



## Stewardship Frequently Asked Questions

### Why should I give?

The “I want to” kind of generosity is the kind of giving we hope to cultivate here at Red Clay. When we realize all the God has given to us, when we “count our blessings”, when we remember that God sent his only Son to show us how we were created to live and to save us from sin and death through his death and resurrection then we naturally, joyfully want to give.

This year, instead of urging people to give to a budget, we urge you to give to God. Instead of limiting giving to a finite budget, we let the congregation tell the church what the budget will be. Although members are not required to pledge, we invite everyone to partner with us in impacting our community. The Generosity Team, with Session and the Finance Committee, ask you to estimate your giving and emphasize that if your family income changes either up or down during the year, you can adjust your giving accordingly.

Stewardship is an appreciation of God’s gift to us and the sharing of all of the gifts with God and others. We love and give because God in Christ first loved and gave to us (I John 4:19)

### How much should I give?

From the Old Testament we learn that the people were to give of their ‘first fruits’. The same principle applies to us today: to give the first fruits of our labors to God through the Church. We should also give in proportion to what God has given to us. Some people use the traditional tithe, 10% of all income, as a guide for their giving (5% to church and 5% to charity). Others use an hour’s earnings per week as their contribution. Each person must determine what is appropriate.

This worksheet offers a means of determining one’s present percentage level of pledged financial support for the local church and establishing a commitment for the coming year. This is intended for personal use with prayerful consideration.

1. To find your current level of local church support, divide your pledge by your current income for the same period.

	Example:	Your figures:
A. Current Income	\$ <u>80,000</u>	\$ _____
B. Current Pledge	\$ <u>1600</u>	\$ _____
C. Current Percentage Level	2.0%	_____ %

2. A financial commitment for the coming year might be based on one of the following options:

Modern Day Tithe

	\$ <u>80,000</u>	\$
A. Expected Income		
B. Tithe to Church	\$ <u>5%</u>	_____ %
C. New Commitment	\$ <u>4,000</u>	\$
(multiply line A by line B)		

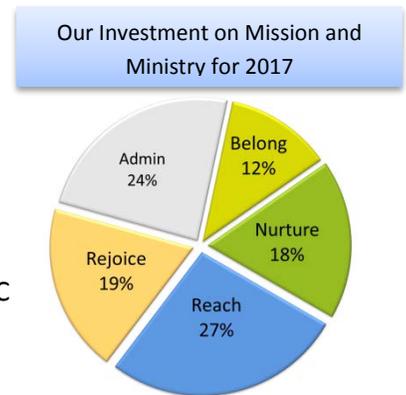
An Hour's Wage

A. Weekly Income	\$ <u>800</u>	\$
B. Hours in Work Week	<u>40</u>	
C. New Weekly Commitment	\$ <u>30</u>	\$
(divide line A by line B)		

**What does the church support?**

Your giving supports the ongoing mission and ministry of Red Clay and our administrative church functions. Currently, our focus falls within the four ministry areas of Belong, Nurture, Reach and Rejoice as depicted in this chart.

Learn more about these areas in our Generosity Story located on the RCCPC Giving webpage [HERE](#).



**Why should I pledge?**

Completing a pledge card is a tangible way to demonstrate a grateful heart and genuine faith in God's good purposes. As you consider what it means to be a steward of all God has placed under your care, we hope it will also awake your imagination to see how God might want to use you personally to bear witness to him in the places where you live and work. Click [HERE](#) to pledge online.

**Do we have a faith-based budget?**

Yes. Every year our Session approves an annual budget, and our congregation is asked to provide giving pledges for that budget. Although we do not base our budget solely on these pledges, by grace and your faithful giving we receive the amount needed to cover expenses.