

# RESET

## Salvation, Funerals, Probate & Estates

THE ETERNAL LIFE CONVERSATION

### A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS

Faith | Family | Preparation | Legacy

1

#### Faith and Final Wishes

Have the conversation before a crisis.



2

#### Funerals and Finances

Know your choices, costs and options.



3

#### Family and Dependents

Protect those who depend on you.



4

#### Property and Inheritance

Put your wishes into a workable plan.



5

#### Legacy and Next Steps

Prepare, communicate and review.



### FINDINGS • REAL STORIES • FILLABLE WORKSHEETS • NEXT STEPS

Mount Ollie Baptist Church | September 29, 2026

Hosted by Rev. Reginald Lee Bachus and RESET

# A Family Conversation Worth Having

A practical household guide to faith, final wishes, family care, property and legacy.

## Why we prepared this guide

During Church FORWARD Night Two, pastors, attorneys and a funeral director shared what real families faced when someone died, a plan was unfinished or an inheritance was not protected. Their stories are a reminder that preparation is an act of love. This guide helps you begin, even if you have little money or no legal documents yet.

## Five steps from the cover

### 1. Faith and Final Wishes

Share what matters to you and whom you want involved.

### 2. Funerals and Finances

Learn your choices and costs before a family emergency.

### 3. Family and Dependents

Think about everyone who relies on your care or income.

### 4. Property and Inheritance

Know what you own, who is named and what paperwork still needs attention.

### 5. Legacy and Next Steps

Pass on values and skills, not just things; make a plan you can revisit.

Start small: complete the fillable pages at the end, save your PDF, and share the location of important information with someone you trust. Do not email completed forms containing sensitive personal information to strangers.

# What We Learned from Night Two

## Faith and preparation belong together

A conversation about eternal life can lead naturally to a conversation about how we care for the people who remain. You do not have to solve everything today. You can begin by naming your wishes and choosing one trusted person to talk with.

## A funeral is a family decision and a financial decision

Funeral director Ernest A. Sampson III spoke about preplanning and the challenges families face when arrangements are made under pressure. Asking questions in advance gives relatives time to understand options and costs.

## Good intentions do not finish paperwork

Lesly R. Devereaux, Esq. discussed homes, trusts and inheritance decisions that did not work out as people expected. A family can love one another and still have serious trouble if documents and account information do not match their wishes.

## Money needs preparation, too

The conversation also showed how quickly an inheritance can disappear without planning and money-management skills. Helping loved ones learn about budgets, property costs and trustworthy advisers can be as valuable as leaving money.

RESET approach: Get Grounded in your faith and values. Get Aligned with your priorities. Become Aware of gaps and options. Be Intentional about your next decision.

# 1 | Faith and Final Wishes

## Start with a caring conversation

Many families avoid talking about death because it feels painful or disrespectful. Yet guessing can be harder. Tell someone you trust what kind of remembrance matters to you, which people should be called, and where you keep important papers.

## Five questions to discuss

- Who should be contacted first if I become seriously ill or die?
- What faith practices, prayers, music or service traditions matter to me?
- Where are my identification, insurance and planning documents?
- Who can help make decisions if I cannot speak for myself?
- What do I want my loved ones to remember about my values and life?

## A conversation starter

"I am not bringing this up because something is wrong. I love you, and I want us to be prepared. Can we spend 20 minutes talking about what matters to each of us?"

You can start with one conversation, then write down what you learn. Some wishes may need formal legal documents to be carried out.

## 2 | Funerals and Finances

### Learn the choices before you have to choose

Burial, cremation, memorial services and other arrangements have different costs and requirements. Ask a funeral provider for written prices and a clear explanation of what is included. You may compare providers and ask what services are optional.

### What families should ask

- What is the total estimated cost, including outside charges?
- What choices are available within our budget?
- Can we receive an itemized written price list?
- What documents and authorizations will the funeral home need?
- What if death happens in another state or country?
- If we prepay, what happens if we move or change our plans?

### Make a realistic money plan

List what you have available, such as savings, insurance or a prepaid arrangement. Learn who is named on any policy. Do not assume insurance money will arrive before bills are due. If money is limited, ask about lower-cost options and available assistance.

Practical step: request information from at least one funeral provider and keep its contact information with your family planning papers. You do not have to buy anything at the first meeting.

## 3 | Family and Dependents

### Who counts on you?

A dependent may be a child, an aging parent, a relative with a disability, or someone you regularly support with housing, transportation or money. Think beyond who lives in your home.

### Build a care plan

#### Children

Who would care for them in an emergency? Who knows their school and medical contacts?

#### Older relatives

Who checks on medications, appointments, meals and transportation?

#### Pets and household needs

Who can enter the home and provide care?

#### Bills and housing

Who knows what must be paid to keep the home running?

#### Family communication

Who can reach relatives without relying on one person's phone?

#### Keep information secure

Write down where documents are stored, not passwords or full account numbers in this shared guide. Talk with a qualified professional about formal arrangements for guardianship, healthcare and financial decisions.

## 4 | Property and Inheritance

### A home can be a blessing or a burden

A home may represent years of work, but it also carries taxes, repairs, insurance and sometimes a mortgage. Passing it on requires more than telling someone, “This will be yours one day.” The legal ownership and planning documents matter.

### Six practical steps

#### 1. List what you own

Include your home, land, savings, retirement accounts, insurance, vehicles, business interests and debts.

#### 2. Check whose name appears

Look at deeds, account titles, beneficiary forms and insurance policies.

