

Year-End Tax PLANNING

Make a gift by December 31, 2026



A photograph of blue wooden blocks arranged to spell '2026'. A hand is visible in the top right corner, moving the block with the number '6' to the top position, which would change the year to '2027'.

2026

Charitable Giving

Giving is a strong Christian value and your own personal statement of faith, but you can make a gift in a tax-smart way. Gifts of cash, stock, and transfers from your retirement account may all offer charitable tax benefits while providing for your church or other missions and ministries you hold close to your heart.

In fact, you can even deduct unreimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of a charity, such as the cost of traveling to a location to perform volunteer services. That means your trip to church to stock the food pantry may be tax-deductible!

For 2026, if you take the standard deduction, you may deduct up to \$1,000 of cash gifts to charity, or up to \$2,000 on a joint return. If you itemize, your gifts are deductible only to the extent they exceed one-half of one percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Above that amount, cash gifts are generally deductible up to 60% of your AGI and gifts of appreciated assets up to 30%. Unused amounts may generally be carried forward for up to five years.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) owned by an individual who is at least 70½ years old that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. In other words, if you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you may direct your IRA custodian to send a distribution from your IRA directly to your church or a charity of your choice. Because you never receive the distribution yourself, it is excluded from your taxable income and produces a tax savings. Additionally, a QCD will count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you must take one.

Types of Assets for your Gift

Cash

Cash or cash equivalents like credit or debit cards are the most common types of charitable gifts. If you choose to itemize on your tax return, you may deduct any gifts to your church or other qualified charities, up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). If you take the standard deduction, you may deduct up to \$1,000 of cash gifts, or up to \$2,000 on a joint return. If you itemize, cash gifts are deductible only above one-half of one percent of your AGI, up to the 60% limit.

DECEMBER 31: THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE ALL 2026 GIFTS

It isn't too late to make a gift before year-end. The Presbyterian Foundation is able to assist you with the available gift options. We'll help you find the one that suits your year-end charitable goals.

To receive a charitable tax deduction for the 2026 tax year, ensure all gifts are completed and all checks are postmarked by December 31. Note that certain gifts require additional time to process, so time is of the essence. For more information, call 800-858-6127, option 2.

Appreciated Securities

Donating appreciated securities, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds (owned more than one year) can provide you with additional tax savings. Giving in this way, means you will not realize or be taxed on the gains earned by these assets. Itemizers may also deduct the current value of the donated asset, rather than its original cost (basis). To make a gift of appreciated securities before the end of the year, please allow enough time for processing. Reach out to the Presbyterian Foundation at 800-858-6127, ext. 3041 before December 11.

Retirement Plans

While eligible donors can make a QCD from their IRA, you can also name your church, the Presbyterian Foundation, or another special mission as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. This may help to reduce taxes that your heirs have to pay. Please call the Presbyterian Foundation for more details or talk to your financial advisor.

Insurance Policies

The gift of a life insurance policy may also help you qualify for certain tax deductions. The simplest way to give is to make your church or a charity a beneficiary of your policy. You can also transfer ownership of a paid policy to your church or charity, which may qualify you for a tax deduction of the cash surrender value of the policy. If the policy still requires premium payments, you may be able to pay and deduct premiums as additional gifts to the organization. Call the Presbyterian Foundation to learn more, or talk to your financial advisor.

Gift Plans to Consider

Direct Gift

You can make a direct gift online to your church through the Presbyterian Foundation. This is especially helpful for individuals who would like to make an anonymous gift to their church or those who would like to make a gift of appreciated security to a church that does not have the capability to accept them.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Combine all your giving into one convenient fund. Itemizers can qualify for a tax deduction each time they contribute to the fund. You may recommend grants from the fund throughout the year to your local

congregation and all the ministries or charities that are close to your heart. You can open a DAF at the Presbyterian Foundation for just \$2,500.

Endowment

These permanent funds will provide a source of support to your church or favorite ministry in perpetuity. Endowments are a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or build your own legacy. When you establish a permanent endowment fund at the Presbyterian Foundation, you can rest assured your gift will be invested according to your values.

Charitable Trusts

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is a gift instrument which pays you or someone else income for life, or a term of years, before giving the remaining funds to one or more charitable organizations. You can fund a CRT with cash, real estate, appreciated assets and more. There are many ways to structure CRTs, so it's important consult with the proper professionals to establish one. Please contact Stephen Keizer, Vice President of Ministry Relations, at 502-569-8585, to learn more.

For more than two centuries, the Foundation has been serving the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and individual Presbyterians in their desire to bring people and mission together. The Presbyterian Foundation and its subsidiary, New Covenant Trust Company, N.A., stand as an enterprise of hope and service, enabling Presbyterians to change the world with their accumulated assets in accordance with their Presbyterian values.

Contact Us!

We are available to assist you. We are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern) each weekday (closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday). We are open on December 31 until 4 p.m. (Eastern). Please reach out to us if we can assist you at 1-800-858-6127.

The Presbyterian Foundation and New Covenant Trust Company do not render legal, tax or other professional advisory services to individuals. The general information presented herein may not be current, and is subject to change without notice. As with any decision regarding legal and financial matters, we recommend you consult with your own independent professional advisor.