



# READY»

WELCOME • WORSHIP • GROW

## GENEROSITY TOOLBOX

MAKE YOURSELVES HOLY, BECAUSE TOMORROW  
THE LORD WILL DO AMAZING THINGS AMONG YOU.

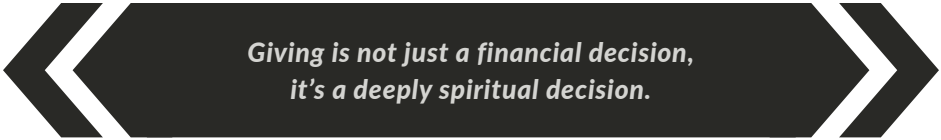
JOSHUA 3:5

## INTRODUCTION »

Nearly every day, we make financial decisions. Some are small—should you get a cup of coffee at McDonald's or splurge for the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks? Some are big—which house, which car, which college? Some concern the future—how much should you spend on Christmas, which retirement funds should you choose?

Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension. We wonder, "If I give this away, how will the gap be filled?"

That is why giving is such a big deal. Nothing invites God into our lives like giving. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. Giving often paves the way for God to show up in our lives in a powerful way.



*Giving is not just a financial decision,  
it's a deeply spiritual decision.*

We've put this generosity toolbox together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how He might invite you to trust Him during the Ready Campaign. You'll find all kinds of ideas that will help you pray and consider how God will have you participate. Our prayer is that you would experience the power of God in your life as you seek Him and His Kingdom first through generous giving and living.

During all worship services on November 3, 2019, our FUMC family will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity by making commitments to the Ready campaign, a three year commitment to the future of our church.

SAMPLE GIVING CHART >>				
WEEKLY	MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	3 YEAR TOTAL	
\$1,000	\$4,123	\$5,000	\$15,000	
\$750	\$3,092	\$3,750	\$11,250	
\$500	\$2,061	\$2,500	\$7,500	
\$400	\$1,728	\$2,000	\$6,000	
\$300	\$1,300	\$1,500	\$4,500	
\$250	\$1,083	\$1,250	\$3,750	
\$200	\$867	\$1,000	\$3,000	
\$150	\$650	\$7,500	\$2,250	
\$100	\$433	\$5,000	\$1,500	
\$75	\$325	\$3,750	\$1,125	
\$50	\$217	\$2,500	\$7,500	
\$25	\$109	\$1,250	\$3,750	
\$25	\$108	\$1,300	\$3,900	
\$20	\$87	\$1,040	\$3,120	

This giving schedule is for a quick calculation of weekly, monthly, and yearly giving. No one should feel confined to this schedule.

## WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING? »

Our sanctuary, built in 1975, will be updated with new wall and flooring treatments, improved lighting, and new state-of-the-art audio-visual technology.

Our chancel area is being completely redesigned to make the space safer and more versatile for the variety of worship styles and musical ensembles that help us experience God together. The following updates are planned:

- The permanent concrete “levels” will be removed, which are tripping hazards and limit the function of the space.
- The chancel itself will be extended, which will add more space and allow the altar to be even more central to the congregation.
- The choir will be relocated from the side of the chancel to the center, behind the altar.
- A lift will be installed making the chancel 100% handicapped accessible.

We are building a new narthex to create an easily recognizable, inviting entrance into our church. It will include meeting rooms, a new prayer room, accessible restrooms, an information/welcome/missions center, and much needed gathering space where we can focus on building relationships with one another and with guests who join us each week.



*The estimated cost is 1.8 million dollars.*

This capital campaign is a 36-month commitment over and above our regular pledge to the budget offering.

## WHAT WILL IT TAKE? »

What will it take for us to reach our Ready campaign goal of \$1.8 million over three years? Certainly it will take some substantial gifts. There are also ways that we can step closer to our goal by each of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something we value more, in this case the mission and vision of First United Methodist Church of Belmont.

Here are just a few examples of how a small change could become very large if we were all in on this effort.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY	AVERAGE COST	x36 MONTHS	x150 FAMILIES
4 CUPS OF COFFEE	\$16	\$576	\$86,500
2 LARGE PIZZAS	\$24	\$864	\$129,600
1 FAST FOOD FAMILY MEAL	\$30	\$1,080	\$162,000
1 FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT	\$75	\$2,700	\$405,000
		TOTAL	<b>\$783,000</b>

## LIFESTYLE GENEROSITY »

The most effective path to generosity is a spiritual path where you set your heart on things above. Then, your financial priorities will naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities.

People often describe this as “living a generous lifestyle.” It is always a temptation to give to the Lord in such a way that it makes little impact on how you live. The challenge of living a generous lifestyle is to intentionally and prayerfully find ways to do just that—to let your giving touch your living!

*King David declared, “I will not give to God that which costs me nothing.” (2 Samuel 24:24)*



He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver! This is the spirit of lifestyle generosity—“If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.”

Lifestyle generosity is a level of giving that affects you—your plans, your activities, your attitude and your approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another.

## ***THOUGHTS ON GENEROUS GIVING »***

The following are some ways to give that you may want to consider:

### ***PRIORITY BUDGETING***

You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to give more to the Ready Campaign. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, remodeling, or other major purchase.

