



DISCERNMENT GUIDE for PLEDGING AT LCC

fall stewardship 2023

Discernment and Stewardship are churchy-words that mean "thoughtful, prayerful consideration" and "taking care of the resources God has entrusted to us." Each fall at Lakewood Congregational Church, we're invited to discern our stewardship of our church's mission by making a financial pledge. While there are many beautiful ways to support the church, we simply couldn't do ministry without money.

In a practical sense, a pledge is an **intention** which allows the church to plan and budget for the upcoming year and into the future.

In a deeper sense, pledging is a **spiritual practice** which invites us to prioritize faith in our lives.

In our faith community we experience **Abundant Life** in celebrations and obstacles alike through our covenant and shared values. That deep joy has been built for generations at LCC and will keep growing for generations to come, thanks to faithful stewardship.

Your pledge is a joyful practice of giving & receiving through the church we love.

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

- What are some ways LCC has built community this year?
- Think of one person (or a few people!) who have inspired you this year at LCC. Have you told them? If not, now is a great time to do it!
- How has LCC changed your life?
- What is something you wish you had more of? Something you wish you had less of? What do you have just enough of?
- Think about the things money can't buy: love, peace, hope, health, (your turn!) _____, _____, _____, and _____. How do the church's resources help to make those things happen?

Give me some PRACTICAL ADVICE!

Pledging is a personal decision with no right or wrong answers. Even the smallest gift is a meaningful way of expressing your commitment to your faith! But sometimes it helps to have a place to start. The charts on the back of this page might help, but here are a few other tidbits to consider:

- The two most common annual pledges at LCC for 2022 were \$1,200 and \$3,600 (\$100 and \$300/month). *Some easy, well-rounded numbers.*
- *Think about the bills that are essential in your home.* Is there one you can "match" with your monthly pledge to remind you that church is essential too?
- Last year, we spent about \$300 on water for our water coolers (*when was I thirsty and you gave me something to drink?* Matthew 25:35) and about \$2200 on our phone and internet service. *Consider "sponsoring" one of those essentials this year.*



INCOME-BASED PERCENTAGE GIVING

to consider an income-based pledge, find your income on the left, and consider weekly gifts at various percentage levels.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	weekly gift amount					
			2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$16,000	\$1,333	\$308	\$6	\$12	\$18	\$25	\$31	\$46
20,000	1,667	385	8	15	23	31	39	58
25,000	2,083	481	10	19	29	38	48	72
30,000	2,500	577	12	23	35	46	58	87
40,000	3,333	769	15	31	46	62	77	115
50,000	4,167	962	19	38	58	77	96	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23	46	69	92	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29	58	87	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38	77	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48	96	144	192	240	361

PERCENTAGE-BASED PLEDGE INCREASE

If you've already pledged in previous years, consider a small increase which can make a big impact!

Current Annual Pledge	5% Increase		10% Increase		15% Increase	
	Weekly	Yearly	Weekly	Yearly	Weekly	Yearly
\$500	\$0.48	\$25	\$0.96	\$50	\$1.44	\$75
750	0.72	38	1.44	75	2.16	113
1,000	0.96	50	1.92	100	2.88	150
1,200	1.15	60	2.31	120	3.46	180
2,400	2.31	120	4.62	240	6.92	360
3,600	3.46	180	6.92	360	10.38	540
5,000	4.81	250	9.62	500	14.42	750
7,500	7.21	375	14.42	750	21.63	1,125
10,000	9.62	500	19.23	1,000	28.85	1,500

NOTES: