



Will You
Grow?

TOOLKIT

**Practical ideas for living
and giving generously**

University United Methodist Church • Chapel Hill, NC

WILL YOU GROW?

Dear Friends,

Have you ever considered the difference between spending and giving? Spending money is a part of life. There are bills to pay and daily spending choices. We are constantly making choices about spending money - buying coffee, going out for dinner, seeing a movie, etc. Spending, though, is not always gratifying. What we buy usually does not last long.

We believe that giving to God is different than spending. The good that we do in the various ways that we give resonates on into eternity. In giving, we seek to connect our hearts with the heart of God as we work for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom here and everywhere. When you give, you are making a difference for the gospel in the world.

The "Will You Grow?" campaign is about generous giving. It is about impacting our world for God. How do you determine the amount you give? As everyone has different incomes and resources to give, we each must pray about our response.

We have put this generosity toolkit together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how God might invite you to trust God during the "Will You Grow?" campaign. You'll find ideas to help you pray and consider how God might have you grow in giving. My hope and prayer is that you experience the power of God in your life as you seek God through generous giving.

Blessings,
Pastor Justin

The most effective path to generosity is a spiritual path where you set your heart on things above. Then, your financial priorities will naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities.

People often describe this as "living a generous lifestyle." It is always a temptation to give to God in such a way that it makes little impact on how you live. The challenge of living a generous lifestyle is to intentionally and prayerfully find ways to do just that - to let your giving touch your living!

King David declared,
**"I will not give to God that
which costs me nothing."**
(2 Samuel 24:24)

He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver.

A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver! This is the spirit of lifestyle generosity — **"If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me."**

Lifestyle generosity is a level of giving that affects you - your plans, your activities, your attitude and your approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another.



During all services on November 17, 2019, our University UMC family will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity as we complete our Estimate of Giving cards to the "Will You Grow?" campaign.

You will receive your card in worship to be completed and turned in at the altar. Below is an example of the Estimate of Giving card.

God has given us a mission and has challenged us to commit our hearts in faith to share the love of Jesus Christ with our community.

I/We estimate giving to the operating budget next year as follows:

2020 Annual Estimate of Giving: \$ _____

Choose how you plan to fulfill your commitment:

weekly monthly quarterly annually

Name (please print): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address(es): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I understand this estimate of giving may be revised or canceled at any time at my request.

University United Methodist Church
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Ways to Grow

Following are some ways to give that perhaps you haven't thought of before.

1. PRIORITY BUDGETING

You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to grow in your giving. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, remodeling, or other major purchase.

2. APPRECIATED ASSETS

Many people own assets that have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. That is good news. The bad news is that if these assets were sold, a significant portion of the gain could be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets — typically investment securities or real estate — can be advantageous to both the donor and the church. Also, if you are 70.5 in age or older and have an IRA there are certain advantageous rules for you. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about how to grow in your giving in this manner.

3. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENSES

There are also ways we can grow by each of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something we value more, in this case the mission and vision of University UMC. Here are just a few examples of how a small change could become very large if we were all in on this effort.

ACTIVITY PER MONTH	AVERAGE COST	x 12 MONTHS	x 438 FAMILIES
4 Cups of Coffee	\$16	\$192	\$84,096
1 Restaurant Meal for Family	\$40	\$480	\$210,240
		\$672	\$294,336

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

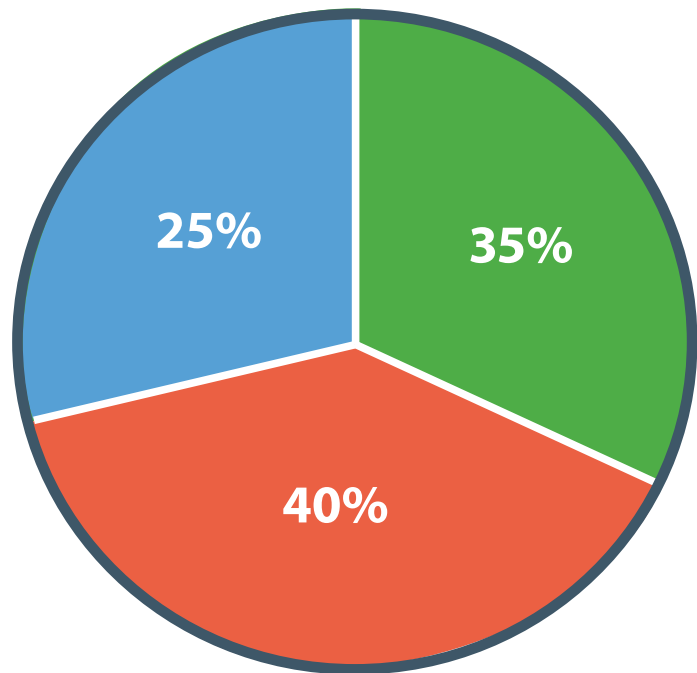
University UMC's Use of Resources for 2018

Total Expenses Allocated:
\$1,883,534

35% Reach \$652,280

40% Teach \$764,445

25% Send \$466,809



Reach \$652,280

We reach our community and beyond with the good news that Jesus saves lives ([Luke 15](#); [19:10](#)). *Evangelism, Outreach, Hospitality, Facilities*

Teach \$764,445

We teach believers through the Bible how to love God and love their neighbors as themselves ([Col. 1:28](#), [Matthew 22:37-40](#)). *Worship, Adult Discipleship, Music Ministries, Children, Youth*

Send \$466,809

We send those believers back out into the world to share with others the story of how Jesus saved them ([Rom. 10:13-15](#); [Acts 1:8](#)). *Missions, Benevolence, Hospital Visitations, Congregational Care*

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THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY

We must always remember there is much more to generosity than just a financial transaction. In God's eyes our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a transformation. It is truly a matter of the heart!

