

*Bearing in mind the Grace of God...*

## 4 Steps to Transformed Giving

1. What is your likely weekly, monthly or annual income from salary/pension/benefits? (After tax)
2. Make the joyful decision about the percentage of that which you will give away
3. Calculate the actual target amount in £ or € to be given away
4. Decide who will be the beneficiaries

### What happens to what we put on the offering plate?

Your offering helps to fund the work of the church in the service of the Kingdom of God. Find out what our generosity accomplishes through the three main funds of the Presbyterian Church. It's an inspiring story and you need to know.

- **The Freewill Offering (FWO)** supports your local church and many central projects
- **The United Appeal for Mission** supports our local and global witness
- **The World Development Appeal** gives a hand up to the poorest of the earth. Caring for "the least" is a key indicator of our faithfulness to the gospel. Matthew 25:40-45

*"The General Assembly, while bearing in mind that circumstances vary widely, encourage Presbyterians, in the exercise of their joyful freedom and responsibilities, to consider setting aside in the region of at least 10% of their income (after tax) as a target for their Christian generosity"*

**(Resolution passed by the 2012 General Assembly)**

For more information please visit [www.givingingrace.org](http://www.givingingrace.org)

**By planning our generosity  
we make a difference.**



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# The Grace of Giving

*Be Joyful – Be Generous*

*"Just as you excel in all things – in faith, speech, knowledge ... so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving"*

*2 Corinthians 8:7-8*

*To all who are members of the  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

**Thank you for all the faith, service and generosity which you have shown over many years as together we have faced many challenges and opportunities in the name of our Lord.**

Within the Presbyterian Church this year we are seeking to honour God's call to become a 'Caring Fellowship'. We are to welcome the stranger and show grace and love in our prayers and support for every individual.

This leaflet reminds us of the grace and generosity of God and calls us to respond by being joyful and generous in our giving, as we give in proportion to what we have received. We are a privileged people and God expects much of us.

*I warmly commend this initiative to you and the whole Church family.*



From Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie  
*Moderator of the General Assembly*

*"We need three conversions – of the heart, of the head and of the wallet" Martin Luther*



*"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."*  
2 Corinthians 8:9



*Giving should be a priority, regular and sustained – set something aside for God on the first day of each week.*  
1 Corinthians 16:2



## *The Face of Giving*

First of all, put a face on giving: the loving face of the Father who calls and welcomes His children home.

Our giving occurs in the context of this relationship. It is a response to who God is and all he has done for us.

**We love because God first loved us.** We forgive because we know what it is to be forgiven. We are compassionate because compassion has been showered upon us. And we give because God is the great giver, giving even his Son.

## *The Grace of Giving*

Giving is a response to the grace that God extends to us. Whilst we can never match the extent of God's giving, we should seek to emulate its spirit, our imitation of God's love played out in our attitudes and actions.

**There is freedom and joy in giving** that is totally non-transactional. We cut no deals with God and our giving earns us nothing: everything we need to earn has been earned for us by Jesus.

**Giving, therefore, should never be a matter of guilt.** None of us would like to receive a gift that is thrust miserably into our hands, nothing but an obligation. God is no different.

**Cheerful giving means generous giving.** The Old Testament taught the principle of tithing, giving 10% of income. Whilst the New Testament does not command tithing, reflecting our new found freedom from law, a tithe is a guide rather than a command and remains a benchmark.

**The mathematics of tithing is simple** – even after 10% has been given, we still have 90%, and that 90% is much more than most people in this world even have to begin with. We should not overlook the hard times that many in our society are experiencing. Every congregation has a wide diversity of incomes. Our giving should be proportionate to our resources.



*God loves a cheerful giver.*  
2 Corinthians 9:7

## *The Place of Giving*

As Christians, both young and old, there are many worthy calls upon our money, but the foremost place of giving ought to be our local congregation, and the mission of the wider Presbyterian church to which we belong.

In our proper recognition that other causes are important, the pendulum of our giving should not swing away from the mission of this church of which we are a part. Each individual will decide how much to give to charities and other Christian organisations.

**It is not unspiritual to say that the church needs resources** – individuals called and set aside for service, as well as buildings and a rich variety of programmes and projects – all need to be properly funded.

Our giving results in "thanksgiving and brings glory to God's name".  
2 Corinthians 9:12.

**When more is given, more is possible:** scripture uses the analogy of a harvest, teaching that a church whose members sow generously can expect a rich harvest. Giving is not a loss, it is an investment in the kingdom of God.

**Our giving should be planned and regular,** in addition to one-off projects. We should also regularly evaluate our level of giving, whether in cash terms or as a percentage of our income. We should take time to read our church reports and church magazines, to understand the financial situation of our local congregation and the work of the wider church and respond accordingly. This is an intrinsic part of church membership and part of the working out of our faith.

There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible about money, wealth and possessions, and around a third of Jesus' parables related to such themes.



*Jesus said "Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given."*  
Luke 12:48