



# Growing Generosity

SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## December 2017

Greetings!

Welcome to the December 2017 edition of Growing Generosity, a monthly newsletter from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. Our goal is to help United Methodist churches in Georgia develop a culture of generosity. Please feel free to use any of these “tips” in your church newsletter or bulletin, on your website, or in other communications.

Sign up today at [www.gumf.org/stay-connected](http://www.gumf.org/stay-connected) to have Growing Generosity delivered right to your inbox!

### **TIP #1: Honor Christ at Christmas**

As we enter the sacred season of Advent and Christmas, we celebrate God's great gift of the Christ Child. As we experience the tremendous joy of God's blessings upon us, you may be looking for ways to give back and support our church and other charities that help those in need. For many, end-of-year giving can also provide tax benefits.

The most popular gift is cash, but there are many other ways to give, including gifts of stocks, bonds, securities, mutual funds, life insurance, real estate and more. For some, life income deferred gifts, donor advised funds, annuities or charitable trusts may make sense.

Act now to make certain you have accomplished your charitable goals for the year! The Georgia United Methodist Foundation can help with year-end charitable planning. Contact 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664 or [info@gumf.org](mailto:info@gumf.org) today.

### **TIP #2: Tax benefits at year-end**

As we close out 2017, remember that our U.S. tax system rewards generosity as contributions to churches and qualified charities are not taxed if you itemize. Many take advantage of this tax benefit to give even more and to give early. Consider making your January donations in December or even “pre-giving” annual tithes in December for the year to come. Our church (or your favorite charity) appreciates having the funds in hand, and you receive the tax benefits earlier. A little advance planning can make your giving go even further. For more information, contact the Georgia United Methodist Foundation today at 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664 or [info@gumf.org](mailto:info@gumf.org).

### **TIP #3: Donor Advised Funds: Prefunding Charitable Gifts**

If you would like to set aside funds for charitable gifts, but have not decided to whom and how much the gifts will be, a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) may be useful. Here's how it works. You set up a DAF by giving a gift to the Georgia United Methodist Foundation for that fund. Tax benefits for the donor apply to the year the gift is given. Subsequently you may request a distribution from the DAF to any eligible charity (as defined by IRS regulations). DAFs are not for everyone and you may need to consult a tax advisor. For more details, contact the Georgia United Methodist Foundation at 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664 or [info@gumf.org](mailto:info@gumf.org).