

Endowment Committee

Recently, a local church shared some information that your endowment committee thought would be useful to the congregation:

If you're in the 70-1/2+ age group—and fortunate enough to have an IRA account, there's something we'd ask you to consider.

- Retirees over 70 ½ must withdraw a specified amount from their IRA accounts every year. This Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is based on the size of the portfolio and is taxable. An easy way to minimize the tax “hit” and do some real good at the same time is to make a direct contribution to a 501(c)(3) charitable institution—such as FPC Mesa—from that account.
- The main benefit that this qualified charitable distribution (QCD) provides is that it is not included in the adjusted gross income of your IRS Form 1040, so making this kind of contribution can lower your taxable income. (Your tax advisor can help you determine how lowering your adjusted gross income might benefit you.)
- If you have check-writing capability attached to your IRA, that's the easiest way to go about this, or you can have your financial brokerage firm transfer funds directly from the IRA to the organization. Sending it directly to the desired institution by check or transfer will allow that donation to be treated as a QCD. The key here is that the funds must not go through your personal account and then re-directed.
- FPC could really use this help. The pandemic, with all its attendant consequences (no in-person worship for months on end, lessened attendance once we were able to meet for congregant worship in the parking lot, etc.), has impacted our finances. It has affected our ability to serve our community's most needy as well as contributions to capital and operating budgets. Many of you have been faithful in your giving of tithes and offerings during this difficult time, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.
- However, our ongoing obligations continue unabated—covid or no. Making a contribution from your IRA is a painless, beneficial and greatly-appreciated way

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to help keep our ministry and mission on track. Your financial advisor can answer your questions about this process.

- Whether you support the church's main operating budget, a ministry, or one of our endowment funds such as the Solar Power Project, we urge you to give this some thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

Please contact me or another member of the Endowment Committee if you would like more information about the activities your contribution can support: Brent Gregory, Jack Gunter, Renita Jurgensen, Ron Payton, or Skeets Throckmorton. (Our thanks to Central United Methodist Church of Phoenix for the concise summary.)

Warm regards,

David Frederick, Endowment Secretary