

The Life of the Church



Sources of Income

Pledges account for approximately two-thirds of the income required to support the church's budget. Other sources of income include endowment funds and rental and use fees.

2020 to 2021 Comparison

Pledge amount increased nearly 10%.
Number of pledges increased over 15%.
Continue the momentum!

Ways to Make Your Pledge!

1. Cash or Check
2. Give Electronically on the Church website
3. Automatic Bank Account Withdrawals
4. By Giving Assets—Stock Shares or Mutual Funds. Please notify the treasurer when donating stocks.
5. IRA withdrawals made directly to the Church for those over 72+ years old

Tax advantages

(consult your tax advisor)

1. A tax deduction of up to \$300 for gifts to non-profits.
2. Tax break for Church donations if you itemize deductions.

Contact Treasurer Denise Martin for more information.

Thoughtfully Pledging

Making a financial pledge has been an automatic function in my life. Not a whole lot of time has been spent considering the depth of my commitment. New pledge? Yes, of course, but WHY?

Being part of this Vergennes Congregational Church community is a source of fulfillment for me. Knowing how much we serve the wider community and care for each other is amazing. Helping to support these efforts connects each of us to each other.

Careful consideration about my own involvement and connection makes me pause to realize how this is important. Making a real long term plan to be part of our successes gives rise to a calculation for giving. In the past, I've hardly given it any thought; I'm taking serious notice of this going forward.

Janet Gibbs, Stewardship Committee

Vergennes Congregational Church



Continue the Momentum
2022
Stewardship
Campaign

From Pastor Elliott Munn

Dear Church,

As I reflect upon the financial health of the congregation at the dawn of a new stewardship campaign, there is so much for us to be proud of over the last year. Last fall, we raised the highest annual pledge total in the history of our congregation. We are now on pace to meet (and potentially exceed) that total through some incredible generosity. We also have



honored our commitments to pay our staff fair wages, support our community and the wider Church, and maintain our building as a vital mission site. Far beyond Sunday activities, the generosity of our church makes possible a robust

mission that includes free groceries, affordable pre-K education, and a place where locals can count on finding people they trust. This is no small accomplishment.

Our challenge is to keep up the momentum the Holy Spirit has already started in our midst. Over the next few weeks, you will hear more about the amazing impact of this church and the stark challenges that lie ahead. I am firm believer that we as a church have the collective resources to shape the community we want to have. Nevertheless, for us to continue to live out such an expansive mission, each of us will have to thoughtfully reconsider our relationship to giving.

My hope is that this reads as an invitation to a blessing rather than a balance due. In one of the early church stewardship campaigns, the apostle Paul wrote, “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly

or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Becoming a cheerful giver does not flow from being in the right mood first, but instead the act of giving itself. We are not the only ones who experience joy in finding just the right gift for someone we love. God delights in how giving freely makes the heart of the giver cheerful, and our God, the Giver of all good gifts, delights in our thriving.

As your pastor, I hope that we all can become more cheerful givers of our time and treasure. It is critical to both our financial and spiritual health.

Peace,

First Time Pledging

Last year was my first time making a pledge to the church. Prior to working with the Stewardship Committee I had never given much thought how the church pays for itself, and it has been eye-opening to learn how much we rely on the generosity and financial support of our congregation. Pledges made around our annual fall Stewardship campaign make up more than half of our church's operating budget, and are critical to the VCC's ability to carry out our good work and service to both our members and the wider community.

I had always considered myself to be in no kind of financial position to pledge, and imagined pledges as being given only by those



How Much to Pledge?

Here's a break down of 2021 pledges to help give you a sense of how much individuals pledged last fall.

33% Pledges \$100-\$1,040	33% pledges \$1,092-\$2,400	33% pledges \$2,500-\$7,800
\$100	\$1,092	\$2,500
\$120	\$1,200	\$2,800
\$200	\$1,200	\$3,000
\$200	\$1,200	\$3,380
\$250	\$1,300	\$3,600
\$300	\$1,500	\$3,640
\$300	\$1,500	\$4,000
\$300	\$1,500	\$4,400
\$300	\$1,560	\$4,500
\$500	\$1,620	\$5,000
\$500	\$1,680	\$5,200
\$520	\$1,680	\$5,500
\$600	\$1,800	\$6,000
\$600	\$1,800	\$6,000
\$750	\$1,800	\$6,240
\$800	\$2,000	\$7,000
\$800	\$2,004	\$7,000
\$1,040	\$2,400	\$7,800

Never pledged before? Select an amount that you are comfortable with and plan to make incremental increases in future years.

with large amounts of spare money. However, during our 2020 campaign I became aware of the wide range in the amounts given which made me feel more comfortable giving for the first time. It felt good knowing that while my pledge would be on the lower end of the spectrum it would be far from the only gift in that range, and that those smaller gifts added up to a significant portion of our budget. This is how I became convinced to take the plunge and fill out my pledge card to become a supporting member of our congregation.

Jeremy Ouimette, Stewardship Committee