

Charles Klosterman, Retired Clergy & Philanthropic Champion

When he called, I recognized his voice right away. Charles Klosterman had been the secretary of the annual conference for many years. In that capacity his voice was often heard at annual conference.

Charles and his wife Bernice served faithfully in churches throughout northern Illinois: Chicago, Joliet, Lockport, LaSalle, Morrison, Dolton, Buffalo Grove, and Bolingbrook before retiring in 1984.

Charles and Bernice loved the church of their retirement years, First UMC of Evanston, and wanted to make a generous gift to their capital campaign. But they depended on income from their assets in retirement.

The solution that worked for them was to establish a charitable gift annuity to benefit First UMC's capital campaign. Charles and Bernice would receive generous income as long as either of them was living, take an immediate charitable tax deduction, and make a generous donation to First UMC Evanston's building needs at the death of the second of them.

Charles and Bernice established another charitable gift annuity to benefit First UMC Evanston and then others to benefit UMCOR, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Garrett.

All of this from a retired clergyperson and his wife.

Charles liked charitable gift annuities not only because of the benefits already mentioned. There were two more benefits.

First, Charles and Bernice recognized that as they got older they would probably not get mentally sharper! They liked the fact that once the charitable gift annuity was established, the money was managed by the Foundation for life and required no further attention on their parts.

Second, they also liked the fact that, the United Methodist Foundation invests using, socially responsible screens compatible with the United Methodist Social Principles. Not only would their money *do good*, it would also *do no harm*.

Charles died in 2011. Bernice continues to receive the fixed payments from these gift annuities.

To learn more about all how you might become a *philanthropic champion*, contact Janet Boryk or Harry Nicol.