

en•dow *verb* 1. to provide with a permanent fund or source of income.

What if you had just won the lottery? Do you wish you did? How would it change your life? Would you move? Quit your job? Pay down debt? Travel? Give more money away? Let's be honest, most of us wish we had won and many of us have answered these questions or given some thought to them.

If any of us had won the lottery we would still be responsible to pursue our high calling as stewards, or managers, of someone else's stuff—just like we are now. In a very real sense, nothing would have changed. As stewards of God's resources we have two far more profound yet simple questions to answer—whether we've just won the lottery or not. First, has God given me more than enough? And second, if He has given me more than enough, what does He want me to do with it?



As I've said before, it's not easy to be a steward. It's hard work and these are not easy questions. Our culture and everything around us screams that we are owners and very little reminds us that we are stewards. I could easily argue that our own hearts are just as challenging, if not more so.

I would encourage you to consider these two questions as a steward of someone else's stuff. Pray through them. Pray for wisdom and obedience—and maybe a little bit of courage. Please don't avoid them when you could enjoy

the peace and contentment that comes from pursuing your God-given role as a steward.

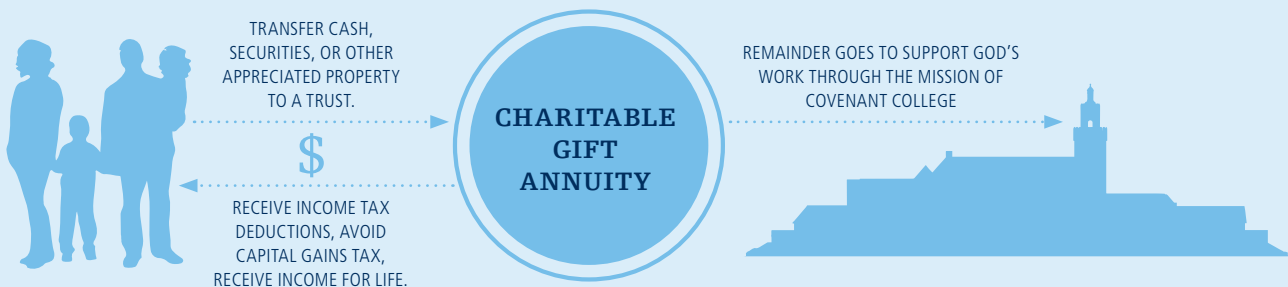
Lastly, if you did just win the lottery, give me a call. I know an endowment with your name on it.

Marc Erickson, CFP®
Executive Director
Covenant College Foundation

Charitable Remainder Trust

MAKE A GIFT & RECEIVE PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

When you contribute assets to fund a CRT, you create a gift that pays you or others for life while making a generous gift to Covenant College in the future.



The Gift of a Covenant Education via the Humble IRA

by Beth Nedelisky '03

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRAs) provide donors with two unique giving and estate planning opportunities. Whether you are retired and receiving required minimum distributions (RMDs) or you are still contributing to your retirement accounts, an IRA is a simple yet powerful tool you can use to support Covenant College or other nonprofits that are important to you.

For IRA owners taking distributions, Congress recently made permanent the laws allowing IRA owners to donate to charity each year from an IRA (up to \$100,000 per year). Known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a direct gift to charity from an IRA can also fulfill the owner's annual RMD.

A gift from an IRA yields extra savings for donors by lowering reportable income. Donors can potentially reduce the amount of Social Security benefits subject to tax, sidestep higher Medicare premiums, avoid increased capital gains tax rates, and limit reductions to tax exemptions and deductions. A QCD can also provide tax savings for donors who do not itemize their deductions.

To qualify, owners must be 70½ years old or above, and the IRA gift must be paid directly to the eligible charity. Typically, a phone call to the IRA custodian and a simple form is enough to complete a gift, while

helping to fulfill the annual RMD. Some nonprofit organizations such as donor advised funds, private foundations, and certain supporting organizations do not qualify.

For those not yet taking distributions from an IRA, retirement accounts can still provide a straightforward way to support the College in the future. No matter your stage in life, you can make a significant pledge by naming Covenant or other nonprofits as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts. Giving retirement accounts to charity as part of your estate plan can also avoid costly estate-related tax on IRA income. You can update the beneficiaries on your retirement accounts with a simple form. No complex estate planning is required.

For more information on this and other ways to partner with Covenant College, please contact Marc Erickson at the Covenant College Foundation.



Beth Anderson Nedelisky, CFA, CFP®, graduated from Covenant College in 2003 and is a wealth manager at Marotta Wealth Management, Inc., in Charlottesville, Virginia. Prior to joining the firm in 2005, Beth served as interim director of admissions for Covenant College. She has co-authored more than 30 articles on various financial planning topics, including estate planning and real estate.

COVENANT COLLEGE INCOMING 2015–2016 FRESHMAN CLASS STATISTICS

3.74 GPA

Unweighted high school grade point average of the freshman class

40% PCA

Percentage of students who came to Covenant from the Presbyterian Church in America

32 States & 8 Countries

Freshmen came to Covenant from Brazil, Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States

41% out of Region

Percentage of students who came to Covenant from outside of the Southeast

Donor Impact

Every spring break, members of the Covenant community participate in cross-cultural ministry. One of the locations where students have the opportunity to serve is Clarkston, Georgia, which has been a haven for refugees since the 1990s.

Thanks to donors who are committed to the mission of Covenant College, students like Ann Jones can have life changing experiences while serving and showing the love of Jesus to others.

“Because it’s a relocation city, refugees come there and then they spread out, so there is a huge opportunity to just serve and share God’s love there so that it can spread even farther around the world.”

To hear Ann recount her spring break experience, please listen to her podcast at covenant.edu/AnnJones.



Investing in Education

by Frank Brock

“I WANT YOU WOVEN INTO A TAPESTRY of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we’ve been shown the mystery! I’m telling you this because I don’t want anyone leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or ‘the Secret’” (Colossians 2:2-4, *The Message*).

You also can help the youth who come after you to avoid some “wild-goose chase.” You can name Covenant as a beneficiary of your will or 401k, once you no longer need your savings. You can invest in the training of young ambassadors who will transform the world by bringing Kingdom thinking into every profession around the globe. Faith, hope, and love are the characteristics that have enabled generations of outnumbered believers to transform the world in its darkest moments. Our day is no different.

From its inception, Covenant has never wavered from its motto, “In all things Christ preeminent.”

And year by year, Covenant’s graduates reflect the constantly improving academic quality that comes with a maturing institution with greater resources. Please understand that *the endowment is the only way to make education accessible to many families; a growing endowment provides resources for a stronger educational offering!*

I urge you to act now. Everyone should have an estate plan and a will. The earlier you take these important steps, the better. I have found that the older you are, the more likely you are to procrastinate. The Covenant College Foundation has a wealth of resources that can help you get started. You will be glad you acted now. And you can relax knowing that you will leave a legacy by investing in our youth.



Frank Brock is the former president of Covenant College (1986-2002) and former president of the Covenant College Foundation (2002-2010). He currently serves on the Covenant College Foundation board of trustees and the joint investment committee of the College and the Foundation.