

Welcome to

Called to Be the Church

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING PROGRAM

The United Church of Canada | L'Église Unie du Canada | 2021

QUICK
START
GUIDE

What Is This Program?

Called to Be the Church provides everything you need to get a congregational giving program off the ground:

- Step-by-step guides for a variety of methods
- Worship liturgies, sermons, videos, and children's resources for most liturgical seasons, plus more at united-church.ca/stewardship

You get to pick and choose from this wealth of ideas that inspire generosity. Only you know which programs and resources will work best to encourage generosity and gratitude in your community of faith.

Why Should We Do It?

Good things happen when a church focuses time, energy, and money on others—it stimulates generosity and creative thinking that will enliven YOUR congregation.

Carrying out a giving program annually lets everyone know your church has a vision that is bigger than just keeping the doors open. With God's mission and our gifts, all things are possible!

Get a free set of Thank You cards for your ministry of appreciation. Contact us at called@united-church.ca.



Things to Look for

- The Worship Sampler offers sample weeks from the following programs:
 - All in One Gratitude Sunday: A Single Sunday Program
 - Loving Our Neighbours Near and Far: A Program for Any Three Sundays
 - Loving Our Neighbours: Worship for Five Sundays of Lent
 - The Early Church in Eastertide: Worship for Five Sundays after Easter
 - 28 Days to Thanksgiving: Offering Our Gratitude
 - Season of Gratitude: World Communion Sunday to All Saints'
 - Discipleship Is Stewardship: Five Sundays for Any Time of the Year
- Newly designed Stewardship website - united-church.ca/stewardship
- Follow the Family Size! icon to resources that are particularly helpful for family-sized congregations
- More opportunities for individual coaching and support

Family
Size!

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God...

2 Corinthians 9:11



INSPIRE! INVITE! THANK!

Inspire!

Our generosity is our grateful response to God's vast generosity in our own lives. God's generosity inspires us to participate in God's mission in the world. As disciples of Jesus, this is how we make a positive difference as individuals and families—in our own community through the mission of our congregation, and across our country and around the globe through the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. When we are inspired, we eagerly discover the answers to:

- What is God's mission for me in my daily life?
- What is God calling us to do and be in our community?
- How do we model compassion, provide community, and offer hope?
- How do we serve God in mission to the wider world?

Helping You to Inspire

Opportunities to inspire can be found in everything we do as church. We inspire by sharing stories and images of disciples in action making a difference in people's lives.

Called to Be the Church provides

- Information on how to prepare **Why I Give** testimonies
- Step-by-step instructions to create a Narrative Budget
- Worship outlines, sermons, and children/youth programming
- Communication tools: bulletin covers and inserts; digital slides; and suggestions for oral and written announcements

Inspiring examples of living our faith **Inspire** gratitude.
Inspire generosity. **Inspire** giving.

**Inspire,
Invite, and Thank**
*are the foundations of
our congregational
giving program.*

Doing all three of these vital practices will grow generosity as a regular spiritual practice in your community of faith and support the mission of the church.

INSPIRE! INVITE! THANK!

Invite!

Make an invitation to join with other disciples as we respond to the call to live faithfully and be the church. We invite all people of our faith community to contribute to God's mission here in our congregation, in our community, and through the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada.

The invitation is most effective when we reach out in a clear, direct, and personal way. We encourage a conversation. We invite people to prayerfully consider how they will respond to God's generosity in their lives. Ideally, every individual feels they have been personally invited to

- Join us and others in doing God's mission
- Participate in supporting God's mission
- Make an appropriate and meaningful gift of treasure as well as of time and talent

Helping You to Invite

Called to Be the Church provides

- Ideas for creating a Letter of Invitation that is mailed or delivered to **everyone** in your congregation
- Step-by-step instructions on how to host a community meal—a fun and inspiring way to share stories of your faith and ministry, and to invite **everyone** to give
- Decision-making tools and templates to help **everyone** make an informed and intentional gift of money as well as gifts of time and talent

The ultimate goal is to **Invite** every person every year to participate.

Thank!

God is generous again, again, and again. So we can find ways to say "Thank you" again, again, and again. A culture of generosity is built on a foundation of gratitude. We cannot say "Thank you" too many times. It's just that simple!

Helping You to Thank

Called to Be the Church emphasizes how to ensure our gratitude and thanks are

- Timely: a message of thanks is provided soon after we receive a gift
- Personal: the "Thank you" is delivered face-to-face or in a handwritten note or by e-mail
- Sincere: the message communicates what a difference a person's gift will make

We **Thank** God for the blessings in our lives. We **Thank** each other for sharing them. We cannot **Thank** enough.

INSPIRE! INVITE! THANK!

Get Started!

Set yourself an achievable goal by trying one or more of these ideas:

- Do one thing to **Inspire**, one thing to **Invite**, and one thing to **Thank** people as they support God's mission. Try this out and have fun with it!
- Preach one sermon on generosity and gratitude; focus on your own experience
- Invite someone to tell their "Why I Give" story
- Thank people: Write two thank-you notes or e-mails each week for two months, or notice when people do good things and make a habit of saying "Thank you" to them
- As disciples of Jesus, we can all place giving, generosity, and stewardship in the centre of our lives, and clearly communicate our call as Christians to be generous in support of God's mission—generous with our time, our talent, and our treasure
- Lay leaders can gather and equip a small and dedicated Giving Team (even if it is a team of one) to share stories that **Inspire**, to **Invite** all to share, and to say "Thank you" for all gifts

Family
Size!

You Are Not Alone!

Coaching and support are available. If you get stuck, have a question, want to ask for advice, please connect with us. We have experience in a variety of congregational settings AND we answer our e-mail and pick up our messages.

e-mail: called@united-church.ca
phone: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2737

www.united-church.ca/stewardship It's all online for download.

www.facebook.com/groups/1497896833864628/

Inspire! Invite! Thank! – A Facebook community for leaders engaged in congregational giving and stewardship ministry. We support one another along the way.

www.unitedinlearning.ca

Webinars and recordings to help get you started or to keep moving in this important ministry.



“Start where you are;
use what you have; do what you can”

Arthur Ashe, late tennis star and social justice leader