgets, but also seen in a harvest of vital ministry that changes lives and touches souls.



PERSONAL PLANNER

'Give It Twice' Trust

A very popular option for a parent with children is called the "Give It Twice" trust. This is a trust funded when the surviving parent passes away. [Read More](#)

SAVVY LIVING

Tips and Tools to Help Regain Your Flexibility

I have become so inflexible in recent years that I can hardly bend over to tie my shoes. Can you offer some good stretching tips and resources? [Read More](#)

YOUR PLAN

Eudow & Maybelle Hamm

Eudow Hamm was a quiet and gentle man with a love of God and life. [Read More](#)

WASHINGTON NEWS

Debt Limit Deadline Again

As the February 7 debt limit deadline approaches, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew sent a letter to Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH). [Read More](#)

FINANCES

Stocks - eBay Reports Strong Quarterly Earnings [Read More](#)

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CDs and Mortgages - Interest Rates Continue Slight Decline [Read More](#)

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