



Celebrating Charitable Estate Planning in Nebraska since 1968

Lutheran Planned Giving Services (LPGS) began in 1968 when Rev. Dr. Reuben Swanson saw an opportunity to raise awareness of “Tax Wise Giving” stewardship through new tax laws. Rev. Swanson, President of the LCA, hired Rev. Howard Westin to lead a gift planning effort.

Following the development of the position by Rev. Westin, the Nebraska Synod hired Rev. Grant Van Boning in 1971. As a tool, he used a round wooden coin called “A ROUND TUIT.” Inscribed on the coin were the words: “now that you’ve got a round tuit, write your will” and handed them out freely at his presentations.



In 1976 Rev. Van Boning was followed by Rev. Fulmer Farstrup who continued to emphasize “wills, estates, and gift planning” until he retired in 1978.

In 1981, Bishop Dennis Anderson worked with the CEOs of several agencies & institutions of the Nebraska Synod to redevelop the cooperative gift planning partnership. They created a combined effort called (Lutheran) Planned Giving Services, Nebraska Synod Agencies and Institutions, and Rev. Dr. L. Dale Lund became the first President of LPGS.

LPGS HISTORY

The following are the founding LPGS Agencies & Institutions who came together:



-Bethphage Mission (*Mosaic*)



-Immanuel Medical Center
(*Immanuel Health Systems*)



-Lutheran Family & Social Service
(*Lutheran Family Services*)



-Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
LSTC



-Midland University



-Nebraska Synod, ELCA



-Tabitha Healthcare Services

(All founding members continue as current members, some under a different name.)

Added LPGS Agencies & Institutions:



-Blue Valley Lutheran Homes



-ELCA Foundation



-NE Lutheran Campus Ministry



-NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries



-Oaks Indian Mission



-Wartburg Theological Seminary

LPGS History Continued

Estate Planning Since 1968

In 1982, Rev. Keith T. Nelson was called to specialized ministry upon Dr. Lund's retirement. Rev. Nelson developed the structure that has helped LPGS continue its success.

The ELCA Foundation was invited to join Lutheran Planned Giving Services as a member in 1988. **The Lutheran Planned Giving Services model, originally created & developed in the Nebraska Synod, is the model used by the ELCA Foundation in establishing other planned giving partnership offices throughout the country.**

In 1990, Rev. Nelson hired Rev. Walter A. Behrens as a gift planning associate. Rev. Behrens served until his retirement in 1994. In 1996, Rev. Nelson hired Rev. Robert C. Buschkemper, who became President in 1999 following Rev. Nelson's move to the ELCA Foundation. Rev. Buschkemper hired Gary A. Anderson as a gift planning associate later that year and he served until May 2000. Later in 2000, Rev. Buschkemper hired David C. Fuerst, who later became president in 2002. Mr. Fuerst served until June 2007. The LPGS Board of Directors selected the current president, Craig D. Stirtz, in November, 2007.

Lutheran Planned Giving Services has helped over 1000 families develop over \$100 million in planned and outright gifts to benefit hundreds of ministries of the church. Additionally we have over 300 members of our Honor Roll, those saints who have passed to life immemorial having included ministry in their estate plans.

To this day, Lutheran Planned Giving Services is a gift to all members of the Nebraska Synod ELCA who wish to leave a "Legacy of Giving".

