

# Legacy Living – Living a Life of Purpose

## Finding Your Purpose

There are many authors and experts who have written and lectured about living a life of purpose. One long-time expert and top-selling author in this field, Minnesota native Richard Leider, defines it in terms of a simple equation...

$$C = G + P + V$$

...where your Purpose or Calling (C) is a function of your Gifts (G), your Passions (P) and your Values (V).

Finding your purpose is also linked with having a longer, healthier life. Knowing your purpose has been associated with positive health outcomes among older adults, including fewer chronic conditions, less disability, and reduced mortality.

What are the personal gifts, passions and values that define YOUR purpose? We have heard often times in worship that we are each a “unique and unrepeatable miracle of God”. That means that each of us has a different calling or purpose – have you determined what your unique calling is?

## Your Purpose Linked to Your Philanthropy

The word “philanthropy” translates literally into “love of mankind”. The organizations that we support with our financial resources reflect that love.

As a nation, we are very philanthropic. On average, people give to 5 – 7 causes/organizations each year; this number is down from 8 – 11 organization a decade or more ago despite a growth in the number of non-profit organizations. Historically, religious institutions are the greatest beneficiary of these gifts, receiving 29% of all philanthropic support in 2019.

As you work to discern *your* purpose, does your philanthropy – both current gifts and planned giving – align with that purpose? Are the causes and organizations that align with your passions and values *also* the recipient of your gifts of time and treasure?

## Books about Living Life with Purpose

- Claiming Your Place at the Fire, Richard Leider and David Shapiro
- Something to Live For, Richard Leider and David Shapiro
- Life Reimagined: Discovering Your New Life Possibilities, Richard Leider and Alan Webber.
- The Power of Purpose, Richard Leider.
- Peaks and Valleys: Making Good and Bad Times Work for You, Spencer Johnson MD.