



GIVING GUIDE

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the “management of God’s household”. It is the way we manage what has been entrusted to us: our gifts and talents, our resources and possessions, our time and our energy. It is our “whole life” response to God.

Christian stewardship is relational. It begins with God’s love. It affirms God’s ownership of all we have, which is really a trust from God. It celebrates God’s partnership with us, and it grows on God’s hope. Stewardship helps us discover meaning in our lives, and it changes the church’s focus from money to people!

In relation to finances, stewardship has as much to do with how church members earn and give their money as with how the church uses the monies placed in the offering plate. Both have equal responsibility. Stewardship is not about an annual pledge of 10% because that pledge doesn’t make a person a faithful steward until they discover the joy of faithfully managing the other 90%.

Stewardship in the life of the church is important and is part of the promise we made at our baptism and reception into the Church. We covenant to give our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Stewardship is how we manage all these things through our whole life and how we give a portion of each of them to the church. In this way, we see giving as having two important dimensions:

- 1) Giving is part of an individual’s personal journey in faith.
- 2) Giving is essential to the life and shared ministry of the Church.

The sole motivation for giving of one’s self and giving of one’s finances must be a heartfelt gratitude for God’s love in Jesus Christ!

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

GIVING BRINGS JOY

There is no doubt that the happiest people on earth are the people who have discovered generosity. Consider the awesome opportunity to be God’s partner in ministry. St. Paul recognized it when he said, “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving brings joy!

GRATITUDE FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Jacob promised God, “if God will be with me and watch over me ... of all that you give me, I will give you a tenth.” (Genesis 28:20, 22).

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

“A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether the grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord” (Leviticus 27:3).

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

Ultimately, giving is about our commitment to Christ! Our giving should reflect both our income and desire to live as a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Giving is personal and confidential. The best way to plan your giving is prayerfully, in response to what your own conversation with God. Here are a few principles to help guide you as you decide how much to offer God:

TITHING

The Bible teaches the concept of tithing which is one-tenth of one’s earnings. This is our “first-fruits”, or the first tenth of earnings. For those who cannot yet tithe, we encourage to begin giving proportionately. Determine a set percentage of your income to give to God, making the tithe, or tenth, or more your eventual goal. (See included chart.)

STEPPING UP

Look carefully at your current giving and your plan for the remainder of the year. What is that percentage compared to your income? Consider stepping up that offering by 1-4%. Imagine how God might bless you and this community if everyone were to “step up” in faithful giving. Ultimately, whatever you give should reflect your faith in Christ!

HOW CAN I GIVE?

SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING

Our Tithes and Offerings are part of our worship. We will continue to honor this time of generosity every Sunday. And we still take cash!

ONLINE GIVING AND CHURCH APP

A simply click on our website or in the Covenant UMC app provides a secure place to give any time. You can make one-time gifts or set up recurring giving at your convenience. And consider including the credit card fees. It's a small gesture with great impact.

TEXT TO GIVE

Text "give" to 844-847-5316. Yes, it's just that easy! Follow the prompts, and start to give right from your smart phone.

KIOSK (IN THE LOBBY)

Look for the Giving Kiosk in the lobby. It's an easy way to connect online without having to use your own device. Just plug in your preferred card, choose the fund(s), and you're done. You can also set up monthly giving right in the App!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Monthly and Weekly Offering envelopes are available upon request and are always available in the pew racks.

OTHER GIVING OPTIONS

STOCKS & SECURITIES

Stocks and other securities are always a welcome gift. Many have found that the tax savings make this an ideal way to give to the church, share the blessings God has given, and to fulfill your commitment. Talk with your financial planner about all the options

FROM YOUR ESTATE

Have you remembered the church in your will? Many have found this a wonderful way to continue the ministry of the church long after they have received their heavenly reward. Talk with your estate planner and your family to address these options.

2026 CHALLENGE Pray about your commitment.

Ask God to guide your financial commitments for this next year and consider these challenges:

REGULAR GIVERS

We are grateful for your consistent gifts! We challenge you to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current commitment by 1-4% of your income or an additional dollar amount each week (such as \$10 or more per family member).

OCCASIONAL GIVERS

Step up this year to become a regular giver! We challenge you to give a set amount each week or month and to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current commitment by 1-4% of your income or an additional dollar amount each week. Stretch yourself and trust in God's promises.

TITHERS

Thank you for your commitment to Christ! The challenge is to seek God's direction for your giving every day. God has given the gift of generosity to many and maybe the tithe is just the beginning of your gifts back to God. Seek God's direction whether you should increase your giving in this next year. And be on the lookout for special opportunities of "extra mile" giving throughout the year!

IN A FINANCIAL JAM?

We ask only that you commit what you can. And please don't let your inability to give keep you from church. God honors your faithfulness always and your acceptance at Covenant UMC will never be based on your ability or inability to give!

There are many ways to give. Financial resources are just one way. We can also give of ourselves through our prayers, skills, time, and talents. Consider how you can serve the church with your whole self in 2027. The goal is simple: to grow in faith. Stewardship helps us do just that. Make next year the year to grow in generosity.