

# Frequently Asked Questions

about

## STEWARDSHIP

**Why does Grace Church ask us to pledge financial support each year?** Just like you, the church needs revenue to pay its expenses. Donations from each of us are the primary source of revenue. Grace Church asks us to make a pledge or promise of the amount we will donate next year so that the church can develop an annual budget and know how much money it will have to pay expenses each year.

**Why should I pledge if I put money in the collection plate whenever I come to church?** To provide ongoing programs, we need to have predictable revenue. Expenses for salaries, utilities and maintenance continue regardless of attendance. We cannot budget adequately based on fluctuating collection plate contributions.

**How is the pledge money used?** Your pledge supports our mission: worship, programs like ‘Lost and Found’ and Pastoral Care, the Hispanic Ministry, music, outreach, church school, choir school, fellowship events, and staff salaries.

**How often are we asked to pledge?** This is the only time each year that you are asked to make a financial commitment to support Grace Church’s programs, ministries and operational expenses.

**When I make a pledge commitment, how often may I give?**

You may give weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly by cash or check. You can also make arrangements to give electronically. It will be much easier on the Financial Office if you state the way you intend to give.

**How do I figure out how much to give?** This is a very personal question that should be approached prayerfully. Some guidelines may help. Christian stewardship is based on the biblical concept of proportional giving. This means that one's annual pledge consists of a percentage or proportion of one's annual income. The biblical term tithing means proportional giving at the level of 10 percent of one's gross income to the church. Some tithe fully; others find that a half-tithe or quarter-tithe is what they are able to do.

**What if my financial circumstances change and I cannot meet my pledge obligation?** A pledge is not a legal obligation but states your current intentions about your offerings for the coming year and can be changed at any time, either up or down, merely by notifying either the Rector or the treasurer.