

# Six Easy Ways to Give



## WAYS to GIVE

There are many ways to make a gift to the BLC Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF). Whether you want to put your donation to work immediately or design a plan that benefits the BLC IMF in the future, you can feel good knowing you are giving to help our neighbors locally, within the US and throughout the world. Consider the option that works best for you.

### **Give Now**

**Gifts of Cash:** The simplest way to help grow the Investment in Ministries Fund is to make a one-time gift via check, credit card or wire-transfer or arrange for automatic monthly payments from your credit card or bank account (ETF). You may also arrange to make quarterly or annual pledges to be paid by check.

**Gifts of Appreciated Stock:** If you have held stock for more than one year and it has increased in value, you can transfer the stock to BLC for the IMF rather than selling the stock and donating all or part of the proceeds. You may qualify for a tax deduction of the full market value and avoid capital gains tax.

**Gifts of Real Estate or other Assets:** Whether gifting a vacation home or a classic car, the tax benefits are the same as appreciated stock. Gifts can be made outright, or through an income-producing gift arrangement.

## Give in the Future

**Retirement Plans:** Retirement plans can be subject to income, estate, and generation-skipping transfer taxes when the owner dies and the final distribution is made to heirs. You can eliminate this double tax liability by naming BLC IMF as one of the beneficiaries of your IRA, pension, 401(k) or other retirement savings plan.

**Life Insurance:** If you own life insurance policies that are no longer needed for your estate planning, you can change the beneficiary to BLC or the BLC Investment in Ministries Fund and continue to make premium payments.

**Name the BLC Investment in Ministries Fund in Your Will or Living Trust:** You may make a provision for the BLC IMF when you have your will or living trust drafted or your existing will or trust amended. There is no minimum amount for a bequest, and gifts can be made with cash, securities, real estate, tangible private property, or retirement plan assets. We would be pleased to provide you with sample bequest language for inclusion in your will or trust.

**Create a Life Income Gift:** There are giving instruments that provide not only an immediate income tax charitable deduction but may offer additional benefits such as life income and avoidance or deferral of capital gains taxes. Examples are Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, and Charitable Lead Trusts.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution:** If you are at least 70½ years of age and planning an IRA withdrawal, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a “QCD” or Qualified Charitable Distribution. Rather than take the withdrawal and then make your gift, ask your financial institution to send all or a portion of your withdrawal directly to BLC, for example. This strategy could provide the benefits of giving to charity, while excluding the amount donated from taxable income.

\*\*Consult your financial advisor about tax implications for you of a gift by QCD.

If you wish to discuss any of these gift options, please contact one of the members of the IMF Committee or Ryan Ebner, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation.

- John Costanza      [jc\\_spaceguy@hotmail.com](mailto:jc_spaceguy@hotmail.com)      585-398-7391
- Paulette Costanza      [p.stanza@hotmail.com](mailto:p.stanza@hotmail.com)      585-398-7391
- Mark Gaul      [markrgaul@gmail.com](mailto:markrgaul@gmail.com)      585-781-4379
- Roger Kolker      [roger.kolker@gmail.com](mailto:roger.kolker@gmail.com)      585-415-4594
- John Panko      [jpanko19@yahoo.com](mailto:jpanko19@yahoo.com)      386-956-6881
- Ryan Ebner (ELCA)      [ryan.ebner@elca.org](mailto:ryan.ebner@elca.org)      814-823-3285