

## **Guidelines for Giving – A Theological & Real Life perspective**

**During my time at Christ Church, I have been asked by various parishioners and family members, ‘How much should I give to the church’. This is a deeply personal decision but for many having some different perspectives is beneficial.**

As Christians we support our church and clergy with monetary contributions of one kind or another. We acknowledge that the determination of the amount of that contribution is a personal affair but knowing what is required by the church, what is appropriate, and an idea of what other’s give can provide a guideline for you.

The absence of a command for tithing does not relieve Christians of the responsibility to give. Rather, Christians are held to a higher law of stewardship which acknowledges that everything we have is a gift from God (Matthew 19:21).

In the New Testament, the guidelines for giving are described as:

1. Proportional to one’s income
2. Consistent
3. Sacrificial
4. Cheerful

Proportionate giving, while being theologically sound, is also of practical value. By giving in a planned, proportionate way, you are making sure your needs are met along with those of your church. As income declines, do so giving’s and vice versa. We should be cognizant however to increase our giving’s proportionately as our good fortune returns or increases.

Consistent contributions to the church are also easier to do and easier for you to budget for with things like PushPay and direct deposit options from your bank. The consistency of weekly or monthly giving also helps the church as many of its expenses (outreach, administration, operating costs etc.) are monthly.

Sacrificial Giving is most important and has the largest impact on you; the giver. If you can give your gift and not notice it, it isn’t a sacrificial gift. The element of sacrifice is present when something about your life has to change in order for you to be able to give the gift. You re-order your priorities, you reconsider your values. And every time you give the gift, you are reminded of the reasons why you have chosen to give.

And finally...

***“Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).***

So, the teachings in our bible are very clear; that giving (cheerfully) to our church is an important part of what makes us Christians.

### ***How much should you give?***

Everyone has different motivations and means for their giving. It is a very private matter and one that requires prayerful consideration.

The following proportional giving chart will help you determine your level of annual giving now and what you pledge for the coming year. By now, you are aware of the financial circumstances of our church and how much we need your help in becoming a sustainable.

The range of between 2% and 10% is a guideline only. Your gift is up to you.

Proportional Giving Chart

	Annual			Monthly			Weekly		
Family Income	2%	5%	10%	2%	5%	10%	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000	\$200	\$500	\$1,000	\$17	\$42	\$83	\$4	\$10	\$19
\$25,000	\$500	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$42	\$104	\$208	\$10	\$24	\$48
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$83	\$208	\$417	\$19	\$48	\$96
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$125	\$313	\$625	\$29	\$72	\$144
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$167	\$417	\$833	\$38	\$96	\$192
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$250	\$625	\$1,250	\$58	\$144	\$288
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$333	\$833	\$1,667	\$77	\$192	\$385

***A final thought:*** The HALO EFFECT of your gift to the church compounds the good of every gift. It is proven that every dollar given to a church creates \$ 4.77 in common good benefit. This is due to the amount of services, events and activities the church provides to the community at little to no cost.

Calgary's "Halo Effect" factor, at 4.77, means if you give \$5000 a year to Christ Church, the Halo Project estimates the public good and service provided back to the community is equal to a \$23,850 impact. And that's a good thing.

Thank you,  
Richard Tanner