

Why We Pledge – Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the Church ask you to pledge each year? To help you understand not only why donating to the Church is important and why a pledge commitment is essential to the survival of our Church, we have created this FAQ Guide to help you to understand why we have an annual pledge campaign.

What is Christian Stewardship?

We define stewardship as our response to God’s love, grace, and salvation. Stewardship gives us all a chance to use our gifts of skill, service, and support to do God’s work in the world. While committed participation in the Church community through sharing of your skills and your service is important, it is also important that the Church has monetary support to attain its goals, provide worship services, run programs, and provide positive outreach and impact within our ACC community and beyond.

What is Pledging?

When you pledge, you make a commitment to give a certain amount of money to the Church throughout the year. You can indicate on your pledge card whether you want to make an annual, quarterly, monthly, or weekly contribution.

Your pledge is just that – a pledge or promise to contribute monetary support to the life of the Church. Your pledge funds are due on the schedule that you select on your pledge card.

Why is it Important to Pledge?

As Christians, we worship God in all areas of our lives, including our finances. When we make a commitment to pledging a certain amount of money, we are serving God through our material resources. Giving is an essential part of the Christian faith; Christians have practiced the discipline of giving for hundreds of years.

When you pledge:

- you show your commitment to the future of our Church and its community;
- you demonstrate your gratitude to God for all the blessings you have received; and
- you make a difference in other people’s lives through the healing ministries of the Church of Christ.

Therefore, pledging is a joyous Christian discipline in our life.

Why Does the Church Need my Money?

God does not need your money, but the Church does. As a not-for-profit organization, Acton Congregational Church needs your financial support to provide a home away from home for all our members where they can enjoy the benefits of worship, fellowship, and religious and personal growth.

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As the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force uncovered, one of the most important aspects of Church life to our members was a sense of community. We establish that community and “third space” in our lives through worship, fellowship, learning, and growth. To meet these goals for community, we must invest in our Church and its programs and ministries.

The worship, education, mission outreach and fellowship programs we offer would not be possible without your pledge. Your pledges fund our Sunday school program, youth groups, Adult Education classes, Caring Ministries, our music poand the work of all the church committees and ministries. In addition, your pledges allow us to pay our hard-working Church staff including the Senior Minister, the Director of Family and Youth Ministries, the Coordinator of Music, the Senior Choir Director, the Church Administrator, the Facilities Specialist, and the financial and administrative support staff. This hard-working team provides the congregation with a well-run sacred place to seek faith, comfort, growth and fellowship in times both good and bad.

As you may notice with maintaining your own home, the cost of utilities and basic maintenance for the Church building has risen. While we have taken many steps to offset these increases, it is still expensive to maintain an active and well-used Church facility. You could not run your own homes without a working knowledge of your expected income and expenses over the course of a year. The Church faces those same challenges, and your pledge commitment allows us to set our budgets for the coming year.

In addition, many Churches fund their activities through large endowments. Acton Congregational Church has always funded its activities through pledges by our members. Together, we create, engage, and invest in the life of our Church, shaping it through our participation through both service and support.

When you make a pledge, you allow us to better plan on how to make investments and informed decisions that will strengthen the life, ministries, and mission of our Church.

Do I Have to Pledge?

None of our church members are required to pledge to participate in the life of Acton Congregational Church. That said, pledging is not simply writing a check to meet the needs of our budget. it is instead a concrete proof of our gratitude to God for this Church, and for God’s love and care for you and your loved ones.

Does It Matter How Much I Pledge?

We love and accept people at Acton Congregational Church regardless of how much they pledge. We simply hope that all our members will faithfully give to our Church, so we may continue to proclaim God’s love, to do God’s work, and to help the least of God’s children.

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Some Christians choose to give 10% of their income to the church; others make a commitment to give a different percentage. Whatever each member decides to give, it must be a decision done prayerfully and joyfully, so we may all give thanks together for the privilege we have been given to use our resources to help others and to glorify God, our Maker and Giver of all good gifts.

Please find below a handy chart to assist you with determining how much you are comfortable in contributing.

