

## How much to give?

Pledging is a sacrificial act of faith, where we prayerfully determine what percentage of our income God is calling us to commit to Grace Church. Many have asked for guidelines to aid their discernment about how much to give. That's why we're offering the following information. We hope it will help.

The Bible suggests giving a percentage of our resources — 10 percent — rather than a fixed amount. Are you ready to give God some percentage of your income? Use this chart as a quick reference to proportional giving based on annual income:

How you value your contribution to the congregation													
How you are monetarily rewarded	Supporter The church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.			Sustainer The church is central to my identity, and I am committed to sustaining our programs			Visionary I am committed to both the present and future growth of my church			Full Tithe I designated 10% of my income to the church as a way to live out my spiritual principles			
	Adjusted Income	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment
\$10,000	2%	\$16	\$200	3%	\$25	\$300	5%	\$42	\$500	10%	\$83	\$1,000	
\$25,000	2%	\$42	\$500	3%	\$63	\$750	5%	\$104	\$1,250	10%	\$208	\$2,500	
\$50,000	3%	\$125	\$1,500	4%	\$167	\$2,000	5%	\$208	\$2,500	10%	\$417	\$5,000	
\$75,000	3%	\$188	\$2,250	4.5%	\$281	\$3,375	6%	\$375	\$4,500	10%	\$625	\$7,500	
\$100,000	3.5%	\$292	\$3,500	5%	\$417	\$5,000	6.5%	\$542	\$6,500	10%	\$833	\$10,000	
\$150,000	3.5%	\$438	\$5,250	5%	\$625	\$7,500	6.5%	\$813	\$9,750	10%	\$1,250	\$15,000	
\$200,000	4%	\$667	\$8,000	5.5%	\$917	\$11,000	7%	\$1,167	\$14,000	10%	\$1,667	\$20,000	
\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	\$15,000	6%	\$1,500	\$18,000	8%	\$2,000	\$24,000	10%	\$2,500	\$30,000	
\$400,000	6%	\$2,000	\$24,000	7%	\$2,333	\$28,000	8.5%	\$2,833	\$34,000	10%	\$3,333	\$40,000	
\$500,000	7%	\$2,917	\$35,000	8%	\$3,333	\$40,000	9%	\$3,750	\$45,000	10%	\$4,167	\$50,000	

## To You All Hearts are Open

As we open our hearts to understanding God's abundant grace in our lives, please consider your proportional pledge. If you are already tithing (10% of your income), *thank you!* If you are not yet at the level you feel called to be, consider increasing the proportion by a percent or two. If you are giving 2% of your income to the church, discern if 3% or 4% is where you are called to be. If you currently give 4% of your income, discern a 5% or even 6% pledge of your income in gratitude for God's abundant grace!

Based on our budgetary projections, plans and priorities discerned from the survey, we will need a 7% increase in income to our budget to meet our current needs and begin to make the changes you asked for in the survey. If everyone makes a pledge of proportional giving, and those who pledged last year increase their proportion by at least 1% of their income, we would have such an abundance in giving to match our dreams as we increase God's mission and ministry through Grace Church.

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid...*



## PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING YOUR PLEDGE TO GRACE CHURCH

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

We pray this prayer, the Collect for Purity, at the beginning of our Holy Eucharist service. The beautiful words set the context for our visitation with God and invite us into prayer. We borrow the words now to set the context for our annual pledge drive, and hope this prayer leads you into a deeper understanding of stewardship and a genuine thanksgiving for all God's gifts.

A pledge is an annual financial commitment you make to God through Grace Church. It is a voluntary act of faith. Your pledge allows Grace to continue God's mission in the world. Whether you are new to our parish, a longtime Grace member or somewhere in between, we encourage you to consider the importance of the mission of our church. We encourage you to give thanks for all your blessings. And we encourage you to express your generosity by making a financial commitment.







**All hearts are open** as we make an offering to God.

We give in proportion to what we have received. We give not only our financial resources, but also our time and talent. We give in proportion to what we have received, knowing that giving from our substance requires a sacrifice and leads to conversion of mind and heart.

**All hearts are open** as we place God first in our lives.

We make God's priorities our priorities. We become more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and less preoccupied with material things. We challenge each other, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to value God above all else.

**All hearts are open** as we plan our giving.

This way the Lord receives the first portion instead of what's left over in our wallet when the basket passes our way on Sunday morning. When we plan our giving, and set this money aside first, we demonstrate the great importance of God in our lives.

**All hearts are open** as we acknowledge our Creator as the source of all we have and all we are.

Everything we have ultimately has been given to us by our God. We are called to be good stewards, caretakers, or managers of these gifts by using them for God's purposes and priorities.

**All hearts are open** as we put our trust, security and faith in God, instead of money and possessions.

When we give, we express our trust that God will take care of us and the 90% that may be left over after we give will be enough for all our material needs.

**All hearts are open** as we give the way God gives and love the way God loves.

In the fullness of time, God gave the ultimate gift as Jesus gave his own life for us on the cross. He set an example for us of giving unconditionally and of sacrificing so that others might live.

**All hearts are open** as we discern the future of our parish.

We recently asked the parish to complete a survey so that we might learn from each of you. 57% of our pledging households returned the confidential survey. This very high return rate shows our members are very invested and engaged in the mission and ministries of Grace Church. We are grateful for your thoughtful and detailed responses.

We have learned much from this feedback. We have heard your concerns for more depth and breadth of inspirational music in our Sunday morning worship and at other times.

*O come, let us sing to the Lord; ... let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (Ps. 95:1-2)*

We have heard your concerns for the appearance of the church facilities and will take action to better care for our outside landscaping, the memorial garden, our inside worship space and other gathering spaces.

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

*(1 Chron. 16:29, Ps. 29:2, 96:9).*

We have added more opportunities to hear from outside voices with our Sunday Speaker Series. We have heard your feedback for more financial information, and now provide a weekly stewardship update in *The Messenger*. You have voiced your strong support for our children's and youth programs, our staff and our clergy. We have heard your passion for the importance and strength of our community outreach projects. We have heard your desire to have additional opportunities for social gatherings and already have plans to bring back the Progressive Dinner, a longtime favorite at Grace.

This feedback and more has helped your vestry create a list of priorities with estimated funding costs. Your pledge and your other financial commitments to our Annual Fund will make these priorities a reality. These priorities will help guide us in the near and long term while maintaining our focus on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. God has a mission, and that mission has a church!

**The Five Marks of Mission:**

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation;
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

