

# WHY PLEDGE?

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*"Now about our church's program for next year. The full support of each member is needed so that our goals can be accomplished. We would like to invite you to make a pledge now for the new year."* This invitation concludes a visiting steward's conversation during an Every Member Visitation.

## Why should I make a pledge?

Pledging gives the church a priority in our lives. It is part of our covenant of faith. Since, as Christians, we believe that God gave us the greatest gift possible in God's Son, Jesus, our response to God should be first, not last. Making a commitment in the form of a pledge helps us to be regular and systematic in our giving and lets our congregation know that it can count on our financial support barring any unusual circumstances. Our commitment becomes planned and not just a part of what is left over after all our other pledges have been met.

Other pledges? Yes, we all do have other pledges or commitments. Think of the variety; the mortgage or loan company, the utility company, even our own savings programs. Could it be that these pledges are of higher concern than living out our response to God in a systematic way?

## How much should I pledge?

A very important part of pledging is basing it on a percent of total household income. Proportionate giving is the model in scripture, and still works very well today. Giving on a proportionate basis, and doing it regularly, enables us to do better household planning and makes it easier to increase our giving by increasing that percent of income.

## What if I can't complete my pledge?

A fact of life is that we cannot always keep the promises we make. Surely God understands that our pledge may have to be changed. Presbyterian commitment cards have a statement that acknowledges the freedom of the giver to change that pledge at any time and that privilege is always honored. Pledges can be adjusted according to changing circumstances, upward as well as down.

For your own growth, for the growth of the mission and ministry of your church, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) around the world, for providing exciting opportunities for growth in Christian commitment, PLEDGE. It's an expression of faith!



MISSION FUNDING  
100 Witherspoon Street  
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