

News and Notes from The Florida United Methodist Foundation

Here are some summertime thoughts and tips from the Foundation.

- Many people will be traveling this summer, and now is a great time to review your will or estate plan. The Florida United Methodist Foundation recommends reviewing your will at least every five years to make sure your instructions are up-to-date. It's also important to review your plans whenever family circumstances change, for example, upon the birth of a child or grandchild, death of a spouse or family member, divorce or remarriage, moving to a new state (where the laws may be different), or a change in your financial circumstances. If you don't already have a will, now is the time to create one. And please make sure to include a bequest to your church. It's easy to do, by including your church in a new will or by adding a codicil to an existing will. Please contact your attorney or estate planning professional for assistance.

- In response to continuing low market interest rates, the American Council on Gift Annuities has announced a change in Charitable Gift Annuity rates, effective July 1, 2003. Rates will be marginally lower for most persons. For example, the annuity payout rate for a 70-year-old single person will change from 6.7% to 6.5%. The rate for a married couple, ages 80 and 75, will decline from 6.8% to 6.6%. The Foundation, like most non-profit organizations, subscribes to the ACGA rate structure. The rate changes apply only to new Gift Annuities entered into after July 1. For more information on how the Foundation's Gift Annuity program can benefit both your family and your church, please call the Foundation office at 1-800-282-8011, extension 106.

- Finally, as we wrote last month, the Foundation encourages all United Methodists to make sure their pledge is up-to-date (or even paid in advance!) before leaving on summer vacation.

The Florida United Methodist Foundation is available to assist you. For more information, call, click or write us at 800-282-8011, extension 106, www.fumf.org, or P.O. Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802.