### ***REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES***

Often families have significant short-term expenditures for specific needs. Cash flow can be freed up when a loan is paid, tuition is no longer needed when a child graduates, etc. If a present expenditure will cease during the three-year initiative, would you consider using it towards your commitment?

### ***INCREASES IN INCOME***

You may receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from your employer. The temptation is to automatically increase your lifestyle to fit the higher income. Could God be calling you to something else?

### ***PERSONAL PROPERTY***

Some families may have stored resources. This could include art, jewelry, coin collections, and other valuable assets that can be sold.

## **GIVING OUT OF STORED RESOURCES »**

### **APPRECIATED ASSETS AND CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER GIFTS**

Gifts of appreciated assets—typically investment securities or real estate—can be advantageous to both the donor and the church. Unlike gifts of cash that have already incurred an income tax, gifts of appreciated assets avoid the incurrence of capital gains tax. In addition, the donor receives a deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

Charitable IRA rollover gifts apply to those who are over 70½ and have an IRA account. You may be able to make a gift from your IRA directly to FUMC to support the campaign through a tax-free transfer of up to \$100,000 yearly. This type of gift can provide additional benefits to you by allowing it to count toward your IRA's required minimum distribution for the year by reducing your taxable income. Though it is important to consider the tax implications of making a gift to the church, it is also important to invest your giving in order to further the mission of the ministry of God has laid on your heart. Before making a commitment of this nature, be sure to consult your financial advisor.

### **PLANNING YOUR GIVING**

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the three-year period of the campaign. You might be able to give more in year two than in year one. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also your potential to give in the future. It might be that you can make a three-year commitment where a greater portion is given in year two and/or year three.

### **A FINAL WORD**

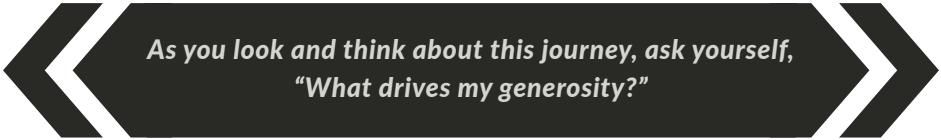
Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to God and His work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christian people have not made provision for God in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that. It might be as simple as including a provision in your will that 10% of the value of your estate will be donated to the church holding your letter of membership at the time of your passing. Or it could involve a planned giving method such as a charitable remainder trust. While such gifts do not give immediate financial benefit to the Ready campaign, they are wonderful gifts of faith commitment to carry on the work of FUMC for future generations.

## THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY »

We must always remember there is much more to generosity than just a financial transaction. In God's eyes our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a transformation. It is truly a matter of the heart!

The Generosity Journey can help us think about this transformation. Make no mistake; to move along this path requires a heart change.

Moving along the path does not make us super Christians; it brings us to a greater understanding of God, not a greater view of ourselves.



*As you look and think about this journey, ask yourself,  
"What drives my generosity?"*

For most of us, this is a daunting question with no clear answer, for everyone's circumstances differ. It has less to do with the size of one's gift than with the spirit in which that gift is offered. In the Bible, Jesus looks suspiciously as the wealthy make their offerings, for he knows that they have sacrificed little in proportion to their blessings. Then comes a widow who can deposit but two small coins. "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them," Jesus says, "for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4)

As you consider the amount to give, reflect on God's example as the first and most generous giver: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16). Following God's example we give out of our very best, we give sacrificially, and we give in love.



## **WHAT CAN I DO ON THIS JOURNEY? »**

### ***PRAY***

Pray over your own finances and diligently examine your spending habits. Pray for generosity in the hearts of the FUMC family. Pray for the FUMC leadership and staff as they make ongoing decisions throughout this campaign.

### ***MOTIVATE OTHERS***

Be open and transparent with fellow church members throughout this journey. Give encouragement. Hold one another accountable.

### ***COMMIT***

Consider where God is calling you to make sacrifices. Commit to supporting FUMC through your generous pledge on Commitment Sunday, November 3rd.

### ***TRUST GOD***

Trust God in His provision for you. Put your hope in God's power, promise, and faithfulness. Know that He will never leave nor forsake you

## THE CHALLENGE »

Dear FUMC Family,

*The challenge before us is a large one. This gift profile shows how it will be possible for us to secure our goal for this initiative. The chart reveals that even with the large task God has given us, it is possible to move forward. It also shows that every gift—no matter the size—makes a difference.*

*As you look at the guide, your eyes will likely settle first on the level you have been considering for the Ready campaign. You can see how that gift will strengthen our faith family and enable us to press forward with our vision.*

*However, before you make a commitment on November 3, 2019, I would ask you to pray about moving up one step on the chart. Only you know if that step is possible, but I encourage you to open your heart in the coming days to that possibility and let God shape your response.*

*In Christ,  
George Ragsdale*

**GIFT PROFILE GUIDE »**

Your role in reaching our three year goal of \$1,800,000.

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS	AMOUNT OF EACH COMMITMENT
1	\$250,000
2	\$100,000
3	\$75,000
5	\$50,000
6	\$36,000
9	\$24,000
10	\$15,000
10	\$10,000
15	\$7,200
20	\$3,600
OTHER COMMITMENTS	UNDER \$3,600

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT

*TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS*



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