



United Methodist Women

The 1869 Society Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is the 1869 Society?

In the Spring of 2018, United Methodist Women established the 1869 Society to thank and honor individuals who have named United Methodist Women as a beneficiary of their will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. We decided upon the name "1869 Society" since it was the year of our founding. Those individuals who remember United Methodist Women through a planned gift demonstrate a particularly thoughtful and generous way to connect their personal legacy with United Methodist Women's future.

Why did you choose to establish this now?

For many years, United Methodist Women has been remembered in people's wills and estate plans. And we have benefitted from this generous support. As awareness grows of the variety of ways to contribute philanthropically to United Methodist Women, we believe that this type of giving will increase in the years ahead and we want to recognize these donors. Now, as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of our founding in 1869, it seems particularly fitting to demonstrate our gratitude and inspire others to also join in support.

Can my gift count in the campaign? What do I have to do so that it is counted in the campaign?

Yes—by completing the appropriate one-page Letter of Intent, your gift can be included in the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

What do I say to other people who ask me about the 1869 Society?

If they want to learn how they can become a member, they may contact the Development staff in the national office at 212-870-3705 for further details.

Can I be anonymous?

Absolutely—you do not have to wear your ribbon. Consider though that your membership could encourage others. In this way, you are supporting the mission, programs and future of United Methodist Women by witnessing to additional creative ways of making a gift. Remember that some people may ONLY be able to contribute through a bequest, for example, and you are helping to bring this possibility to mind for them.

What if I change my mind?

When a gift is revocable (e.g. a bequest), you can change your mind. If there are new circumstances in your life that you would like reflected in your will in a different way, just let us know of the change. Also, if you are unsure, please feel free to call us for a confidential conversation. There are different types of bequest provisions which might allow you to keep United Methodist Women in your will but in a more provisional or conditional way.

Why did you establish this?

At its heart, the 1869 Society is a way to say "thank you" and to let you know how grateful we are for your thoughtful support. We extend our gratitude to you on behalf of all the women and children served by United Methodist Women. They don't have an opportunity to thank you directly, or to perhaps even know of your support. But they do know how they, or their children, or others that they cherish, have been helped by United Methodist Women.

