



Building the **Body of Christ** at Trinity

How Do I Pledge?

We endeavor to make it really easy. You can pledge online, by phone, or by turning in your pledge card, either in church or in the mail.

When do I pledge?

While our annual giving campaign is held in the fall, pledges may be made at any time.

How do I pay my pledge?

You may pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly via cash, check, credit card, or electronic fund transfer (EFT). You may also pay with stock donations.

Is my pledge confidential?

Trinity keeps pledges strictly confidential. Members of our Finance staff and the Rector are the only people with access to giving information.

How do I determine my pledge?

Determining your annual pledge is a prayerful act of discernment. As you make this important decision, reflecting on your vision of Christian stewardship may be helpful.

Bishop Claude Payne, retired Bishop of Texas, has a helpful perspective on this. Bishop Payne suggests that we consider our vision of stewardship in terms of a spectrum:

- I give because I am supposed to give
—*a sense of duty*
- I give to pay my own way—*a sense of fairness*
- I give to return a portion of my blessings
—*a sense of gratitude*
- I give to support church ministries for others
—*a sense of generosity*

Upon self-examination, you may be able to identify your own motivation for giving. With prayer and discernment, you may expand your vision of stewardship and find your faith expanding as well.

Questions about pledging?

If you have questions about financial stewardship or your pledge, please call or email to speak with the Rector or the Director of Finance and Administration.

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www.trinitychurchindy.org/PLEDGE

When you make a pledge you enable the Trinity vestry, the parish's lay governing board, to be able to plan for and build an annual budget to support Trinity's many vibrant programs.

This is different from contributions you may make on Sundays or any time throughout the year. Pledged funds translate into the budget for planning. They are very real evidence of our intention to build the kingdom of God here at Trinity.



2020 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL FAQ

Why is an annual stewardship appeal important?

At Trinity, we believe that financial stewardship is an important component of a vital spiritual life. Returning to God from that which God has given us is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives as we are able, together we support ministry within our parish, to the Indianapolis community, and to the world.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a commitment to give that allows church leadership to determine a budget for the coming year. Pledging is also a response to God's call and abundance in our own lives: to commit to support our church which nourishes us and our community. It is a declaration of thanksgiving.

PROPORTIONAL GIVING

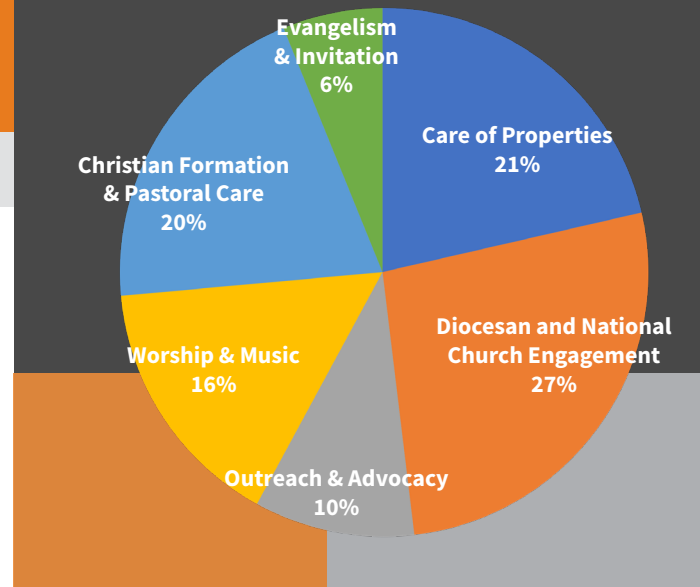
WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Pledging allows you to make intentional decisions about your financial giving. When you plan ahead for your giving, you make conscious choices about spending your money in ways that reflect your faith and values. Moreover, Episcopal churches are self-funded. Receiving your pledge allows our Vestry, the church's governing board, to do for our parish community what you do for your household: to plan wisely for the use of our resources in support of the mission and ministry to which God has called us. The Vestry sets a budget based on the amount pledged to the church. While plate offerings are important to the parish, your pledge lets the Vestry plan more accurately for the year at hand.

Trinity has an endowment, right? So, do you really need my pledge?

Trinity is blessed with invested resources in a Legacy Fund which allows us to do far more than a parish of our size would ordinarily be able to accomplish. We have incubated and/or host many significant ministry partners, including St. Nicholas Early Learning, the Mid-North Food Pantry, St. Richard's Episcopal School, the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, Project Home Indy, and most recently, Trinity Haven, a dedicated home for LGBTQ youth.

However, Trinity needs your pledge for three reasons. First, we need to grow our pledged income so that we manage our investments responsibly, attaining our goal to reduce our Legacy Fund draw to a consistent, sustainable level. Second, your pledge is maximized in its impact because of the legacy of giving of those who have gone before us and have invested in Trinity's future. **Most importantly**, giving of one's abundance is a spiritual act, driven by faithful discernment and the call to be a contributor in one's faith community—to build the Body of Christ with our time, our talent, *and* our treasure.



How will my pledge be used?

The chart above breaks down Trinity's expenses in ministry categories. Presently, only about 33% of our income comes from pledges. We seek to raise that percentage in the years ahead. We use pledged moneys primarily for ministry and mission (worship, learning, pastoral care, outreach) and lean more on the Legacy Fund for our property maintenance and larger church engagement.

What if I make a pledge but later find I can't pay it in full?

Parishioners raise and lower their pledge all the time. A pledge is an estimate to help church budgeting; it is not a legal or moral obligation. Please don't let your uncertainty prevent you from making a pledge. If you have financial difficulties or other unexpected events, simply notify the clergy or finance office to adjust your pledge confidentially. *Also, if you're blessed with unexpected extra income, you're always welcome to increase your pledge as well!*

What is proportional giving?

One way to determine one's pledge is via proportional giving, with the goal of tithing. A tithe is 10% of your income. The national Episcopal Church has affirmed the tithe is the scriptural standard for giving and encourages its members to tithe, or to be working toward a tithe. Many people choose to divide their tithe among the church and other worthy organizations. A tithe may sound like an unattainable goal. If you start with some proportion of your income and increase each year, you will be tithing in short time. One option is 2.5%, which is equivalent to pledging the first hour's pay of a 40-hour work week.

Does every pledge, every amount matter?

Yes! However you determine your pledge—whether you tithe on your net or gross income, or simply give a set amount—is not nearly as important as making the pledge itself. Every pledge makes a difference as we endeavor to build the Body of Christ together.

PLEDGING PROFILE:

For 2019, pledging statistics were as follows:

- Total number of pledging households: 230
- Approximate Range: \$10-\$33,000
- Average pledged: \$2,780

2020 STEWARDSHIP GOAL:

This year's campaign goal is \$684,000, but our number one goal is 100% participation.

With the commitment of everyone in the Trinity community, we will be able to meet our pledge goal through increased and new pledges in order to Build the Body of Christ in 2020.