

# Deciding How Much to Give

Wherever you are on your faith journey, there is a step you can take.  
What will be yours for the coming year?

## A First Step

People who arrive at our church take a variety of paths towards participation. However you have chosen to take part, we are glad you are here. We invite you to make an introductory pledge or gift this year as a sign of your relationship with this community and to give thanks for whatever you find here that feeds your spirit.

## The Next Step

If you are a regular pledger, we thank you! As you think about this year's pledge, consider what led you to choose the amount you pledged last year. Through prayer, think about what has changed in your life, either financially or spiritually. Then make a pledge that feels like the right next step for you.

## The Challenge Step

Proportional giving is a spiritual discipline in which you give a percentage of your income, off the top, back to God for God's work on earth. If this is the first year you are considering this step, start at two or four percent of your income and see what happens. If you are already on this journey, consider whether you can increase by a percentage point or two.

"Our home church in New Jersey had a hard time during the Great Depression. Years later our archives yielded a little black book which listed seven members whose tithing kept the whole church alive. If 10% is too steep (or too little!), what percent seems right to you? Make up your own mind."  
- Homer Hall

## Where does the Money Go?

It takes time, talent, and treasure to keep our active parish going. Our operating budget is large – approaching \$300,000 – and it can be difficult to relate our individual pledges to such a large number. And yet, year after year, our pledges add up to support our life together.

If you would like more information about the church budget and financial goals, you are encouraged to contact the Trustee Committee, at [trustees@exeterconchurch.org](mailto:trustees@exeterconchurch.org)

## Proportional Giving Calculator

Weekly giving (rounded to the nearest dollar)

Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
16,000	3	6	9	12	15	18	22	25	28	31
20,000	4	8	12	15	19	23	27	31	35	38
30,000	6	12	17	23	29	35	40	46	52	58
35,000	7	13	20	27	34	40	47	54	60	67
40,000	8	15	23	31	38	46	54	62	69	77
50,000	10	19	29	38	48	58	67	77	87	96
60,000	12	23	35	46	58	69	81	92	104	115
75,000	14	29	43	58	72	87	101	115	130	144
100,000	19	38	58	77	96	115	134	154	173	192
125,000	24	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216	240
150,000	29	58	87	115	144	173	202	231	260	288

Stewardship 2010



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN EXETER, UCC  
*a home for your spirit*

## REASONS TO GIVE

Reflections on why we give of our treasure towards the mission of the church

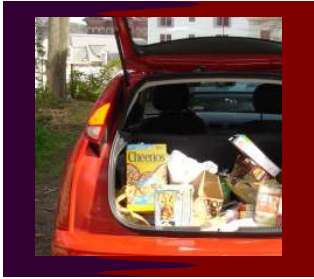


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# Reasons to be Generous

So many different faces fill our pews, and for each different face, there is a unique reason for that person's presence in our church. In much the same way, there is a unique reason that each one of us chooses to give of our time, talent and treasure to this church.

## Expressing Our Thanks



"I give to our church because I have been blessed in life with many things and many gifts. I give because Jesus calls us to share what we have with others."

- Erik Hobbie

## Living Our Faith

"I see [my yearly pledge] as a part of my response to God's awesome grace, one way of living out my faith."

- Rushan Sinnaduray



## Supporting Our Mission

"We make our pledge to the church because we want to support the service that it provides in our community and beyond – including youth programs, outreach to those in need, Mission in Action, and Sunday services."

- Greg and Julie Gilman



## Fulfilling Our Christian Duty

"This church, as a Congregational Church, relies solely on its parishioners for its means of funding."

- Chris Matlack



"I give to this church because it is my responsibility as a church member, and to support church activities and growth."

- Nancy Brown

## How to Give

### Annual Pledged Gifts

Pledges are stated by filling out a pledge card, available through the church office or located on the Stewardship table in the vestry, next to the elevator.



You may include a check with your pledge, or you may choose from a variety of payment options. These include:

- \* Weekly payments – upon your request, envelopes for the cash or checks you wish to place in the collection plate will be provided.
- \* Monthly payments – upon request, payments can be automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card via our new online payment system. Information and easy-to-use registration are available through the church web site: [www.exeterconchurch.org](http://www.exeterconchurch.org)
- \* Securities transfer – many of our parishioners find it convenient to fulfill their pledge with a gift of stock or other securities. For more information, contact the church financial secretary at [fwalsh@exeterconchurch.org](mailto:fwalsh@exeterconchurch.org)

### Planned Giving

"Our clergy and church strengthen all of us. How could I not support them?"

- Gordon Clark

There are a variety of gift options that can allow you to support both your family and your faith as you plan your estate. For more information you can enquire at the church office.