

# ADDITIONAL MAJOR GIFTS

## RESOURCE 1.21



## Icons as Teaching Tools

### Icon: The Crucifixion Presence

The ministry of presence is essential and the image of Mary and John at the cross is a primary and valuable icon to that reality of ministry. If we can be fully present to our congregations as they do the hard work of discerning their pledge, and if we can be fully present to our communities as they become aware of and discern membership in our churches, then we will be supporting the praxis of financial development and membership growth with effective spirituality and theology. Jesus came to be with us.

### Icon: Myrrh-Bearing Women

Why this icon to consider planned giving? This icon is often used to do all of the work and inspire theology around a planned giving because the women bring costly gifts to Jesus after death only to be told by the Angel that he is not here—he is risen—he is away—he is now the church. The iconographer has shown us where Jesus as all iconographers do—by pointing to Jesus with the rocks and the wings of the angel. Clearly the wings of the angel and the rocks indicate that Jesus is not here...he is off-screen—he is in the church as the Risen Lord. As so too, our gifts, after death through planned giving are our way of continuing to work for the kingdom of God after death and in the resurrection life.