

# Stewardship 2017

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

In a society which has no compunction about publishing its donor lists and the amounts people have given - think of the Symphony, the Ballet, the Opera, your local hospital, or your alma mater!—the Church remains remarkably coy about who gives what.

In some ways, this is laudable, because the truth is that a gift of \$10 per week from one donor may be the equivalent in generosity to a gift of \$200 per week from another. The Church's "standard" for giving is generosity, not a dollar amount, nor even a percentage of income (such as tithing).

All of which is very nice, but it doesn't give people much sense of where the ball park is! How can you possibly determine how much is an appropriate gift if you can't figure out what others are giving?



Here, then, are a few parameters to help you decide.

### *Comparing my gift with actual costs:*

Our current operating budget is just over \$1 million. That means our costs are \$120 per hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That adds up to \$2,850 per day, or \$19,950 per week.

### *Comparing my gift with what others give:*

Christ Church Cathedral has 295 identifiable donors, whose gifts range from 5 cents per week to \$250 per week. In many Anglican parishes in this country, the average annual gift is well over \$2,000, and it would be quite normal for a parish of our size to have several donors giving between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year.

### *Comparing my gift with other benchmarks or costs:*

What if we followed the lead of the supporters of public radio, and thought of financially sponsoring one or more days in the Church's year ("The Fourth Sunday of Advent is brought to you this year by the Smith family!")

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Parameters to help you decide (*continued*)

Or perhaps some might like to think of their gift to the Church in terms of their own hourly wage - for example, a weekly gift of one or two hours' salary.

Or what if we gave an amount comparable to the cost of some commodity, entertainment or service we wouldn't think twice about paying for: dry cleaning, a night out, the babysitter?

The most important thing is for each of us to give thoughtful consideration to the value we place upon the work of the Church - and not just what the Church does for us, but what we together do as the Church to mend the world.



## And there are advantages to giving...

It is encouraging to know that most donors in Canada are motivated less by tax considerations than by their commitment to the causes they support. Nevertheless, there are significant income tax credits for charitable gifts in British Columbia. For example, in 2016, an eligible gift of \$3,000 ultimately costs the donor only \$1,750. Meanwhile, the Cathedral is able to put the entire \$3,000 to work.

In addition, gifts of publicly traded securities are an excellent way to earn additional tax credits to maximize giving. Appreciation of securities is subject to capital gains tax. By donating the securities, donors avoid the capital gains on the appreciated value. In such cases, the resulting tax credit on the appreciated value can increase one's net gift by as much as 20%. Gifts of securities can be easily arranged by contacting the Church Office.

We encourage all donors to visit the CRA web site [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca), or to consult their financial advisor for details.

*The mission of the church is much larger than what it provides to any of us as individual members*