

MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH WEST CAMPUS, *Continued*

On Sunday, September 9, 2001, the Mount Olivet Rolling Acres gym filled to capacity for the first worship service at the “West Campus.” Ken Kotzer, the newly appointed lead pastor, provided highly effective ministry in concert with the other Mount Olivet pastors and staff who embraced the opportunities in this larger vista for ministry.

Pastor Youngdahl proposed that Mount Olivet Church purchase seven acres of land from Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, located near Victoria, Minnesota, to build a new church. For almost a decade, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres developed community homes as another residential living option for its residents. This strategic effort was part of a new standard of care for people with developmental and other disabilities. It also reduced the on-campus space needs enabling the church to purchase land that also included Hill House, a former residence. Enthused by the possibility of this strategic and scenic location for expanded ministry, the church council, pastors, staff and congregation concurred and provided generous support for this notion of one church on two campuses.



Based on swelling worship attendance, the rapidly growing Sunday Church School and Confirmation ministries, and needed venues for fellowship and service activities, a 300-seat sanctuary was conceived with a spacious, welcoming

narthex, a large, multifunctional fellowship hall and excellent nursery facilities. The Moeller pipe organ, dedicated at the Minneapolis sanctuary in 1955, was refurbished and installed in the soaring new sanctuary. Hill House was redesigned to host administrative offices, classrooms, a youth room, and choir rehearsal space. On Sunday, May 15, 2006, Pastor Youngdahl and Pastor Kotzer welcomed members and visitors to the first worship service in the newly dedicated sanctuary.

Returning to Mount Olivet Church in December, 2006, as lead pastor for Mount Olivet Church West Campus, Pastor Stephen Cornils observes a huge opportunity for future growth inspired by the Mount Olivet mission, *Believing, Belonging, Becoming*:

Legacy gifts, along with generous pledges and prayers of members and friends at both campuses, have established a strong foundation and marvelous momentum for mission and ministry. I join Pastor Youngdahl in thanking God for all of our generous legacy partners living and deceased—loyal and faithful people, epitomized by Harley and Margaret Gronseth for whom the Mount Olivet Church West Campus fellowship hall is dedicated. As we gather and grow, we hear them cheering us on from above.

*Stephen J. Cornils, Lead Pastor
Mount Olivet Church West Campus*

GUIDE TO ESTATE PLANNING— ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES

People “*leave a legacy*” for the Mount Olivet family out of their faith in God and desire to make the world a better place. However, understanding the implications of estate and gift taxes is very important in estate planning. In recent years, the federal estate tax law has changed. Inside this bulletin is a guide to help you better understand this issue.

MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH WEST CAMPUS *Widening Witness Westward—Cheering From Above*

At the dawn of the new millennium a key mission-driven initiative formed in the mind of Paul M. Youngdahl, senior pastor. Following a season of fact-finding and prayerful discernment, it became clear the opportunity was ripe to widen the church’s witness in the Twin Cities west metro, an area of robust growth.

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Longtime Mount Olivet Church members Harley and Margaret Gronseth loved their church and enthusiastically embraced the concept of “leaving a legacy.” They made a bequest for their church before they died that was received just as plans were being made to build the West Campus sanctuary. Their generosity built the foundation. Gronseth Fellowship Hall commemorates their strong faith and thoughtful legacy.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE



MOUNT OLIVET
LUTHERAN CHURCH



MOUNT OLIVET
DAY SERVICES



MOUNT OLIVET
ROLLING ACRES



MOUNT OLIVET
CONFERENCE &
RETREAT CENTER



MOUNT OLIVET
CAREVIEW HOME



CATHEDRAL
OF THE PINES



MOUNT OLIVET
HOME

ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES

When the value of assets exceeds a certain level, it is important to develop an estate plan that, to the extent possible, minimizes the overall tax burden.

The federal government and some state governments impose a tax on the transfer of assets, whether the transfer is made during an individual's life or at death. The nature and rates of these taxes have been changed countless times since they were initially adopted.

APPLICABLE EXCLUSION AMOUNT. For federal purposes, each person may transfer (by lifetime gift or at death) a certain amount of property free of gift and estate taxes.

How your assets are titled is very important for your estate plan.

As of January 1, 2009, the amount transferable free of gift tax by lifetime gift is \$1,000,000, while the amount transferable free of estate tax at death is \$3,500,000. The amount

transferable free of gift tax is not scheduled to increase. For the year 2010 only, the estate tax is repealed. In 2011, the amount transferable free of estate tax reverts to \$1,000,000. (Congress is likely to address estate taxes before 2010 and reach a different solution.)

If you make taxable gifts during your lifetime, you will pay

no gift tax if the gifts total less than \$1,000,000, and you may still transfer the amount equal to your remaining applicable exclusion amount for estate transfers tax-free at your death. If you make no taxable gifts during your lifetime, the entire

applicable exclusion amount for estate transfers may be transferred tax-free at your death.

Without proper planning, a husband and wife may fail to use both applicable exclusion amounts and may pay more estate tax than is necessary. To properly use both applicable exclusion amounts, the first spouse to die must have (i) separate assets titled in his or her sole name, and (ii) special trust provisions in his or her estate plan.

This publication is for information for friends and donors and illustrates concepts in tax and estate planning. The information is not intended as legal services or advice. You should consult with competent tax and legal professionals as to the applicability of any items to your personal situation.

Minnesota currently taxes estates using the federal exemption amounts in effect prior to January 1, 2002. This means that in some estates there is no federal estate tax to pay but there is payable state estate tax. For example, in 2009, with a \$3,500,000 taxable estate, there would be no federal estate tax; however, a Minnesota estate tax would apply to the value of assets in excess of \$1,000,000, since the amount exempt from estate tax in Minnesota is only \$1,000,000 in 2009.

UNLIMITED MARITAL DEDUCTION. Generally, all transfers between spouses either during lifetime or at death are tax-free regardless of the size of the transfer. This is called the marital deduction and is in addition to the applicable exclusion amount. There are different rules if the spouse receiving property is not a U.S. citizen.

ANNUAL EXCLUSION. There is an annual (i.e., available each year) exclusion from gift taxes for the first \$12,000 given to any individual. The number of individuals to whom \$12,000 may be given each year tax-free is unlimited.

For example, a husband and wife could each give \$12,000 to each of their two children and to

each of their four grandchildren, for a total of \$144,000 free of gift tax each year. Alternatively, one spouse may give up to \$24,000 per individual without gift tax so long as the other spouse joins in the gift. This "gift splitting" is done by filing a gift tax return signed by both spouses for the year of the gift. If a gift to an individual exceeds the annual exclusion, then the excess will be counted against the \$1,000,000 applicable exclusion amount. The annual exclusion amounts have been indexed to keep up with inflation. With proper planning, annual exclusion gifts for many donees can be made to a single trust.

GIFT TAXES. The federal government taxes lifetime gifts in excess of a cumulative amount of \$1,000,000. The tax rate is the same as the estate tax rate. Minnesota has no gift tax.

THE NEED FOR REVIEW

Estate planning is a continuous process. An estate plan should be reviewed periodically to be sure that it fits the present situation.

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FEDERAL GIFT AND ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION AMOUNTS

YEAR	GIFT TAX	ESTATE TAX
2009	1,000,000	3,500,000
2010	1,000,000	Unlimited
2011	1,000,000	1,000,000

For more information, contact Mari Carlson at 612.821.3150 or mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org.

See back for Mount Olivet Church West Campus history.