

Securing the Future

The PW Legacy Program

BY MARK KLEMM

“When [the women] came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. . . . But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.”

—Luke 24:9-11 (NIV)

Not a flattering view of women at the time of Christ’s resurrection, is it? Thankfully, today the role of women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is quite different. It can best be summarized in the advertising slogan of the 1960s “You’ve Come a Long Way Baby!”

Look at any active, life-changing ministry in the church and you’ll find women involved at every level. So who are these women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? The average Presbyterian woman is 59, with an annual household income of about \$78,000.¹ Eighty-seven percent of Presbyterian women have no children under 18 living at home.² Many women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have participated in one ministry or more in the past, and continue to be actively involved in the life of the church. Their love and commitment to Christ and the church are uncompromising.

Stewardship for Today and Tomorrow

One of the biggest challenges facing churches today is funding for the vital ministries that serve our communities, locally and globally. Some

of those funding needs are met because of actions taken by women years ago. The Presbyterian Foundation currently holds more than 70 endowment funds that benefit local and national Presbyterian Women programs. These funds were established by women with a vision and focus who wanted to support the activities of Presbyterian Women for generations to come.

It is estimated that by the year 2050, tens of trillions of dollars will be transferred from one generation to the next. Statistically speaking, women outlive men; this means women will be in a position to make most of the decisions regarding this wealth transfer. There is no doubt the choices that will be made will be based on faith-based values and principles. In addition to providing for family and other loved ones, will they also consider providing for the


church and its mission? And will they create a legacy that reflects a lifetime of stewardship for future generations of Presbyterian women?

Creating a Lasting Legacy

The Presbyterian Foundation helps create a bridge between individuals and the mission or ministry they wish to support. For more than 200 years, the Foundation has helped many women (and men) accomplish their charitable goals.

If one of your goals includes securing the future of Presbyterian Women, consider donating to the PW Legacy Program. There are many options available by which to create a lasting legacy. The simplest of those is a bequest in your will. Begin to work toward your stewardship goals by calling 800/858-6127 to discuss your situation with a Foundation development officer.

Presbyterian women, you have come a long way. Now it is

time to go the rest of the way, by making a legacy gift that will help support Presbyterian Women for generations to come. 

Mark Klemm is senior vice president for development for the Presbyterian Foundation.



Notes

1. Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians*, 2008. The Presbyterian Panel Survey. Louisville, KY, 2009.
2. Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians*, 2005. The Presbyterian Panel Survey. Louisville, KY, 2006.