#### 3. Name your hopes

Do you want to provide housing, education, support for a relative or a lasting family asset?

#### 4. Ask about the right tools

A qualified professional can explain wills, trusts, beneficiary designations and other options.

#### 5. Complete the follow-through

If property must be retitled or forms updated, make sure the work is finished.

#### 6. Prepare those who may inherit

Talk about taxes, repairs, savings, sharing responsibilities and when to ask for help.

## Real Stories | What Happened

### A marriage left unresolved

In the panel discussion, Lesly R. Devereaux described a man who had separated from his legal spouse but had not divorced. After a series of deaths, property ultimately went to someone he did not personally know. His personal relationships and expectations did not prevent that result. The family lesson: review how marriage, divorce and family changes affect your plans.

### A trust that did not include the house

Devereaux described a father who arranged for a trust but did not transfer his house into it. The important step was left unfinished. The lesson: ask the professional helping you whether the property is actually included in the plan; do not stop at signing papers.

### Two brothers inherited about \$500,000 each

Devereaux described two brothers who each received roughly \$500,000. One preserved and invested his share. The other reportedly had 96 cents left after about a year. The lesson: passing on money without financial preparation can leave a family vulnerable.

### A loved one died far from home

Funeral director Ernest A. Sampson III shared a case in which a family attempted to transport a deceased relative toward Canada but was stopped at the border and had to return to address the required arrangements. The lesson: contact a funeral professional about transportation and documents before making a long trip.

Talk about one story as a family. What could happen in our household? What is one action we can take now?

## 5 | Legacy and Next Steps

### What do you want to leave behind?

Legacy is not only property or money. It can be faith, family stories, education, a business, a home, a habit of saving, service to neighbors, and the courage to make wise decisions. Name what matters before deciding which documents or arrangements you need.

### Make a family legacy plan

- Write down three values you hope to pass on.
- Choose a family story or lesson worth preserving.
- Identify one skill the next generation needs, such as budgeting or home maintenance.
- List the documents that need review and the professionals you may need.
- Set a date to revisit the plan after a major life change.

### A simple timeline

#### This week

Talk with one trusted person and locate your important papers.

#### This month

Check beneficiary names, learn about funeral choices and list dependents.

#### Within 90 days

Arrange needed professional appointments and confirm the next steps are complete.

#### Once a year

Review your information and update it after marriage, divorce, births, deaths or moves.

A good plan is one your family can find, understand and use when it matters. Begin with what you have and keep improving it.

## Fillable | My Family Readiness Check

Choose the answer that best describes your situation. These questions are a starting point, not a grade or legal review.

My family knows whom to contact in an emergency

Choose answer

Someone I trust knows where my important papers are

Choose answer

I have discussed funeral or memorial wishes

Choose answer

I know my funeral planning options and likely costs

Choose answer

I have thought about people who depend on me

Choose answer

I have checked my beneficiary names

Choose answer

I know what property and debts I have

Choose answer

I have reviewed my will or other planning documents

Choose answer

## Fillable | Important People and Wishes

Use names and contact information you are comfortable recording. Store this completed form securely.

Household or family name

Person to contact first

How to reach that person

Backup contact

Faith, worship or memorial preferences

Where important papers are kept (location only)

Have you discussed these wishes?

Choose status

## Fillable | Funeral and Cost Planning

Preferred type of service

Not decided

Funeral provider or person to contact

Estimated costs or budget range

How might costs be covered?

Not decided

Where insurance or prepaid documents are kept

Could out-of-state or international arrangements be needed?

Not sure

One question I still need answered

## Fillable | People Who Depend on Me

Who may need ongoing care?

Choose group

Trusted caregiver or emergency contact

Where care instructions are kept

Who can help with housing or household bills?

Who can care for pets or other household needs?

One caregiving arrangement I need to discuss

## Fillable | Property and Legacy

Which assets do I need to review first?

Choose asset

Have I checked the names on deeds/accounts?

Choose status

Have I reviewed beneficiary forms?

Choose status

Which planning documents need attention?

Choose area

One value or lesson I want to pass on

One skill I want younger family members to learn

One question to ask a qualified professional

## Fillable | My 30-60-90 Day Plan

### In the next 30 days

One action I will take

Who can help?

Target date

Progress

Not started

### In the next 60 days

One action I will take

Who can help?

Target date

Progress

Not started

### In the next 90 days

One action I will take

Who can help?

Target date

Progress

Not started

## Resources and Important Information

### Take your next step

You can use this guide by yourself, with family members, or at a church workshop. Start with a conversation and one completed action. If you need legal, financial, funeral or care planning help, ask a qualified professional who works in your state.

### RESET education and support

RESET offers practical education, guided conversations, readiness reviews and workshop support. For more information: [reggie@reggiebachus.com](mailto:reggie@reggiebachus.com).

### Source of the real-life stories

Church FORWARD Night Two: The Eternal Life Conversation, September 29, 2026. Panelists included Rev. Paul P. Martin, Esq.; A. Servall Chilliast; Ernest A. Sampson III; and Lesly R. Devereaux, Esq. The case stories above were shared during the conversation; the worksheets and action suggestions are RESET educational tools.

### Important information and disclaimer

This guide is for general education and does not provide personal legal, financial, insurance, medical or funeral advice. Rules differ by state and situation. Consult qualified professionals before signing documents, changing ownership, arranging services or making important decisions. Keep completed forms private and secure. Using this guide does not establish a professional-client relationship.

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