

A GUIDE FOR MAKING A SPECIAL OFFERING COMMITMENT

How does a Christian make a decision when making a financial commitment to a capital stewardship campaign (or any other special offering)? This is an excellent... and common question! Frankly, there is no perfect, or "right," way. We believe that giving generously, for the cause of Christ, is essential to our lives, and for the sake of the Church. We encourage you to use the following guide, as you prayerfully consider how God may be leading you, and your family, into courageous generosity at Gloria Dei.

- Do not confuse giving your tithe (10%) to the local church with giving a special gift. Your tithe is evidence of your faith and honors God by giving Him your "first fruits." A special offering is just that; in addition to your tithe, God gives His people many opportunities to support His work. So, as you consider your special offering, do not "rob Peter (your tithe) to pay Paul (your special gift)."
- Making a special commitment is an act of faith, so it is imperative to begin the process with prayer. Ask God for an open mind and heart. Ask Him what He wants you to do— not what you think you ought to do. God answers the prayers of His people. He will open your mind and heart, and guide you in the process.
- Consider the needs and opportunities that the campaign will support. Do you believe them to be a "worthy cause"? Do you believe your leaders have been led by God to properly identify the mission and ministry challenges that have been presented to the congregation? If you are led by God's Spirit to say, "Yes, this is God's plan for us," then take the next step.
- Ask God to give you a "number" that He would have you prayerfully consider. Use the "Gift Profile Chart" (opposite this page) as a guide. You might want to start at the bottom of the chart and move your way up. If you reach the top of the chart, don't let that be the "ceiling" for your possible gift. And don't automatically trust the first number that comes to your mind; it's almost always a "safe" number you can give without God's help! If you're married, we encourage you and your spouse to pray and work separately through this process, and then come together to discuss your "numbers" with each other.
- As you consider your gift, think through the following questions: Is my/our decision filled with faith? Does it reflect a "sacrifice" on my/our part? How can I/we make this a spiritual growth experience? Consider some of the following practical examples of sacrificial giving...
 - Salary and/or Budget • Double Tithe • Stocks, Bonds, Real Estate • Collections (art, cars)
 - Giving Up Vacations/Home Additions • Delaying Purchases (furniture) • Inheritance
 - Return to Work Force or Postpone Retirement • Insurance Policy • Skip Daily Stop at Starbucks
- Continue to pray. If married, "negotiate" as necessary. Do not let this harm your marriage, but do trust the promises of God. Paul reminds us, "God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:7c-8). Thank God for your decision.
- Complete your commitment card, place it in the confidential envelope, and return it on, or before **Commitment Celebration Sunday (October 30)**, with the absolute confidence that this decision is what God has led you to do. And remember this— if God changes your circumstances, you are always welcome to adjust your commitment.

Remember what Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35c)