

Q&A — Stewardship at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

What is a pledge?

- A financial and spiritual commitment to the mission and ministries for a specific period of time. It is not a contract, but an estimate of your giving for the 2027 calendar year.

Why should I make a pledge?

- You are thankful to God for your blessings and want to respond.
- You believe the ministry and mission of Good Shepherd are worthy of your support.

Why is giving good for me?

- Giving is a spiritual practice just like prayer, study and service.
- Giving helps us experience the joy of being partners with God in God's work.
- Giving generously teaches us God always provides more than enough. We learn freedom and trust.
- Giving helps us connect as a member because we know our gifts count and we belong.

Why is a pledge good for Good Shepherd?

- Pledges help the vestry leaders plan a budget for what ministry we can do and who we can hire.
- Good Shepherd never approves a budget without financial expectations to support it. We receive no money from the Diocese. Rather we send the Diocese an annual gift to support our common ministry.
- Without your giving, Good Shepherd would not exist.

How much should I pledge?

- This is a personal decision. The biblical model is proportional giving, at 10% of income. Most people who tithe worked up to it for years, making steady increases to get to that percentage.
- Pray about it, listen for what God speaks to your heart, and take a step in the right direction.

How much do others pledge?

- We pray people give what they can. Some are \$5.00 per week; others more than \$30,000 per year.
- Our average pledge last year was \$5,600 from 101 households. 9 gave over \$20K; 5 over \$10K; 22 over \$5K; 45 over \$1,000; 20 under \$1,000. Every faithful gift is valuable and worthy.

What if I can only give a little? What if I can't give anything?

- Every pledge and every gift is worthy. \$1 per month is faithful if that's what you can do. Remember the "widow's mite" in the gospel. We hope everyone will enter a faithful pledge that reflects their gratitude and is a measure of their blessings.

Why don't we use our endowments to pay for the ministries of Good Shepherd?

- Good Shepherd uses a percentage of the endowment each year for operations. This is a standard which maintains stability of the endowment over time so it can always support future ministry.

How do I pay my pledge?

- You can pay by check, online credit card, bank draft, or bringing it in for Sunday offerings. Some send gifts using a portion of their RMD or transfer stocks.
- Some pay weekly and others pay monthly, quarterly or annually.

What happens if I can't pay my pledge or I wish to increase it?

- If circumstances change and you need to decrease or increase your pledge, notify the church office. Life often gets in the way of plans. Some days we hit the lottery or a rich uncle leaves us something significant.