

**Your legacy can build
a better future**

A Unitarian leaflet about legacies

Published by

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What is a legacy

A **legacy** is a means of leaving a portion of your assets when you die to someone or somebody. There are three types of legacy, as your solicitor can explain as you write your will:

- **Specific legacies** leave particular items of property
- **Pecuniary legacies** leave fixed sums of money
- **Residuary legacies** leave shares of your estate after any other provisions

Everyone should consider the disposal of their assets and leaving a legacy - it's not just for those who have lots of possessions.

Why leave a legacy to a church?

In our **Unitarian and Free Christian Community**, it is one way we can support the continuing development of our liberal witness in future generations. We are frequently urged to give generously during our lifetime, but many of us find our ability to give affected by lower income earlier in life, then family commitments, then having our assets tied up in pensions and property later on. Legacies are one way of expressing generosity at a level that may not have been possible during our lifetime.

LEGACIES ARE ONE WAY OF EXPRESSING GENEROSITY AT
A LEVEL THAT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE DURING
YOUR LIFETIME.

An act of Thanksgiving and Witness

Legacies to your congregation, or the **General Assembly** are both an act of thanksgiving and a witness to family and friends of the importance of this religious community and its liberal spiritual heritage. Unitarians and Free Christians emphasise living our religious values in this world - this includes consideration of our material resources and their ultimate distribution and influence. Every legacy helps - many of our congregations function today because of past legacies; building for the future requires a continuous demonstration of generosity.

UNITARIANS AND FREE CHRISTIANS
EMPHASISE LIVING OUR RELIGIOUS
VALUES IN THIS WORLD...

So, how do I make or amend a will?

If you have already made a will, you will need to keep it up to date as you get older and your circumstances change. A new will can be made at any time or, more simply, you can add charitable legacies to your will by seeing your solicitor about a codicil, which you could complete now using this leaflet. Homemade wills can easily be faulty - it is very easy to make a mistake, which leads to unforeseen problems, It is far better to make your will with the help of a solicitor. When you consult your solicitor, make sure that you have a brief list of the things you own (your assets) and that you have a clear idea of your intentions. This will save time and costs.

Think about whether you wish to make a general gift or whether you wish to restrict the gift to specific purposes.

It is important that you have the names and addresses accurately written down for anybody you wish to include in your will. Overleaf you will find some denominational information you may find helpful.

I am ready to act now

If you already have a will and would now like to include a gift to The General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (GAU&FCC) or your church/ chapel then you can use this codicil form. Complete the form overleaf including having your signature witnessed by two people) and send it to the person who currently holds your will, to store them together. Please do consult with your solicitor or advisor before completing this form. If your will already has some codicils, you may wish to have your will rewritten to avoid confusion. Please do not write on or amend your current will as this could invalidate it.

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Codicil to my Will

I[Name]
Of.....
.....
.....[Address]

declare this to be a[first/second/third] codicil to my Will dated.....
In addition to any legacies given in my said Will

I give _____ percent of my residuary estate and/or the sum of £..... and/or
..... [a specific item] to the General Assembly of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (GAU&FCC) (Charity Number 250788).

And/or

give _____ percent of my residuary estate and/or the sum of £..... and/or
..... [a specific item] to
_____chapel/church

to be used for general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge. In all other respects I confirm my Will and all other codicils thereto.

Signed.....Date

First Witness

Signature

Name

Address

Date

Second Witness

Signature

Name

Address

Date

Signed by the above named in our presence and witnessed by us in the presence of him/her and each other.