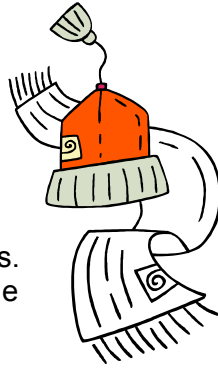


The Gift of the “Amazing” Grace

Grace is one of those “saints” in a congregation. She is just like her name—generous and kind-hearted. Everybody in town knows her. She sold her car and now walks everywhere. “Better for the environment,” she says. People grin when they see her coming because she wears her “Corner Gas” toque everywhere. Grace used to get a big kick out of that television show.



When we met, Grace wanted to talk about “one of those planned gifts”. She had \$20,000 that would soon be coming due from a GIC and she wanted to do something for her church. I suggested a United Church Gift Annuity. At 77 years of age, the current gift annuity rate for her was 6.51%, which would provide her with \$1,302 in income each year for her lifetime and a tax receipt for a charitable donation of nearly \$6,700. If Grace were to live a normal life expectancy, the congregation could expect to receive about ½ of her original gift, namely \$10,000, on her death.

But Grace wanted her congregation to receive the full \$20,000 when she died—which would not be in the near future, she made very clear!

So I suggested that she consider a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). I explained that a CRT would leave the full \$20,000 intact for her congregation at her death. The immediate charitable donation tax receipt would be much larger: over \$13,850. Unlike the Gift Annuity, however, the income on a CRT would be based entirely on interest earned, would vary from year to year and would be fully taxable.

Grace liked the idea of the larger tax receipt, which she could use against this year’s income. The variability of income didn’t particularly worry her, she said. In fact, because she didn’t have to rely on the income, she planned on donating that back to the church as well. Grace felt that the rate of return from The United Church of Canada on the CRT would likely be more than she would earn from a new GIC.

I pointed out that both the Gift Annuity and Charitable Remainder Trust should be looked upon as *gifts* to the church, with a *bonus* of

having a bit of an investment. If she primarily wanted an investment, this likely wasn’t the gift for her.

“No,” she said. “The CRT is exactly what I want. Can I leave it in someone’s memory?”

“Yes,” I said.

So Grace did just that. She set it up to be in memory of Miss Stinchcombe, her beloved Sunday School teacher who always said, “Follow your heart, because it belongs to God”. That was good advice, Grace concluded.



We prayed together and I promised to drop by with the paperwork next week. Grace reached for her toque, saying, “Keep your stick on the ice!”

“Are you a Red Green fan?” I asked.

Grace grinned. “It just sounds like a real Canadian thing to say,” she said, and we both laughed!

**Would you like a quote on a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
Just call, e-mail, or mail in the information below:**



Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____

Birth date(s): Male: _____ Female: _____

Gift Amount under Consideration: \$ _____

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