Investing in the Future
Making a legacy gift to Bossey
One of the most important decisions you will ever make concerns the management of your accumulated assets and what impact they may have in the future. When carried out with discernment, these decisions can reflect your deepest values and hopes.

During this process we invite you to consider the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey as the recipient of a planned giving legacy gift that will assure future generations the opportunity to live, think and act with an ecumenical spirit.

Since 1946 the Ecumenical Institute has shaped generations of laity and clergy as ecumenical leaders and peacemakers in the world and church. Bossey’s place in the ecumenical landscape continues to carry this important role in the world today. Supporting Bossey through a legacy gift is one way of expressing gratitude for the difference it has made in your life while ensuring its continued impact for future generations.
“On almost every continent, in countries large and small, the legacy of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey lives through its students. It lives through the leadership of clergy and laity that make a difference in their churches and their communities. It lives through the pastors who lead local congregations with openness to people of different cultures, races and traditions. It lives through lay people who carry out their vocation with a desire to contribute toward the common good through their work.”

—Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches

What Is legacy giving?

Legacy giving includes a variety of ways in which gifts can be made to the Ecumenical Institute from accumulated resources. It usually involves financial or estate planning. Legacy giving is a means by which anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources can make an intentional decision about their ultimate disposition.

In general, legacy gifts to the Ecumenical Institute are made through:

- A Bequest in a Will
- A Gift of Life Insurance
- A Charitable Gift Annuity
A Bequest in a Will

The easiest and most common way of making a legacy gift is through a bequest in your will. A bequest may provide for a specific monetary gift, a percentage of your estate, or specific assets to be given to the Ecumenical Institute in support of its various programs and endeavours. It may also be in the form of a gift of the remaining assets of one’s estate. Bequests, like other gifts, can be designated as restricted or unrestricted.

Unrestricted bequests

An unrestricted bequest is one intended for the general use and point of greatest need by the Ecumenical Institute. Such a bequest might read:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to The Ecumenical Institute at Château de Bossey, Chemin Chenevière 2, 1279 Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, (in care of the World Council of Churches, 150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland, or their successors and assigns) (the sum of ________) or (____ per cent of my estate) or (the following property) or (the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate). The property comprising this gift may be used to further the charitable purposes of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey at its discretion.”

Restricted bequests

Donors may restrict the use of their bequests. A bequest can be used toward general support of the Ecumenical Institute, to establish a scholarship fund or professorship, or other concern of the Institute. Contact your financial advisor for appropriate wording for your will.
A Gift of Life Insurance

You can make a substantial gift by naming the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey as a beneficiary or owner of your life insurance policy. Donating life insurance often enables you to make a larger gift to the Institute than you otherwise could.

If you have an existing life insurance policy that is no longer needed, you can name the Institute as the policy’s beneficiary. You also can purchase a new life insurance policy to benefit Bossey. With the Ecumenical Institute designated as the owner and beneficiary, you may be entitled to an income tax deduction for your initial contribution and the premium payments each year.

This type of gift is easy to designate and can be done at no cost. Simply obtain a designated beneficiary form from your insurance company and name “The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey” as one of your beneficiaries. You may also restrict your gift to a particular area, such as the Bossey Scholarship Fund.

A Charitable Gift Annuity

For citizens of the United States, there is the possibility of establishing a life income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust through the Ecumenical Trust. Please contact Kelly Brownlee of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey for more information on this opportunity: Kelly.Brownlee@wcc-coe.org.
Rev. John George Huber

A longstanding commitment to Christian unity

There aren’t too many people who can say they twice attended school at Bossey, let alone almost 30 years apart. But that is exactly what the Rev. John George Huber did in 1972 and 2000.

Huber has been a consistent financial supporter of the Ecumenical Institute and is very committed to Bossey. He has also included Bossey in his will.

“I feel the need to pass the ecumenical torch to a younger generation,” he said. “Bossey was such a fulfilling experience on so many levels. I am grateful for the two experiences I’ve had and want to be supportive of the Ecumenical Institute because in doing so I am making a contribution to Christian unity.”
Elisabeth and Jan Remijn-Oerlemans

A legacy of joyful worship

The Elisabeth and Jan Remijn-Oerlemans Scholarship Fund was created from a legacy bequeathed to the Ecumenical Institute by Elisabeth Remijn. In 1948 she participated in the founding assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Amsterdam.

The Reformed parish of Interlaken, where Elisabeth and her husband Jan Remijn worshiped for many years, is one of the parishes that regularly receive visits from students of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. During Advent, Bossey students from countries such as Samoa, Haiti, the Republic of Korea, and Uganda have participated in Elisabeth’s parish church. It was always a joyful worship for her and a wonderful encounter with Christians from all over the globe, she said. It was the wish of Elisabeth and Jan for the work of the Ecumenical Institute to continue to thrive and prosper after their deaths.
Please note: This brochure has been prepared to assist alumni and friends of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey to consider legacy gifts. The information in the brochure is general in nature and subject to change by individual personal circumstances. Neither the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey nor the World Council of Churches is qualified to give legal or financial advice. We urge you to seek the advice of your own legal and financial counsellors.

If you would like to make a legacy gift to Bossey or have already done so, please contact Kelly Brownlee, Income Development Officer, at Kelly.Brownlee@wcc-coe.org.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift to the World Council of Churches, please contact Frédérique Seidel, Manager of Income, Monitoring and Development, at Frederique.Seidel@wcc-coe.org.