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## Giving financially at The Journey Uniting Church

1. **We believe that everything we have belongs to God.** God has created all things and all things belong to him. Nothing is 'ours', we are simply stewards of what God has given us.

### Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

2. **Financial giving is a spiritual matter in response to God's grace.** It is an internal drive [grace response] rather than an external compulsion [law demand].

### 2 Corinthians 9:6 - 11

6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

3. **Financial Giving is ministry.** The same word for service/giving/Gospel ministry is used. Finance is not just resourcing ministry, the act of giving finance is a participation in the ministry of Christ renewing all of creation.

### 2 Corinthians 9:12

<sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God

4. **Financial Giving releases Spiritual power on earth**

### Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe [10%] into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."



## **5. Financial giving is a practical and necessary way the Journey ministry is resourced.**

We believe the primary source of funding for God's mission through the Journey must come from the regular giving of people who call The Journey UC their home.

## **6. Some commonly asked questions**

### **Should I tithe or give a lesser amount?**

We believe there is scriptural basis for bringing a tithe [10%] to the Lord. The bible encourages freedom and faithfulness before God and his people. 2 Corinthians 9 urges us to give generously and to give what is in our heart to give. It is better to give an amount with which you have a peace with God and his people than an amount that goes beyond what is really in your heart to give. Our experience is that giving, like faith, grows as we grow in our relationship with the Lord and his people. True giving of time, talent and money is giving that comes from the heart. God will always bless that and it produces freedom.

### **I give to a number of charities, why should the church get any?**

If the Journey is your home then we would encourage you to honour your home by supporting the local church and the many community and global ministries we support. As part of a wider network of churches in the Uniting Church many global, national and regional needs are addressed directly through giving at The Journey UC. We would also encourage you to consider what you might give to other causes as well.

### **How much do we pay our pastors and staff?**

The Journey UC eldership determines the roles and finance necessary to ensure the vision and mission is adequately resourced. Our stipends and finance are comparable with other similar sized churches and ministries. Where possible we seek to be generous and resource people in a way worthy of the ministry they exercise to ensure longevity, support and reward for faithfulness and fruitfulness. The Journey UC has a history of ministry being offered by individuals who have personally sacrificed significant income and/or time to serve God's mission. To those past and current tested leaders we seek where possible to bless and resource them in on-going ministry - this includes our paid pastoral leadership and support staff.

### **Why don't we just stop talking about money and get on with ministry?**

The bible talks about ministry, money, sex, food and relationships. Money and the state of our heart are closely linked. Money and ministry are closely linked. It would be unbiblical not to talk about money.

### **What if we just didn't pay anyone and just did ministry for free?**

Ministry is freely given but it always costs in time and money. God's people have always set certain people aside and resourced them in time and finance to enable them to participate in certain forms of ministry. Many of our volunteers can only volunteer because they or someone else resources them in time or finance.



### **Do you tithe before or after tax?**

That is between you and God. The bible simply encourages us to give generously.

### **My husband/wife is not a follower of Jesus and is opposed to us giving finance to the church - what should I do?**

Our advice would be to share openly your desire and your understanding of the vision of the church. Pray for them and leave it up to them without any pressure. If your husband/wife does not want you to give money we encourage you to honour them in that decision and have financial peace and unity in your marriage.

### **What about credit card giving?**

Please only give by credit card if you consistently reconcile your card each month. If you have problems in this area we have confidential opportunity for you to get help with your budgeting.

### **We are in chronic debt and don't know what to do.**

Our advice would be to get help to develop a disciplined plan to move you out of debt and into a consolidated position with a sustainable budget and giving program. This is the best gift you can give to the Lord and your family. The Journey has people who can confidentially help you do this. God can make a way and it will take sacrifice, prayerful wisdom and sound advice.

### **Isn't giving by cash more spiritual?**

No. Our recommendation is that you give in the form you are paid. If by cash then give cash. If by cheque then give by cheque. If electronically then give electronically. Our office staff can help you with the information you need to give in the way that is best for you. You can collect multiple envelopes from the office.

### **Can I give by internet?**

Yes you can. This is practically a preferred option. It is very secure and confidential. We recommend you obtain the Journey UC bank details and set up an automatic deduction with your bank.

**Bank details: BSB: 805 007 Account No: 103023**

### **How do I know where the money goes?**

A full financial report is available on request from the office. It is reconciled monthly and is subject to external auditing. Our management team has people with extensive background in banking and accountancy and business. You can direct any questions to the chair of management through the office.



### **Is it confidential?**

Any information given is subject to the privacy act. Any correspondence with our treasurer/ chair of management is completely confidential. It is helpful for one of these officers to have a contact phone number with banking /finance details to ensure bank to bank details and amounts are correct. These details are kept in the strictest confidence.

We hope this is helpful to you in your ministry of financial giving.

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God bless you on the journey!



Andrew Hogarth

Senior Pastor

