

WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN

Do you have a will or an estate plan? If so, that is excellent! If not, you have plenty of company, but, unfortunately, this is not good news. Recent surveys indicate that as many as 70% of all United States citizens do not have an estate plan.

Every adult should have an up-to-date estate plan, regardless of what his or her economic or social circumstances may be. In an estate plan, we are permitted to direct how the possessions that God has given us during our lifetime are to be distributed after our death, and how our loved ones are to be cared for. Without an estate plan, our assets are allocated by formula without any consideration of the differing circumstances of our heirs, and without consideration of any charitable giving that we may wish to make at the time of our death. Without an estate plan, guardians for our minor children or dependents may be appointed by the court.

In addition to making practical sense, preparing an estate plan is a faithful response to God's call to us. We are expected to be good stewards of our possessions, and to use them for the glory of God. Estate planning is the continuation of our good stewardship at the time of our death and beyond.

Preparing an estate plan is also an opportunity to bear witness to our faith. Through our testamentary giving, we make a final statement about how we have responded and continue to respond to God's call to us. As part of this response, our estate plan can be an expression of our faith in the future of South Church and the continuation of its mission in God's world.

Should you have any questions or wish to receive more information, please contact Jed, Carlos, or any member of the Planned Giving Committee, at any time.