The Generosity Journey can help us think about this transformation. Make no mistake; **to move along this path requires a heart change.**

Moving along the path does not make us super Christians; it brings us to a greater understanding of God, not a greater view of ourselves.

As you look and think about this journey, ask yourself, "What drives you to be generous?"

...to move along this path requires a heart change.



Initial Giver

An initial giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God about giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7-9)

Consistent Giver

A consistent giver is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis. (2 Corinthians 9:12-15)

Intentional Giver

An intentional giver is someone who is beginning to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. (Luke 14:28-35)

Sacrificial Giver

A sacrificial giver is someone who cheerfully gives out of their own necessary provision. They make decisions to live more well within their means to create more margin to give generously. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Legacy Giver

A legacy giver is someone who is thinking about the legacy view of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. (1 Timothy 6:6-19)



One helpful way to consider generosity is to think of it as a journey. Where are you now on the journey? Where is God calling you to be? What would be needed for you to take the next step on the generosity journey?

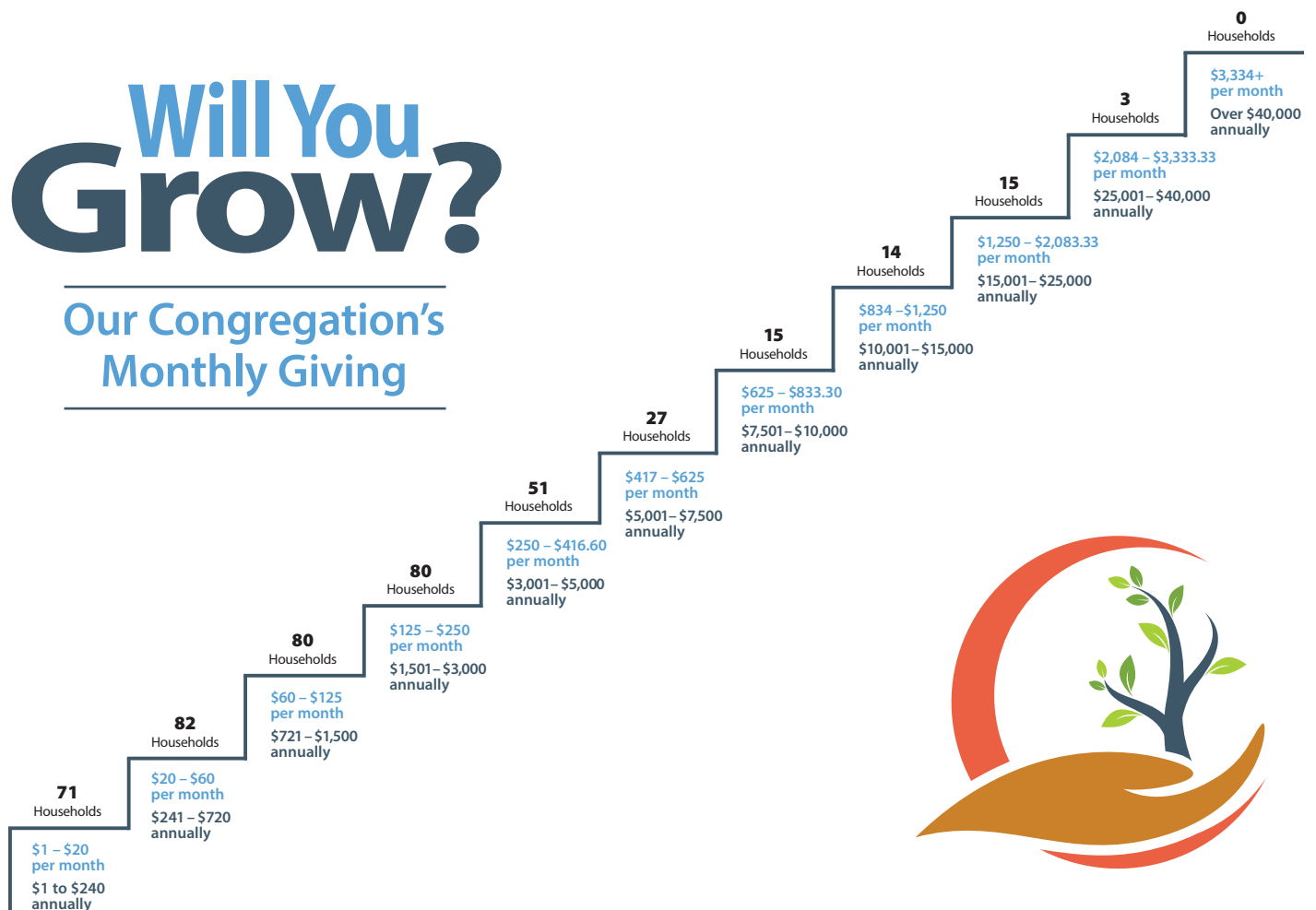
Biblical generosity is directly linked to discipleship.

Being generous with our financial resources is a spiritual issue, not a financial issue.

The dollar amount a person can give is a financial issue. A person cannot give from what they do not have. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our hearts.

The step chart below is a snapshot of our church's giving. The chart reflects all of the active households at University UMC.

The purpose of the chart is to challenge each of us as we answer the question "Will You Grow?" Find the giving step your family is on and look up and to the right to find the step or steps you might be able to take to deepen and strengthen your relationship with God through your financial giving.



Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you
are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge
total commitment, and the love we inspired in you.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (CEB)



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