Fellowship Bible Church
Estate Planning Seminars
Frequently Asked Questions

Why attend?

By attending an estate planning seminar, you will gain practical stewardship guidance, demystify topics like wills and trusts, and learn how you can avoid potentially costly probate. After attending, you will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a qualified estate consultant either via Zoom or telephone to walk you through the process of preparing an estate plan according to your wishes and at your instruction. All at no cost to you. This is fantastic opportunity to plan ahead and gain peace of mind. Whether your estate is large or small, you will learn how you can preserve it for your heirs and for the kingdom.

Why is Fellowship offering this?

Disciples as Stewards: We are offering these estate planning seminars because we believe that one of the marks of a disciple is that he or she is a steward. That means managing everything God has entrusted you with in a way that honors him, both in the present *and* for the future. We are committed to equipping our church to grow disciples that are faithful stewards during every phase of their lives.

Member Care: We are committed to caring for the members of our church. We recognize that times of loss and grief can be made more challenging when individuals have failed to implement proper estate planning. What is your plan for the things God has entrusted you with? We have, unfortunately, seen circumstances where there was an unclear plan after the loss of a loved one. This can cause unnecessary pain, confusion, bitterness, and broken relationships. On the other hand, when a well-crafted estate plan is in place, it can bring peace to the family in the midst of their grief.

Is it really free? What's the catch?

Yes. And there is no catch. Fellowship has partnered with Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) to offer the Fellowship "family", those regular attenders who consider Fellowship their church home, an estate plan, according to your instructions, at no cost to you. This includes preparing your will, trust, advance healthcare directive, etc., as well as planning ahead for any guardianship or conservatorship matters. While there is no requirement that anyone includes a gift to either Fellowship or FPM in their plan, you are welcome to do so if you feel led. However, both Fellowship and FPM encourage you to include funding for kingdom work in your estate plan.

Who is Financial Planning Ministry?

Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) is a trusted, proven non-profit ministry that Fellowship has financially partnered with so they can offer this service to our body. Ensuring your legacy has been the business of FPM for nearly 40 years. They remove the doubt and confusion surrounding estate planning through professional and courteous service and provide you with estate planning education and services that you and your family can count on. They take you through the entire process and even help you update your plans in the future should your circumstances change. Because they are an independent third party, complete confidentiality is assured.

Why is this for Fellowship family only?

Fellowship believes that it's so important for members of our body to plan ahead for their families and be faithful stewards that we have financially partnered with Financial Planning Ministry to provide an estate plan, according to each individual's wishes, at no out-of-pocket cost to our members. Because the church is financially investing in this as a benefit for our Fellowship family, we have decided to currently limit this ministry to those regular attenders who consider Fellowship their church home.

What if I'm not a Fellowship "member" yet?

If you're not a "member" yet but are a regular attender and consider Fellowship to be your church home, you are welcome to attend a seminar. The seminar is completely free.

If you're not sure yet whether you want to make Fellowship your home, we will offer estate planning seminars at various times throughout the year, and you can attend one at a later date. Whether you've been attending Fellowship for years or only visited a handful of times, we would love for you to prayerfully consider taking the next step toward joining Fellowship's mission and enroll in one of our upcoming Fellowship Next or Next Step classes.

What should I expect? When will I get my documents?

Seminar: The estate planning seminar is an approximately 1.5 hour free education session where you will: (1) learn why having an estate plan is important, (2) be given a tool you will complete to determine how you want to set up your estate plan (the "Confidential Estate Planning Guide"), and (3) have the opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment with a consultant from our ministry partner, Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) for the preparation or update of your estate plan, all at no cost to you. You do not need to bring anything specific with you to the seminar.

Follow-up Appointment: Three to four weeks after each estate planning seminar, FPM will offer a virtual one-on-one appointment, or you can meet over the phone with one of their estate consultants. This is an opportunity to discuss the estate plan intentions you've recorded in your Confidential Estate Planning Guide, ask questions, and determine if moving forward with an estate plan from FPM is the right next step for your family, or if you should work with your own attorney or create your estate planning documents in some other way.

Receive Personalized Estate Planning Documents: After completing your follow-up appointment and submitting your Confidential Estate Planning Guide and necessary documents, FPM will create your personalized estate planning documents prepared according to your wishes and instructions. This process typically takes a couple of months from the time you submit all your completed paperwork. FPM will then send to you a set of estate planning documents ready for you to sign and have notarized.

Revise at Any Time: We understand that things in your life may change. Whether you move, your family expands or contracts, or your intentions change, you might want to modify your estate plan. It's typically a good idea to review your estate plan every five to ten years to ensure it stays in line with your intentions and current circumstances. You may contact to FPM at any time to modify your estate plan at no cost to you.

What if I'm married and we can't attend the seminar together?

Life is busy. We understand juggling childcare, work commitments, and a variety of other things in your life can be challenging. However, we strongly recommend that both spouses attend the seminar, so both of you can learn about the options available in creating an estate plan. If for some reason that's not possible, one of you is welcome to attend the seminar and then work together on the Confidential Estate Planning Guide before you both meet with the estate consultant.

Can you tell me more about Financial Planning Ministry?

Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) is a trusted, proven non-profit ministry that Fellowship has financially partnered with so they can offer this service to our body. (FPM) has been a trusted name in estate planning and planned giving since 1982. More than 36,000 families and individuals have benefitted from their unique "stewardship through estate planning" ministry. FPM works with over 130 partners like Fellowship. As an organization, they present over 350 estate planning seminars per year.

They remove the doubt and confusion surrounding estate planning through professional and courteous service and provide you with estate planning education and services that you and your family can count on. They take you through the entire process and even help you update your plans in the future should your circumstances change. Because they are an independent third party, complete confidentiality is assured.

The church spent several years considering options and reviewing a number of organizations that specialize in estate planning solutions for churches like ours, and repeatedly heard incredible things from other well-respected churches that have worked with FPM for years. After several meetings with FPM and getting to know their leadership and staff, we were very excited to begin our partnership with them in 2021.

If I include a gift to Fellowship in my estate plan, what will happen to that money? How do I know it will be stewarded well?

Fellowship works hard to be good stewards of ALL gifts we receive. Because we know that gifts made through estate planning may often represent the largest single gift an individual may ever make to their church, there might be concerns about how such gifts might be used. To help address these concerns, Fellowship has recently launched the Fellowship Legacy Fund into which all future planned and estate gifts will be received. The Legacy Fund is designed to purposefully and strategically ensure that estate gifts will be put to use over no more than 10 years in the four areas of local missions, global missions, church planting or ministry expansion. For more information about the Legacy Fund, email us at Legacy@FellowshipAR.com.

I have another question!

If we didn't answer your question above, please take a moment to review these frequently asked questions that Financial Planning Ministry has compiled.

If that still doesn't answer your questions, please feel free to reach out to Scott Hendren, at shendren@fellowshipar.com or (501) 224-7171.