Annual Income	Weekly Offering Based Upon Annual Income								
	Percent of Income						Tithe		
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	7.5%	10%	12.5%	15%
\$ 10,000	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 8	\$ 10	\$ 14	\$ 19	\$ 24	\$ 29
\$ 20,000	\$ 4	\$ 8	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 19	\$ 29	\$ 38	\$ 48	\$ 58
\$ 30,000	\$ 6	\$ 12	\$ 17	\$ 23	\$ 29	\$ 43	\$ 58	\$ 72	\$ 87
\$ 40,000	\$ 8	\$ 15	\$ 23	\$ 31	\$ 38	\$ 58	\$ 77	\$ 96	\$ 115
\$ 50,000	\$ 10	\$ 19	\$ 29	\$ 38	\$ 48	\$ 72	\$ 96	\$ 120	\$ 144
\$ 60,000	\$ 12	\$ 23	\$ 35	\$ 46	\$ 58	\$ 87	\$ 115	\$ 144	\$ 173
\$ 70,000	\$ 13	\$ 27	\$ 40	\$ 54	\$ 67	\$ 101	\$ 135	\$ 168	\$ 202
\$ 80,000	\$ 15	\$ 31	\$ 46	\$ 62	\$ 77	\$ 115	\$ 154	\$ 192	\$ 231
\$ 90,000	\$ 17	\$ 35	\$ 52	\$ 69	\$ 87	\$ 130	\$ 173	\$ 216	\$ 260
\$ 100,000	\$ 19	\$ 38	\$ 58	\$ 77	\$ 96	\$ 144	\$ 192	\$ 240	\$ 288
\$ 110,000	\$ 21	\$ 42	\$ 63	\$ 85	\$ 106	\$ 159	\$ 212	\$ 264	\$ 317
\$ 120,000	\$ 23	\$ 46	\$ 69	\$ 92	\$ 115	\$ 173	\$ 231	\$ 288	\$ 346
\$ 130,000	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 75	\$ 100	\$ 125	\$ 188	\$ 250	\$ 313	\$ 375
\$ 140,000	\$ 27	\$ 54	\$ 81	\$ 108	\$ 135	\$ 202	\$ 269	\$ 337	\$ 404
\$ 150,000	\$ 29	\$ 58	\$ 87	\$ 115	\$ 144	\$ 216	\$ 288	\$ 361	\$ 433
\$ 200,000	\$ 38	\$ 77	\$ 115	\$ 154	\$ 192	\$ 288	\$ 385	\$ 481	\$ 577
\$ 250,000	\$ 48	\$ 96	\$ 144	\$ 192	\$ 240	\$ 361	\$ 481	\$ 601	\$ 721

How Do I Complete My 2025 Pledge

The options for turning in your 2025 Pledge Card include:

- Drop it in the Pledge Card Box on the Opportunity Table at the back of the Sanctuary, or bring it with you for a special collection on Stewardship Sunday, October 20th.
- Mail it to: Acton Congregational Church, 12 Concord Road, Acton MA 01720, Care of Annual Appeal
- Take a picture of your completed Pledge Card and email it to finance@actonc.org

Donations of Stocks and Equities are also welcome. Please contact finance@actonc.org for further guidance on how to contribute investments.

We encourage everyone who is making a financial commitment to consider electronic giving. Signup is done on our website at www.actonc.org. Click on “Donations” then “Online Giving.” So that the church can record your pledge, please fill out your pledge card even if you give electronically. If you would like assistance setting up electronic giving, check the box on the pledge card, or contact the church office.

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Can I Change My Pledge If My Financial Circumstances Change?

Yes. We understand that circumstances in our lives change. Sometimes people give more than they originally pledged. Other times, they need to reduce or even cancel their pledge for some time. We simply ask that you let us know if your circumstances change.

Some Perspective

There is a story told about the great fifteenth-century Jewish diplomat and scholar Don Isaac Abrabanel, who was the chancellor to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Castile. Once the king asked him how much he owned. He named a certain figure. “But surely,” the king said, “you own much more than that.” ‘You asked me,’ Abrabanel replied, ‘how much I owned. The property I have, I do not own. Your majesty may seize it from me tomorrow. At best I am its temporary guardian. The sum I mentioned is what I have given away to charity. That merit alone, neither you nor any earthly power can take away from me.’ This story reminds us that we only own what we are willing to share with others.

As a matter of fact, a recent study conducted by Professor Michael Norton from Harvard Business School found that the old adage is true, “It is better to give than to receive.” This study found out that people who give money to causes they truly care about are happier, no matter how much they give away. This finding came as a surprise to many, but it reveals something that has been part of the Christian tradition for over two millennia. When you respond to God’s love and offer the gifts of your labor to God so that others may be blessed, you find great joy. We hope that all our Church members will turn in their pledges in gratitude for all they have received from God and as a sign of their commitment to the future of Acton Congregational Church.

We hope you will show your excitement and commitment to everything that is happening at Acton Congregational Church. God has surely blessed us, and we have many reasons to be thankful. May your giving bring you great joy as we work together to make a difference in people’s lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us together sow the seeds of tomorrow.