



***A Personal Commitment Guide:  
Creative Strategies***



**2009 Capital Appeal**

## A Personal Commitment Guide: Connecting to Commitment

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.

*"For during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry."*

2 Corinthians  
8:2-4



**D**ISCOVER the church's God-given purpose and your God-given calling  
What is God calling this church to do and to be? How is God working through this church to change people's lives? And how would God work through you to make a difference in ministry?

**D**ELIBERATE with God  
Prayerfully seek God's leadership. Ask God to shape your decisions. Walk through the doors God opens for you!

**D**ISCUSS what you are learning with others  
Include your family in the discovery and decision-making process. Talk with and learn from the witness of people of faith in your church family.

**D**EFINE a sense of sacrifice in your life  
What decisions and priorities could you change in your life to better invest yourself in that which you believe? Give in ways that make a difference to you.

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

**D**ECIDE on a personal giving plan  
There is no correct method for giving in a capital challenge. 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 year to help you follow through with your commitment.

*"Lord, what do You want to do through me to help Your will happen in this church?"*  
*"Lord, what have You blessed me to do that You now want to do through me?"*

## Typical Commitments You Can Make: (Over a One-Year Period)

Weekly	Monthly	1 Year Total
5.00	20.00	240.00
8.00	32.00	384.00
10.00	40.00	480.00
15.00	60.00	720.00
20.00	80.00	960.00
25.00	100.00	1,200.00
30.00	120.00	1,440.00
40.00	160.00	1,920.00
50.00	200.00	2,400.00
60.00	240.00	2,880.00
75.00	300.00	3,600.00
100.00	400.00	4,800.00
300.00	1,200.00	14,400.00
500.00	2,000.00	24,000.00
1,000.00	4,000.00	48,000.00
2,000.00	8,000.00	96,000.00

*"Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."*  
Proverbs 3:9-10

*As always, the truest measure of stewardship is not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. Each and every person can meaningfully invest themselves in what God is doing at this church in proportion to the resources he or she possesses.*



*A one-year, over-and-above financial commitment to the capital-building fund requires proper motive and motivation. The following study will help you to discern your heart for giving generously.*

## Connecting to Joy

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you might discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

*Romans 12:1-2*

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, has this commitment made a difference to me?*** Does this commitment change my life, investing me in the mission and vision of the church?
- ❖ ***Is this a decision I was willing to take time to pray about?*** Am I genuinely seeking God’s guidance in how God might work through me?
- ❖ ***Have I had significant conversation about this decision?*** Did I consult my family and with my larger family of faith?
- ❖ ***Have I thought creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I am capable of giving?*** What assets and resources can I give as a gift?
- ❖ ***Does this giving decision involve a sense of sacrifice in my life?*** What priorities could I change to free resources to create a gift? Am I changing priorities in my life to better invest myself in that which I believe?
- ❖ ***Have I discovered a new joy in giving?*** Have I found joy in being invested in what I believe in? There is something fuller, freeing and deeper about the life of grace that we never fully experience until we learn to give ourselves as fully, freely and deeply as God gives to us.

## Connecting to Scripture

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

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

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

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*(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?**

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

**What does “sacrifice” mean to you? Define it.**

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

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

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



*As you consider your commitment,  
think creatively about how you can be generous.  
Ask God to show you new ways to give.*

## Connecting to Opportunities for Giving

### INCOME & SACRIFICE

**Income Stream Giving:** Giving as you receive income — whether weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, as a bonus, or in other time frames.

**Sacrifice:** Changing your life or your lifestyle in order to create resources for giving not only frees additional resources for giving but could also lead to a profound spiritual re-orientation and renewal.

**Delaying Expenditures:** Expected purchases might be postponed so that those funds could be given.

**Freedom from Debt:** Resources resulting once debts are paid can become a source for giving.

**Charitable Giving Review:** Reviewing all of your charitable donations and comparing their impact with the importance of your church's project may encourage you to consolidate some of your giving into this particular mission for a particular timeframe.

### GIVING ASSETS

**Income Producing Assets:** Interest earned, income from rental properties, or monies from other income producing assets can be dedicated and donated.

**Appreciated Assets:** Transferring appreciated assets (stocks, real estate, etc.) can greatly enlarge a gift and may provide tax benefits.

**Sale of Assets:** Money resulting from the sale of personal assets, or from personally owned business assets, can be donated.

**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 & TALENTS

**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 for capital projects.

*"Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness,  
and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving."  
2 Corinthians 8:7*

*Seldom are we aware of all that we have to give.  
This is a time for inventory and investment.*

## Connecting with Your Potential for Giving

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

INCOME & SACRIFICE	POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
Analyze your projected income and spending patterns for the next year and determine how much could be given and when. Alter your style of living in meaningful ways in order to give what you save or don't spend.		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____

GIVING ASSETS	POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
What accumulated assets in your life could be given by transfer to the church? What income producing assets could be dedicated and donated? What assets could be sold so that their value could be permanently invested in ministry?		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____
		\$ _____

TIME AND TALENT	POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
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 ANNUAL POTENTIAL COMMITMENT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-9*