

Annual Pledge Drive- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Why do we need an annual Stewardship drive to raise funds?

A: About 75% of the income that supports our annual operating budget comes from the stewardship drive. The money we give supports our entire ministry including various outreach mission projects, building operations, reserves, staff, worship, children, youth, and adult programs. **The church counts on your annual pledge to determine our annual budget and program planning: you pledge or make a written commitment now for what you will donate in the 2023 calendar year.**

Q: How much should I pledge?

A: Session encourages members and non-members to pledge and give generously. There is no right amount, but we encourage 100% participation. Please consider for your pledge:

- Give in proportion to your means. Not everyone can give what you can, so think about tying your gift not just to what you think the church needs, but to what you have to offer.
- An old tradition in the church is to “tithes,” meaning giving 10% of income. Someone once asked, “Is that before or after-tax income?” If you’re asking that question, you’re on the right track.
- Give the gift that gives you joy. You might be surprised how much that is.
- Make the church one of your top charities. Many people support multiple organizations. The church depends on you making it a top priority.

Q: What types of donations are accepted to honor my annual pledge?

A: Donations (payments on your pledge) may be made with cash, check or other liquid assets (such as stock, real estate, etc.), which may have tax benefits. Contact the church bookkeeper, Diane Newman, for more information on making non-cash donations.

Q: When and how do I make donations or payments towards my annual pledge?

A: Many use our online giving options: using a credit card or directly debiting funds from a bank account. Details on how to set up your online and text giving can be found at www.wpctiburton.org/give. Some prefer placing their regular donation in the offering plate using an envelope, so that the gift is recorded against the pledge. Given COVID-19 and changing restrictions around in-person worship, we recommend this be done via online giving. Gifts can be made weekly, monthly, quarterly or in a single donation to fit your cash flow and budget.

Q: Who decides how the money is spent each year?

A: Each fall, with input from Finance and all the Commissions, the Session, our elected elders, carefully considers and approves the annual budget. The budget is presented along with proposed Pastors’ salaries, to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. The budget is available for review online several weeks before the meeting at: www.wpctiburton.org/members/financial/ or from the church office.

Q: How much of the budget goes to pay staff/personnel expenses?

A: Staff expenses are the largest single component of the budget, typical for most churches. Our pastoral staff and their leadership are key to our ministry.

Q: Doesn't the Presbyterian Church USA support WPC financially?

A: No. WPC actually *pays* the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a fee per member (per capita cost is \$35/member.) That money is well-spent supporting denomination-sponsored activities. In our denomination, individual churches support their own budgets.

Q: What if my financial circumstances change during the year and I can't fulfill my pledge?

A: A pledge is a commitment, but not a contract. If your finances change during the year, you may need to adjust your giving accordingly. In this circumstance you may reach out to the church staff or anyone on the Stewardship Committee.