

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the purpose of the “Doing What Love Requires” pledge drive?

Christians understand that all that we have comes from God. Returning thanks to God from the blessings we receive is an expression of gratitude that extends that blessing to others. Our gift to the Church helps us live faithfully by supporting the mission of the Church from our abundance.

While God calls us to be good stewards of God’s blessings year-round, we focus on monetary giving this time of year in order to invite our members to contribute their financial resources back to God’s mission at St. Peter’s, as well as to help deepen their commitment to God in Christ.

### How do I determine the amount of my pledge?

Financial commitment to God’s work at St. Peter’s is a personal, intentional, and spiritual decision that we hope you make after much thought and prayer. The biblical standard of giving is known as the tithe—10% of income. It is a way of returning thanks to God for the blessings we receive from God in our life. Tithing is a means of proportional giving that allows everyone to give at a level that reflects his or her resources. Here is a chart with some examples.

Sample Proportional Giving Percentages				
Income	3%	5%	7%	10%
\$10,000	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000
\$20,000	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
\$250,000	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000

### Ten percent feels like a stretch. How do I work toward the goal of tithing?

Any gift you give is of value and appreciated. Working toward tithing your income can be accomplished through the action of incremental increase; that is, increase your pledge by a percentage over last year. For example, if you pledged \$4,400 for 2020, you might increase by 10% to pledge an additional \$440, or \$4,840 for 2021.

### Are there ways besides cash and checks by which to fulfill my pledge?

Yes. Some may prefer to give from their capital assets. Appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash gift.

### I give to the church throughout the year to support mission projects. Does that count toward my pledge?

No. Giving for special projects helps us support mission endeavors above and beyond what is budgeted for a given year.

### What about planned giving in my will?

In addition to current yearly giving, notifying the church that one’s will includes a bequest facilitates long-term financial planning. Check the box on the front side of this sheet for more information about planned giving to the St. Peter’s Endowment.

### Why is a pledge preferred to a one-time donation?

For most, spreading a pledge out over twelve months (or 52 weeks) allows for a more substantial gift that a single donation and turns the act of giving into a frequent spiritual discipline. Making a pledge also helps us plan next year’s budget and helps with monthly cash flow.

### What if I can’t fulfill my pledge?

Life situations change, and sometimes such changes involve shifting financial realities. If for some reason you must amend your pledged amount, please let the rector know. This happens periodically, so please do not feel uncomfortable making such an adjustment.

### How can I learn more about the role of stewardship in my life?

Stewardship is about our relationship to all aspects of the world—physical, spiritual, relational—and how we manage those things entrusted to our care. Please feel free to speak with the Rector or a member of our Stewardship Team to explore this subject more deeply.



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

99 Sand Hill Road, South Windsor, CT 06074  
860-644-8548 • [www.stpeters-sw.org](http://www.stpeters-sw.org)