

## ELCA Gift Planners

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## BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION: GIFT PLANNING MADE EASY

**A**n easy way to include Gettysburg Seminary in your gift planning is to name the Seminary as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, an individual retirement account (IRA), a pension or some other retirement plan. Five good reasons why you might want to do it now:

1. It's EASY to add or change beneficiary designations, since you can do it yourself without the assistance of an attorney or financial advisor.
2. It's FLEXIBLE in terms of revocability, because you can change the beneficiary designations and percentages at any time.
3. It's PAINLESS since you don't give up any assets now.
4. It adds VALUE. Giving these kinds of assets to the Seminary or another 501(c)(3) charitable organization ensures that the gift recipient receives the entire value of the asset. If you leave such an asset to individual heirs, they may be subject to income tax on the gift, thus decreasing its value.
5. The gift will be given in a TIMELY manner since distribution to the Seminary will come from the insurer or plan administrator and not through your estate.

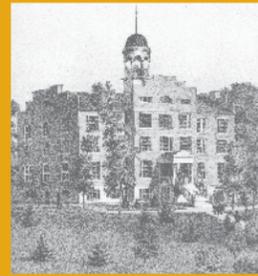
Many people designate Gettysburg Seminary as a beneficiary in their wills, but they do not always let us know that they have done so. If you tell us about your plans now, we will be able to clarify any special wishes you have for use of the gift. Most importantly, we get to thank you for it in person!

### DO YOU STILL OWN APPRECIATED STOCK?

*Think about donating appreciated stock to Gettysburg Seminary rather than cash. It's a great way to make a contribution to help seminarians preparing for leadership in ministry while avoiding capital gains tax.*

*It's easy to transfer stock to the Seminary. Simply contact your stock broker and have him or her transfer it to the Seminary's account at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. For details, call Nina Garretson in the Advancement Office, (717) 338-3011.*

Legacy  
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LUTHERAN  
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AT GETTYSBURG



### Leading, Teaching, Serving, Growing

The Crossroads Campaign goal is \$25 Million, to raise support for:

- Campus development
- Seminary Endowment, including scholarships and faculty support
- Theological Education with Youth (TEY)
- The Luther Institute, an international learning center in Washington, D.C.
- Annual giving to the Gettysburg Seminary Fund

The future of the Church's leadership begins here.

[www.Ltsg.edu/crossroads](http://www.Ltsg.edu/crossroads)

# LEGACY

Charitable Gift and Estate Planning for Alumni and Friends

• Spring 2010

## A GIFT WITH A REMARKABLE HISTORY

Imagine inheriting several thousand shares of Exxon Mobil stock and then discovering that it came into your family through the sale of some businesses to John D. Rockefeller himself. That is what Barbara Skillman found out when she began researching her family history after her father's death in 2002.

She and her husband Joe, Gettysburg Seminary Class of 1977, decided to make good use of their new-found fortune by setting up an endowment fund for the Seminary. This way, they are able to show their appreciation to Joe's seminary by giving something back, honor her grandfather, who also graduated from Gettysburg Seminary, and turn the family oil earnings into something to benefit the church.

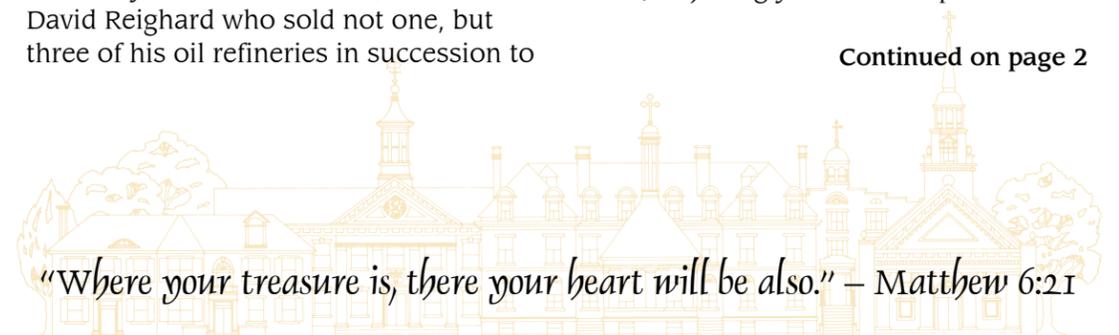
Barbara Skillman's great-grandfather Samuel Reighard and his brother David worked in the oil distribution industry in Pennsylvania in the 1800s, and it was David Reighard who sold not one, but three of his oil refineries in succession to

John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. Reighard was not simply a shrewd businessman, Skillman contends. He was a fair and conscientious employer, who only sold a company once he was sure that his employees would still have jobs.

