

Frequently Asked Questions about Giving to Grace and Holy Trinity Church

Why should I give to GHTC? Deciding to give of your time, talent, and financial resources is an important spiritual exercise. It allows you to reflect on the gifts God has given you and how you will give back to God in thanksgiving. Giving in a community like GHTC means that your gifts turn into great abundance for others. Your giving also models to children and loved ones the importance of your spiritual life and your commitment to a growing relationship with God and this church community.

Why should I tell the church of my intention to give? It signals your decision to prioritize your spiritual life in this way. Practically, it helps you plan how you will allocate your resources, and it helps the church plan for the future.

How is my money used? The gifts of your time, talents, and financial resources make things happen at GHTC! Each year Grace and Holy Trinity Church creates an operating budget based on the total amount of income we expect to receive. A majority of that income is from knowing the commitment or pledge amount from people like you. The Vestry and staff work hard to be good stewards of your gifts.

Who else contributes? Everyone should give for the support of the church as they are able. For our pledged income of \$858,232 for 2016, our giving breaks down like this: 37% of households give up to \$1,500/year; 40% give \$1,500-\$4,999/year; 14% give \$5,000-\$9,999 year; 8.4% give over \$10,000/year. We have no record of financial giving for approximately 100 households.

How much should I give? There are lots of ways to think about giving and answering the questions: “Am I doing enough? Does my giving reflect my values and faith? Does my generosity reflect God’s generosity toward me?” One way that has been meaningful to many over the years is *proportionate giving*. Look at how you spend your money - what portion of your income is spent on housing, food, insurance, vacation, education, entertainment, etc.? And then ask, “What portion of my income do I give away?” Finally ask “Am I where I want to be? What percentage of the money under my control would I like to give away?” This approach has the added benefit of helping you think about your household budget.

There are places in the Bible that talk about the tithe, i.e. giving ten percent of income away. And there are other places, particularly in the New Testament, which simply talk about giving generously, without talking percentages. Regardless, it is a helpful exercise to determine how much you spend, on what, and what percentage of your income you give away. Giving ten percent away might be a good challenge. It might be a minimum or a base line. Perhaps you want to calculate what percentage you are now giving, and move up a step or two for 2017. The chart on the reverse side can help you calculate proportionate giving. However you get there, the goal is to be faithful, joyous and generous. In the end, it is not about the money, but about your own spiritual journey.

Please keep in mind that regardless of the amount, your participation is the most important aspect of this year’s campaign. In the course of the year, if you find that you need to change your commitment amount, please just let us know and we’ll make the adjustment.

Is my donation tax deductible? Yes, it is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. To receive statements from us, we must know that you give. If you choose to pay with cash, please use an offering envelope with your name on it (we can give these to you or they’re available at the church)

How do I make payments? You can give by credit or debit card through the website; by using the giving kiosk at the church; using automatic bill-payment through your bank; placing a check or cash in the offering plate or mailing it to the church; or through stock options.

Whom should I contact if I have questions or need help? The church phone number is 359-5628.

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