

COMMITMENT GUIDE

REMEMBER REJOICE REDEDICATE

200th
PARK STREET CHURCH
1809-2009



Your financial commitment should be the result of a meaningful, spiritual journey.

This personal commitment guide will help you to take your first steps. Use this guide to connect with god by discovering god's will and by offering your full potential to fulfill God's desire.

DELIBERATE with god

Prayerfully seek god's leadership. Ask god to shape your decisions. Walk through the doors god opens for you!

DISCOVER god's purpose for your church

and god's will for you what is god calling this church to do and to be? How is god working through your church to affect people's lives? How would god work through you to make a difference in ministry?

DISCUSS what you are learning with others

Include your family in the discovery and decision-making process. Talk with and learn from the experience and example of others.

DEFINE a sense of sacrifice in your life

What decisions and priorities could you make in your life to further invest yourself in your church? How can you give in ways that make a difference to you?

DETERMINE your potential for giving

Think outside the income-stream box. Capital giving may include new strategies for giving. Inventory your blessings and your potential for increased giving.

DECIDE on a personal giving plan

There are multiple methods for giving in a capital stewardship program. Capital giving might include any combination of weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual, one-time, and/or asset transfer gifts. Put together your own personal giving plan for the next three years to help you follow through with your commitment.

There is no formula, no quick accounting, no percentage target for a capital stewardship commitment. As always, the truest measure of stewardship is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Not everyone has the resources to make a million dollar gift, but every person can meaningfully invest in what God is doing at this church in proportion to their blessings.

If there is no formula for what one might give, then how does anyone gauge how “right” their commitment decision might be? Try the questions below to discover your own internal measures.

In a personal way, will this commitment make a difference in me? Will this commitment affect my life, allowing me to invest myself in the mission and ministry of my church?

Is this a decision I am willing to take time to pray about, genuinely seeking God’s guidance in how God might work through me?

Is this a decision I will have a significant conversation about with my family and with my larger family of faith?

Am I thinking creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I am capable of giving? What assets and resources could I use as a gift?

Will this giving decision involve a sense of sacrifice in my life? Do my priorities reflect my commitment to my church?

Am I discovering a new joy in giving? There is something freeing and deeper about the life of grace that we never experience until we learn to give as freely and deeply as God gives to us.

If an investment — like stocks, real estate, and other assets — has increased in value since its purchase and has been held for more than one year, then there may be tax advantages to transferring ownership of that asset to the church as a charitable donation. Giving the appreciated asset eliminates potential capital gains taxes for the donor while still allowing the donor to receive the contribution credit for the current market value of the asset. Because of its tax-exempt status, the church can sell the asset and receive full market value less transaction costs.

What if I sell first then give the cash? You may have to pay capital gains taxes which will reduce the after-tax proceeds from the sale.

	SELL FIRST	GIVE ASSET
Market Value	20,000	20,000
Original Cost	-10,000	-10,000
Appreciated Gain	10,000	10,000
Tax (assuming 28%)	2,800	-0-
After tax value of Gift to the Church	17,200	20,000
Contribution Credit to Donor	17,200	20,000

Note: Tax positions and tax law can be complicated and can change with new laws. Any discussion of tax treatment is not intended, and should not be considered, as tax advice. Consult your personal tax professional for advice on your tax position. Please check with your church business office for instructions and arrangements for the transfer of all forms of gifts other than cash.

A three-year, over-and-above financial commitment to a capital stewardship program requires proper motive and motivation. The following study will help you to discern both your heart and God's heart for giving generously.

In terms of affecting people and ministries, what will this project accomplish for God, for others, for you?

(Matthew 28:19, Luke 17:20-21, 1 Kings 5:5)

What does your heart prompt you to do? Describe it.

(Exodus 25:1-2, 35:4-29, 1 Corinthians 13:3, 2 Corinthians 9:7)

What is your Prayer Plan to discern God's will?

(Luke 11:9-10, John 17, Matthew 6:5-13)

What does "sacrifice" mean to you? Define it.

(2 Samuel 24:24, Romans 12:1-2, Luke 21:1-4)

What can you do to give sacrificially? Start a list.

(1 Chronicles 29:1-10, Acts 2:44-47, Acts 4:32-37)

INCOME & GIVING

Income-stream Giving: Giving as you receive income - from your regular income, bonuses, and/or through your personal business.

Sacrifice: Changing your lifestyle/priorities can create additional resources for giving.

Delaying Expenditures: Postponing anticipated purchases can free resources so for giving.

Freedom from Debt: After a debt is retired, the resources that were applied to that debt are not available for giving.

Income Producing Assets: Interest earned, income from rental properties, or monies from other income-producing assets can be given.

GIVING ASSETS

Giving Appreciated Assets: Consider transferring appreciated assets (stocks, real estate, etc) as a way to increase giving.

Sale of Assets: Money resulting from the sale of personal assets, or from personally owned business assets, could be given.

Savings & Investments: You may be able to give some portion of accumulated assets without significantly affecting your future security. The “returns” from investing in ministry may be more significant to you than simply accumulating more market returns.

TIME & TALENT

Additional Income: Using your skills and talents, taking on additional work, or delaying retirement could produce additional income to use as a gift.

Gifts in Kind: Donating specific services and/or materials, either personally or through your business, provides a unique opportunity for increased giving.

Use this worksheet to evaluate what you have available to give.

	POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
INCOME & SACRIFICE		
Analyze your projected income and spending patterns for the next three years and determine how much could be given and when. Alter your lifestyle in order to give what you save or don't spend.	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
GIVING ASSETS		
What accumulated assets in your life could be transferred to the church? What assets could be sold so that their value could be permanently invested in ministry?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
TIME & TALENT		
Determine what you could do to earn extra resources that could be given during this period. Are there "gifts in kind" of services and/or materials you could give?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
RESULTING THREE-YEAR POTENTIAL COMMITMENT: _____		

REMEMBER REJOICE REDEDICATE

200th
PARK STREET CHURCH
1809-2009

COMMITMENT GUIDE

REMEMBER REJOICE REDEDICATE

200th
PARK STREET CHURCH
1809-2009