Joe and Barbara Skillman had been thinking for many years prior to this inheritance that they wanted to make a significant gift to Gettysburg Seminary. Joe felt fortunate to have left Gettysburg with virtually no educational debt, but they also had very little at the time to begin their new life. In fact, they recalled returning from his internship year with only their Volkswagen, some books and \$11.00.

Joe has fond memories not only of his seminary years but also of Gettysburg College, where he and Barbara met and where Joe's sociology professor, Dr. Wade Hook, a Lutheran pastor himself, declared Joe to be a "marginal academician," a label Joe jokingly wears with pride.

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# LEGACY

5 tips on page 4:

**BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK**



**Joe and Barbara Skillman**

*"Pop-Pop was the only grandparent I ever knew, so I felt a close connection to him, and this fund for the seminary is one way that I can honor his memory in a special way."*

*– Barbara Skillman*

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Barbara's grandfather, the Rev. Dr. Paul A. Weidley, also attended both seminary and college in Gettysburg. He graduated from the Seminary in 1919 and received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the College years later. He served a number of parishes during his ministry, but most of those years were with Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baltimore, now located in Lutherville. As Barbara remembers her grandfather, she says, "Pop-Pop was the only grandparent I ever knew, so I felt a close connection to him, and this fund for the seminary is one way that I can honor his memory in a special way."

Now, just a few years shy of retirement, and feeling blessed with all that they have now, the Skillmans are pleased to be able to honor Barbara's grandfather with a named fund they set up in 2007. They did this with a gift of appreciated stock from her inheritance, and each year they transfer more stock to the fund. Since Pastor Skillman is being honored by his congregation this year for ten years of ministry to them, he has asked members to direct gifts to the Weidley Fund rather than to him. Joe says that anyone who feels called to leadership in ministry, even a "marginal academician" like himself, deserves a chance to afford a seminary education.

The Skillmans feel blessed in many ways, including the Exxon Mobil stock they inherited. "It's not our money; it's God's money" affirms Joe, which is why they decided to tithe it to help future church leaders.

## PASTOR'S IRA TO AID STUDENT TRAVEL ABROAD

The Rev. Donald Wilcox was a student at Gettysburg Seminary in the 1970s. Some of his most meaningful seminary experiences were trips he took overseas. He traveled to Israel one January with a group from Virginia Theological Seminary and took a separate trip to Germany in December 1975, as part of the first group to participate in the new partnership with the seminary in Preetz. The Israel trip he recalls having been paid for with money he got from Gettysburg Seminary, his home congregation and his home synod in upstate New York. Even though he had been to Israel once before, the trip through the Seminary was something he says he will never forget, "for it opened up a whole new passionate interest in Jewish-Christian relations which I continue to pursue to this day."

In order to ensure that future seminarians are afforded valuable international ex-

periences, Don Wilcox has designated a planned gift that will help to fund student travel abroad. He did this by naming Gettysburg Seminary as a beneficiary of his individual retirement account (IRA). This was a simple way to make an impact on theological education that has personal meaning to him. All he had to do was fill out a short form, listing Gettysburg Seminary with its tax ID as the beneficiary and send it back to the IRA administrator.

"It's a simple but meaningful way to leave a legacy for ministry," he says. As it stands today, he will be leaving 50% of his IRA to Gettysburg and the other 50% to SUNY Cortland where he served as campus minister for 22 years, while also serving a parish in the town of Cortland, NY.

For someone who enrolled at seminary the summer before he was admitted because he couldn't get a job teaching math, and who spent less than a year of his seminary education in Gettysburg, Don's generosity in planning such a gift is a witness to the impact his seminary experience had on him. In addition to his overseas studies, he valued the opportunity to spend two years at the D.C. House of Studies taking courses through the Washington Theological Consortium. He spent another year serving his internship with St. John's Lutheran Church outside Penn Yan, NY.

Wilcox stands by a portrait of Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., the Gettysburg Seminary professor and president he credits for teaching him how to preach the Gospel.

*"It's a simple but meaningful way to leave a legacy for ministry..."*

*– Don Wilcox*

