

# Supporting Families at New Hope Church

## 1. THE CHALLENGE

At New Hope Church, Pastor Martin saw families struggling under the weight of aging, caregiving, and uncertainty. The Thompsons — grandparents, their adult children, and teenage grandchildren — all attended the church. When the grandfather was suddenly hospitalized, stress and division quickly surfaced.

- Who had the authority to speak for him?
- How would medical and financial decisions be handled?
- Would his wishes — including his quiet hope to support the church — be honored?

What should have been a time of unity became a source of conflict and confusion.

## 2. THE TURNING POINT

Pastor Martin knew the Thompsons' experience was not unique. Many families in the congregation were quietly facing the same struggles. He reached out to Yew Tree for support.

Together, they **hosted a planning workshop** that equipped families with:

- **Healthcare directives** so loved ones could make medical decisions without conflict.
- **Oklahoma Powers of Attorney** so children could step in when parents couldn't.
- **Updated wills** that ensured family was cared for first, while also allowing space for legacy giving to support the church.



## 3. THE OUTCOME

The Thompsons — and other families in the congregation — found relief and peace of mind.

- The grandparents had clarity and confidence that their wishes would be honored.
- Their children felt supported instead of burdened.
- Their grandchildren witnessed faithful stewardship across generations.
- The church built trust with its members and saw renewed engagement in ministry support.

## 4. WHY IT MATTERS

Without planning, even the most loving families can become divided in times of crisis. With clear guidance and resources, churches can help preserve family unity, protect loved ones, and gently encourage generosity that sustains ministry.

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