ADVANCEMENT

THE BLESSING OF LEGACY GIFTS

Among institutions of higher education, Concordia Theological Seminary ranks high on the list for percentage of the annual operating budget provided by gift income. The Church has been and continues to be steadfast in its support of the Seminary, ensuring faithful formation of pastors and deaconesses today and in the future.

Gifts to the Seminary take many forms, one of them being estate gifts. We don't always know the motivations of the donors who include us in their estate plans, but those we do hear from typically value faithful preaching and teaching and want to help preserve that for future generations as part of their legacy. Daryl and Denise Seaman and the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz are good examples. Below, they share their thoughts on planned giving.

Giving with Intention

Wherever we have lived, God provided faithful pastors who preached the Gospel, taught our children, administered the Sacraments, and encouraged us in our Christian vocations. Some became dear friends and trusted guides who continue to bless our lives.

These experiences taught us firsthand how important it is to prepare faithful pastors who will proclaim Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. As we considered the many ways God has provided for us, we began thinking about how His blessings might continue serving the Church even after our earthly lives have ended. For us, that means remembering CTSFW in our will and trust and giving intentionally through established endowments.

We do not give so the Seminary will remember us. We give so that CTSFW can continue forming faithful servants for generations to come. It is one way we can steward today the blessings God has entrusted to us while helping provide faithful pastors for tomorrow.

Leaving a Churchly Legacy

As most of you know, with the retirements of the boomer generation, of which I am a part, there is now a huge transfer of wealth occurring in America. My encouragement is for all pastors—district presidents, circuit visitors, retired (repositioned), and active pastors—and faithful lay leaders to help our church members prayerfully consider leaving a legacy that will bear fruit for generations to come.

For example, starting a fund, with the help of either a congregation or family members, at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, is such a blessing, as is putting our seminaries in one's will and estate plans. Those of us at that magic age of 73 or more are required to do an annual RMD (required minimum distribution). Why not make it a charitable distribution, and you don't pay taxes!

My wife, Janet, and I share with family members when we receive a letter or card of appreciation from sem students who are beneficiaries of our CTSFW family scholarship fund.

We have the opportunity to graciously help our elderly church members and congregations to think in terms of a legacy, not exclusively for their family members, but also for what they consider sacred and worthy of financial support for long after the Lord has called them to His nearer presence. While we can encourage them to think about a charitable distribution or other gift/legacy to their own dear congregations, where they have been fed on God's holy Word and Sacraments, helping them see how they can make an eternal impact on Christ's Church-at-large is a blessing, especially to our seminaries.

Honestly, that's how our own Stechholz Family Scholarship Fund came about: simply talking to an elderly aunt years ago about her unsecured Thrivent annuity. With tears in her eyes, Aunt Pauline said, "David, I want our churches to always have good and faithful pastors." She understood the blessing of leaving a churchly legacy unto the Lord.

Daryl and Denise Seaman
Clive, Iowa





Rev. Dr. David Stechholz
Bishop/President Emeritus
LCMS English District
Livonia, Michigan

Interested in exploring legacy gift options? Contact our Advancement team at Advancement@ctsfw.edu or (877) 287-4338.


Kramer Chapel Progress



New Co-op Interior


New Co-op Entry Elevation

Co-op images courtesy of Design Collaborative

Campus Master Plan Update

The new windows in **Kramer Chapel** are expected to be fully installed in October. As we reported in the last issue, this project has been fully funded by generous gifts from donors throughout the country. Crews have worked steadily through the summer and early fall to complete the project, and the campus community is looking forward to returning soon to the chapel for daily services. (If you aren't able to visit campus soon, check out our livestream at ctsfw.edu/dailychapel to enjoy services with your future pastors and deaconesses.)

In October, we'll be breaking ground for the **new Food & Clothing Co-op**. The new one-level, accessible building will benefit students and donors alike for decades to come.

The Co-op has been a blessing throughout CTSFW's years in Fort Wayne, serving students and their families with basic necessities of daily life, including food, clothing, and housewares, all free of charge. These resources help students live, eat, and minimize debt while preparing to preach the Gospel and serve God's people.

In order to continue serving students, CTSFW has determined that a new building will better utilize the resources of God's people than a significant investment in remodeling existing spaces that were never intended for this purpose. The new home for the Co-op will be an improvement in so many ways: more convenient, more accessible, more spacious, and more welcoming.

Interested in supporting this project? A generous donor has offered to **match, dollar for dollar, up to $225,000** of all contributions to this project, making this a great time to support students with a gift for this new facility. Visit ctsfw.edu/new-co-op to make a gift.



The Rev. Daniel Burfiend serves as Director of Campaigns at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

YOUR IRA CAN HELP ADVANCE THE GOSPEL AT CTSFW

Are you 70½ or older? With an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you can support CTSFW and potentially reduce your income tax burden after a retirement distribution. In addition, if you are 73 or older you can satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution. As the end of the year approaches, a QCD may be the right solution for you!

THREE EASY STEPS:

1. Call your IRA account provider and request a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
2. Give them CTSFW's address (6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN, 46825) and tax ID (37-0673478).
3. Let us know about your gift so we can send a thank-you!