

# Guide to Proportional Giving

*Concept:* The key to Proportional Giving is to think in terms of percentage, not flat amounts. Theologically, God gives, values, and loves at a rate of 100%. Everything we are and have in this world is a gift from God. Since all that we have is God's to begin with, we are entrusted to use God's resources to benefit the Kingdom of God by living lives of Gratitude and Abundance. This means doing our absolute best to care for ourselves, our families, our neighbors (known and unknown), and God's creation. Biblically, the concept of the *Tithe* is a means of setting aside a portion of our gifts from God (commonly referenced as 10%) for the specific work of Ministry. In earlier days, these portions were often literal sacrifices of things of value (10% of one's livestock, grain offerings, etc.) that were burned in the context of worship in order to "give back to God" as a means of giving thanks to the God who is the source of everything. As Christians, we continue this ancient mandate of giving thanks for God's radical abundance by offering our time, talent, and treasure through celebrating the Sacraments, helping the poor, seeking justice for the oppressed, and building relationships that magnify God's unconditional love. For us, this is Ministry and it is our means of spreading the Gospel, or Good News of Jesus. How we tend that Ministry is called Stewardship.

*Pledging:* People give to the Ministry of the Church in many different ways. No way is ever to be compared with another as being better or worse, greater or lesser. The question for us all, however, is what is our motivation for giving? Do we give out of a sense of obligation or duty? Or do we give simply because we want to be helpful? None of these motives are inherently wrong. However, approaching pledging or giving as a task to be accomplished or a job that must be done really misses the point of Stewardship. Good Stewardship causes us to pause our typical ways of approaching life and take stock of the marvelous world that is already around us. Think of your family or friends. Think of the air you breathe. Think of the opportunities of work and recreation you have experienced. How can you possibly give God too much thanks? Our pledges should all reflect the first fruits of thanksgiving for everything that there is. God never gives us left overs. Why wouldn't we give God our best?

*Guidance:* Using the charts on the back, find your annual income on the chart that matches your pace of giving, either Weekly or Monthly (Quarterly, Semi-Annual, and Annual givers, please calculate accordingly). If you are a current pledger, take a look across the chart until you find what you currently pledge per Week or per Month. If you are a new to pledging, look across the chart from your annual income and just stop until you find the figure that seems like a comfortable to mildly challenging offering for the pace you wish to give. Then look at the top of the column to see what your percentage of income pledged is. If your goal as a Steward of God's resources is to be at 10% and you are currently under that amount, faithfully consider increasing your pledge percentage by at least 1% per year until your goal is met. Remember, in God there is always enough. Goals that may seem big at first are almost always attainable when broken down into smaller, more manageable goals. We have seen the miracle of spiritual renewal via the abundance of small goals being accomplished time and time again here at St. Matthew. These small goals, especially in the last few years, have added up to enormous differences. Proportional Giving allows us all to challenge our own glass ceilings by breaking free from the limitations of what we think is possible to truly celebrating the God of all possibility.

As our former Senior Warden, Terry Elofson has said, "What you focus on is what becomes." May we all focus on the Way of Love, who is Jesus, and heed the call to be faithful Stewards in God's Ministry of hope and mercy in this world.

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Giving										
		1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	15%
\$13,000	\$250	\$2.50	\$5	\$7.50	\$10	\$12.50	\$15	\$17.50	\$20	\$22.50	\$25	\$37.50
\$26,000	500	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	75
\$36,400	700	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	105
\$41,600	800	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	120
\$52,000	1,000	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	150
\$62,400	1,200	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	180
\$78,000	1,500	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150	225
\$91,000	1,750	17.50	35	52.50	70	87.50	105	122.50	140	157.50	175	262.50
\$104,000	2,000	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	300
\$117,000	2,250	22.50	45	67.50	90	112.50	135	157.50	180	202.50	225	337.50
\$130,000	2,500	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	375
\$182,000	3,500	35	70	105	140	175	210	245	280	315	350	525
\$260,000	5,000	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	750

**52 Weeks = 1 Year**

**SAMPLE**

*For a household or individual earning \$52,000 per year and pledging \$30 per week, the pledge is about 3% of income. This is but a portion of the abundance given by God to be cared for and managed (Stewardship) and is offered back to the Church for the work of Ministry. A 1% increase (from 3% to 4%) is approximately an additional \$10 per week (or \$1.43 per day).*

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Monthly Giving										
		1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	15%
\$12,000	\$1,000	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100	\$150
\$26,000	2,167	22	43	65	87	108	130	152	173	195	217	325
\$36,000	3,000	30	60	90	120	150	180	210	240	270	300	450
\$42,000	3,500	35	70	105	140	175	210	245	280	315	350	525
\$52,000	4,333	43	87	130	173	217	260	303	347	390	433	650
\$60,000	5,000	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	750
\$75,000	6,250	63	125	188	250	313	375	438	500	563	625	938
\$90,000	7,500	75	150	225	300	375	450	525	600	675	750	1125
\$100,000	8,333	83	167	250	333	417	500	583	667	750	833	1250
\$120,000	10,000	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500
\$150,000	12,500	125	250	375	500	625	750	875	1000	1125	1250	1875
\$180,000	15,000	150	300	450	600	750	900	1050	1200	1350	1500	2250
\$250,000	20,833	208	417	625	833	1042	1250	1458	1667	1875	2083	3125

**12 Months = 1 Year**

**SAMPLE**

*For a household or individual earning \$60,000 per year and pledging \$100 per month, the pledge is about 2% of income. This is but a portion of the abundance given by God to be cared for and managed (Stewardship) and is offered back to the Church for the work of Ministry. A 1% increase (from 2% to 3%) is approximately an additional \$50 per month (or \$1.67 per day).*