

## THE CONGREGATIONAL GIVING PROGRAM

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

### What Is This Program?

The Congregational Giving Program is one part of *Called to Be the Church: The Journey*. It 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/worship-theme/stewardship-worship](http://united-church.ca/worship-theme/stewardship-worship)

You can **Do It Yourself** or you can do it with coaching and support as part of **The Giving Program module** of *Called to Be the Church: The Journey*. Either way, you get to pick and choose from this wealth of ideas to nurture the spiritual practice of generosity. Only you know which ideas and resources will work best to encourage generosity and gratitude in your community of faith.

### Why Should We Do It?

Good things happen when you focus 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](mailto:called@united-church.ca).*



### Things to Look for

- The Program Guide provides an overview and necessary resources to plan your successful giving program.
- The Planning Workbook helps you get organized and keeps you on track.
- The Worship Sampler offers sample weeks from each of the worship series, each with full liturgy, sermons, and kids/youth resources:
  - Discover Your Gifts—Share Your Gifts: Five Sundays for Epiphany
  - 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
  - Loving Our Neighbours Near and Far: A Program for Any Three Sundays
  - All in One Gratitude Sunday: A Single Sunday Program
- Updated Stewardship website: [united-church.ca/stewardship](http://united-church.ca/stewardship)
- Follow the Family Size! icon to resources that are particularly helpful for family-sized congregations

**Family  
Size!**

# INSPIRE, INVITE, AND THANK ARE THE FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES OF ANY 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!

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.

The *Called to Be the Church Congregational Giving Program* 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.

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

2 Corinthians 9:11

## 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

The *Called to Be the Church Congregational Giving Program* 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

The *Called to Be the Church Congregational Giving Program* 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!**

## It All Starts with You!

- Gather one or two other people and form a Giving Team.
- Review the Program Guide, Planning Workbook, and Worship Sampler.
- Pick your dates.
- Set your goals and make your plans.
- Off you go!

**Family  
Size!**

## You Are Not Alone!

Coaching and support are available. Whether you are doing the Congregational Giving Program yourself or want coaching and support, contact us with your questions or to find out more about The Giving Program module of *Called to Be the Church: The Journey*.

**e-mail:** [called@united-church.ca](mailto:called@united-church.ca)

**phone:** 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2737

[united-church.ca/stewardship](http://united-church.ca/stewardship) and [united-church.ca/worship-theme/stewardship-worship](http://united-church.ca/worship-theme/stewardship-worship)  
It's all online for download.

[facebook.com/groups/1497896833864628/](https://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.

[unitedinlearning.ca](http://unitedinlearning.ca)

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

Order more copies of *Called to Be the Church: The Giving Program* from [UCRDstore.ca](http://UCRDstore.ca).



“

*Start where you are;  
use what you have; do what you can*

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Arthur Ashe, late tennis star and social justice leader