

A Legacy Carol

Characters:

- Narrator
- Ima Planner
- Isabella Thoburn, Ghost of Legacy Past (*suggest period costume*)
- Avery Member, Ghost of Legacy Present
- Great, Great, Great Granddaughter, Ghost of Legacy Future

Stage set: Ima is seated at a table facing the audience with crumpled papers all around her. She is frantically writing and tearing her ideas up.

Narrator: (*in a deep, serious voice from off stage*) Welcome to "A Legacy Carol". Our scene opens to our heroine, Ima Planner, a dedicated member of United Methodist Women who is known for her creative programming, keen sense of time management and sharp organizational skills. "A REAL GO GETTER" "YOUNGER VOICE?"

(Ima rips up the page she is writing and throws all the crumpled paper up in the air in frustration. She gives a loud sigh. Then continues to write and crumple paper.) ALL SHUCKS!

Narrator: Ima, who's favorite phrase is "I'll do it!", now has what she considers to be the most important task of all, that of planning her conference, district and local unit's celebrations of United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary. We look in on her now late in the evening as she frantically makes plans. Frustrated, she is lost in the details and can't seem to think clearly. KNOCKS HER HEAD

Ima: (*very dramatically*) Oh, I'm so frustrated! I'm lost in the details and can't seem to think clearly! (*pause for laughter*) The 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women is a big deal. I must plan the ultimate celebration. Everyone is counting on me. (*scratches out what she has written on another piece of paper*) How do I motivate our members to connect to our history while still looking toward the vital future of our organization? I give up!

Isabella: (*comes up from behind her on her right side and speaks in a proper sounding voice*) Oh no, my dear, we must never give up. United Methodist Women never give up!

Ima: (*startled*) Who are you? Where did you come from?

Isabella: I'm Isabella Thoburn, my dear. I'm the Ghost of Legacy Past.

Ima: What? Surely you don't expect me to believe you're from the past, do you?

Isabella: Oh, but I am, dear. And it's Isabella, not Shirley. (*pause for laughter*) I was an educator back in 1869 when women of the Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston heard of the educational and health care needs of women in India. They responded by organizing the

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. They prayed, studied and raised funds to send me and Dr. Clara Swain to India as missionaries.

Ima: Wow! So that's where it all started, huh?

Isabella: That's right, my dear. Similarly, over the following decades women from other United Methodist Women predecessor organizations founded missionary societies, establishing schools, children's homes, hospitals and other mission institutions in the United States and other countries. Members learned leadership skills as they studied about the needs of women and children and commissioned missionaries and deaconesses.

Ima: That is amazing! *I know / know - I work now?*

Isabella: Yes, God blessed their efforts. The women gave sacrificially to support the work and labored tirelessly to meet the spiritual, physical, and social needs of women.

Ima: Well, that's great and all, but how do I get the members of my conference, district and local unit to connect to that history? What does it mean to the average member today?

Avery: *(comes up from behind her on the other side)* I can answer that.

Ima: Oh, my goodness, who are you?

Avery: *Yours* I'm Avery Member, the Ghost of Legacy Present. Those predecessor mission societies united to form United Methodist Women in 1972, which is now the largest denominational faith organization for women in the United States. And I am a proud member!

Ima: Hey, me too. Didn't I see you at Assembly?

Avery: You may have. I'm everywhere. I'm part of a diverse group of women, rooted in Christian faith and with a shared commitment to turning faith, hope and love into action for *I look like any of you gals* women, children and youth around the world.

Ima: That's great. But why are you here? I like visitors and all, but I really need to get going on planning this event.

Avery: I'm here to help you. You mustn't lose sight of the reason you're doing this.

Isabella: That's right. If you're wanting to celebrate the past...

Avery: ...and look toward the future, the best way to do that is through supporting the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

Ima: Oh, well, I heard about that. I already gave my \$18.69 back in 2016. I've done my part.

Avery: That's wonderful. But there is so much more you can do to help. The Legacy Fund Endowment is a permanently invested endowment. *(Walks over to give Isabella a pat on the back)* An endowment is foremost a legacy that we create now for the future. It's similar to the

passions and beliefs that guided our foremothers like Isabella here in founding the women's missionary societies and ultimately United Methodist Women – we have the legacy of their passions now. Giving to the Legacy Fund, along with our regular annual Mission Giving, will build an even stronger foundation for United Methodist Women. It will secure our long-term stability—allowing us to innovate and to continue vital programming that will fulfill our mission in the years to come.

Hey G, "Society" — B...
GGG Granddaughter: *2019-2020* (Coming in from the other side) And the years to come are important!

Ima: Oh, my goodness, it's busy around here tonight! Now, just who are you?

Hey G, Gladys "Space" ...
GGG Granddaughter: I'm your Great, Great, Great Granddaughter, the Ghost of Legacy Future.

Ima: What? You're my Great, Great, Great Granddaughter? That's why you're so beautiful. Give your old Granny a hug! *(They hug)*

POSITIVE
GGG Granddaughter: Yes, and I'm a member of United Methodist Women, just like you. All of you ladies left a wonderful legacy for me. I'm able to meet the mission needs of my time because of the investment you made in our future. I continue to work tirelessly with the same purpose of putting faith, hope and love in action.

Gifts you promised
Ima: That's Grandma's girl!

GGG Granddaughter: The gifts you made to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign grew. United Methodist Women reached their goal of \$60 million and the earnings from the endowment moved United Methodist Women forward in mission into the next 150 years.

Ima: I did all that?

Isabella: *(patting Ima on the back)* Good show, my dear!

GGG Granddaughter: You sure did. Not only did you give a major gift to the campaign, but you also pledged an amount each month for the whole 2019 celebration year and you encouraged your fellow members to join you.

Ima: *(astonished and proud)* I did?

That's r!
GGG Granddaughter: Yes, you did. God blessed your work just like that of our foremothers and word spread. Every time you had an opportunity to plan an event or meeting, you planned podium time to ask to our members to join you in supporting the Campaign. You made sure there were table displays with activities like trivia games and information on the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign and the 1869 Society.

Ima: Wow, I am good! Um, what's the 1869 Society?

GGG Granddaughter: You became a member of the 1869 Society when you made a planned gift. You put the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in your will. And, you talked with other

members to tell them about the other types of planned gifts that they could make, such as gifts from retirement funds, appreciated securities, or IRA rollover gifts. Those gifts grew and left a lasting legacy.

Ima: Wow, so my legacy lives on in the future? *(motions to Isabella)* Hey, just like you, Izzy! *(Ima stands up slowly)* So, we really did meet that \$60 million goal, huh?

GGG Granddaughter: Yes, because when United Methodist Women are entrusted with our sacred call to serve and save others, we never retreat from a challenge. We proceed with courage. *(comes to link arms with Ima)*

Avery: *(comes to link arms with Ima)* When we come together as community, guided by God and our Purpose, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Isabella: *(comes to link arms with others)* Through the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, United Methodist Women carry the vision forward: to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world, on into the future!

All say together: Together we are building our legacy! God bless us, every one!

*Written 6/12/18 by Christi Campos,
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