

Charitable Bequest

A. Bequests are Specific: Who + What + When + How

Think of your will/trust as your plan full of names, stating WHAT (assets, amount, or percentage) they will receive, WHO (beneficiaries) will receive, WHEN (time restrictions) they will receive and even HOW (other restrictions).

B. The Who: Get the Name Right

Whether you are making a bequest (gifts at death) to an individual or an organization it is best to include their *full legal name*. The full incorporated name, the *Texas Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist*, is how the church does “business” and makes legal transactions (purchase land, accept bequests, etc.). The unincorporated name, the *Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventist*, is how most people know the church by and how the church does “ministry”. The current Gift Acceptance Policy requires a minimum charitable bequest of 10%: 5% to be used within the Texas Conference while the other 5% may be in Texas or any Adventist organization within the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook.

C. The How: Three Types of Charitable Contributions

1. Unrestricted Funds: donated amount may be used for any purpose. Unrestricted funds usually go toward operating expenses of the organization or to a project.
2. Temporarily Restricted Funds: donated amount can be used for a particular purpose for a specified period, or it must support a specific program or campaign. When the time is up, or the project is done, the funds become unrestricted or stopped. Examples: grant, scholarship recipient, or the completion of a building project.
3. Permanently Restricted Funds: permanently restricted funds never expire. Usually this means that the charity invests the gift and then uses the interest and investment returns in perpetuity. Permanently restricted funds often go into an endowment that supports a particular activity or organization in general. Examples: tithe, worthy-student endowment fund.

D. Sample of 13% Charitable Bequest

FIVE PERCENT (5%), to the **TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**, as an unrestricted gift for its religious, educational and charitable activities.

ONE PERCENT (1%), to the **TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**, a holy tithe.

ONE PERCENT (1%), to the **TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**, for Pathfinder Ministries.

ONE PERCENT (1%), to the **TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**, Conroe Church for Adventurer Club.

ONE PERCENT (1%), to the **TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**, Conroe Adventist Academy for worthy student fund.

ONE PERCENT (1%), to **SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**, for Religion Department.

THREE PERCENT (3%), to **ADVENTIST DISASTER AND RELIEF AGENCY**.