



A QUICK GUIDE TO ESTATE PLANNING

Having an up-to-date will or trust is one of the most loving things you can do for those you care about. This guide is a quick overview on the necessity of having an estate plan in place, and information on how to move forward.

Dear Friend of Valley Christian,

Since 2016, Valley Christian Schools has partnered with an organization called Financial Planning Ministry, offering wills and trusts educational seminars to the Valley Christian community at no cost to you. Many have even taken advantage of the next step of this opportunity, completing the documentation through FPM, still at no cost. Personally, I have peace knowing that my loved ones will be protected, my wishes upheld, and I can be generous to the people and organizations that matter to me at the time the Lord calls me home.



As a school, we believe strongly in the Biblical concept of stewardship: that is, that everything we have belongs to the Lord. Psalm 24 says that “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” We believe that we are accountable for our entire existence – our finances, our possessions, our time, and our talents, and we steward what God has given us with an open hand, continually seeking to be generous as He is generous.

Our partnership with FPM has also resulted in additional generosity towards VCS. These families have become part of **The 1982 Society**, leaving a legacy gift to VCS through this opportunity. 1982 was the year a small group of visionaries founded Valley Christian Schools, and we are thankful these pioneers listened to the call of Jesus to provide Christ-centered education in the East Valley decades ago.

If you have already included VCS in your estate plans, I ask that you please let me know. Planned giving information helps VCS to responsibly prepare for the future.

By joining **The 1982 Society**, you are being generous to your last moment. I can’t think of a more profound action.

With excitement to be part of God’s current and **future** plans,

Kittren Johnson, Director of Development





[60%]

A full **60% of people in the US** pass away without a will or trust.

Only **30%** pass with a will, which is often not enough.

Only **10%** pass with a living trust.

LET'S CHANGE THIS.

Most people don't put together a will or trust because:

- They don't want to think about death
- They think it's too expensive
- They think it's too complicated

The truth is that, one day, we will all pass from this life, and it's important to consider the legacy we will leave. Relieving stressful decisions for your family and leaving gifts to your kids, grandkids, and ministries you care about is a legacy worth leaving.

Estate planning does not have to be complicated, and now, it doesn't have to be expensive, either.

YOUR ESTATE INCLUDES

Bank accounts

Your home

Investments

Retirement accounts

Other real estate

Business interests

Life insurance

Personal property (cars, etc)

And more

A TRUE WIN-WIN.

Valley Christian Schools partners with **Financial Planning Ministry** to offer our community wills and trusts educational seminars and documentation... **all at no cost to you.**

FPM is a unique nonprofit ministry dedicated to providing a path to sound Biblical stewardship through estate planning. Their 90-minute presentations provide clear and accurate information that cuts through misinformation and helps members avoid unnecessary and costly mistakes in securing their loved ones' futures.



FPM creates or updates more than 3,000 estate plans annually for more than 130 partners and their communities. Because FPM is funded by these partners, **you do not pay anything to FPM**; instead, they will simply encourage generosity and stewardship to the ministries you care about.



"They covered everything we needed to know in under 90 minutes, and they've made the entire process incredibly simple. I appreciate that there was no obligation and that I was able to feel comfortable no matter how we decide to move forward."



THIS SERVICE IS FOR YOU IF:

- You don't currently have a will, living trust, or any estate plan
- You have children and want to name their guardians
- You have a will, but want to make sure your assets are better protected
- You have an estate plan already, but it needs updating
- You know nothing (or very little) about wills or estate planning

TESTIMONIALS.

"I have always supported Christian education, and even though I may not have any children of my own, I have a covenantal responsibility for the children God has put in my life. I love watching children I supported in grade school become parents and then ensure their children receive a Christian education. FPM allows me to continue that support. It was an easy process, and FPM made me feel comfortable and was very patient with all my questions. It was a pleasure working with them."

Elaine Teune, Friend of VCS

"The FPM seminar was a pleasant surprise. My husband and I were initially skeptical of the 'no cost' message. However, the experience was amazing: organized, informative, and easy to understand, with helpful Q&A sessions provided by the presenter. It was also a no-pressure environment, giving us the freedom to collect information and decide what was best for our circumstances. In addition, we had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the consultant to address any specific questions that we wanted to address. We are fans of the FPM organization and have recommended it to many people that we know, and we're so pleased that VCS provided this opportunity. You will not be disappointed."

Dan and Lynn Spina, Alumni Parents, VCS Grandparents, VCS Volunteers

"I can't imagine life without Valley Christian Schools. My family is better for it, and the education, spiritual growth and friendships that both my children—who are now alumni—received will impact them for the rest of their lives. We made a financial commitment to Valley Christian through FPM as part of our family's legacy giving, and the process and support that we've received from FPM has been fantastic. Creating a will and family trust can seem overwhelming but they made the process incredibly simple and have been very supportive as we've made changes and adjustments over the last several years. I strongly recommend using FPM, and while you go through the process, also consider having VCS as part of your family's legacy."

Marty and Kristine Sawyers, Alumni Parents, Former Board Member

"My wife and I knew we needed to establish a family trust, instead of our will, due to the regulatory differences and related tax benefits. So, we started looking around at various options with estate planners, attorneys, banks, CPAs, etc, and found a wide range of programs & pricing, but were not comfortable with the value proposition of any of these options. Fortunately, we noticed the Financial Planning Ministry option in an email from VCS. We really liked the idea that we could work with a qualified Christian estate planning entity to help us organize our financial affairs & directives and defer any trust setup expenses so that we could eventually donate a portion to Valley Christian from our estate. Our experience with FPM was excellent. Our initial Q&A session and 1 on 1 meeting were very helpful, and they diligently answered all of our questions. They walked us through all of the trust set-up action items and paperwork. We highly recommend this program to anyone who needs estate planning support."

James and Melissa Brooks, VCS Parents

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE 1982 SOCIETY.

1

OR

2

RSVP for the next 90-minute, no obligation, informational seminar at:

If you have already named VCS in your estate, please let us know at:

valleychristianaz.org/Society

THE 1982
Society
LEGACY GIVING VALLEY CHRISTIAN



“What a joy to be partnered with an organization that truly cares about the hearts of our community. The service FPM provides is unique and meaningful. After attending the first seminar and receiving my documents, I’d recommend FPM to absolutely everyone in the Valley Christian community.”

Dan Kuiper, Head of School



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