

ONLINE GIVING FACT SHEET

The MIPC Finance committee is excited to introduce this year a **new option for online giving** – an easy and convenient way for you to give your tithes and offerings using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer directly from your bank account. The service, which is hosted by the **Presbyterian Foundation**, is easily accessed by clicking on the **GIVE NOW** button that now appears on our MIPC website: www.merrittislandpc.org

Why Online Giving?

- **Electronic giving is convenient** for you. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes!
- You can set up recurring gifts (weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually) that allow you to **continue giving faithfully** when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending worship services.
- The church benefits from a **steadier and more reliable flow of financial support** for the crucial ministry we are called by Christ to do.
- You can enjoy the convenience of making your **gifts by credit card** (or debit card) and also accrue any applicable reward-program credits that may be associated with your credit card. [Please consider this **ONLY** if you pay your credit card balance in full each month: interest charges for carried balances on credit cards erase any net “benefit” of reward points!]
- Online gifts are **safe and secure** and are immediately available to support our ministry.

Visit www.merrittislandpc.org today and see for yourself how easy it is to give online!



Questions & Answers

Is there any cost to use this new Online Giving service?

There is no cost to you to sign up or use the Online Giving service. However, you should be aware that Presbyterian Foundation assesses the church a 2% fee on each gift to cover its reasonable and customary costs of operations. This fee helps ensure the continued viability of the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. At the time you set up your electronic gift, you are presented the option to voluntarily add 2% to your gift to help offset this cost to the church.

Does Online Giving affect the tax deductibility of my gift?

Electronic gifts to MIPC made through the Presbyterian Foundation enjoy the same status for potential tax deductibility as gifts made by cash or check directly to the church. (That applies to the **FULL AMOUNT** of the gift, including the 2% that is withheld by Presbyterian Foundation.)

How do automated contributions work?

No matter which payment method you select (e.g. credit card or electronic funds transfer), you will be asked to select a start date, frequency and contribution amount. On the date(s) scheduled, donations will be processed and deposited into the church bank account.

When will my contribution be processed?

Your contribution will be processed each week/month/quarter on the date(s) you authorize.

If there's no cancelled check, what can I use to show I made a donation?

The itemized list of electronic transactions that appears on your bank or credit card statement can be used as proof of your donations. A year-end summary of your online gifts will be provided to you by Presbyterian Foundation.

How safe is Electronic Giving?

It is safer than writing checks or carrying cash to church. Secure donation services are provided by Vanco Services, LLC. Vanco processes electronic donations for thousands of churches and nonprofit organizations.

What if I need to cancel or temporarily place my donation on hold?

You can just login using your profile on the Online Giving site, select the previously scheduled electronic gift, and edit/cancel it prior to the indicated transaction date(s).

How can I still participate in the offering during services?

Printed cards available in the pew racks may be placed in the offering plate, if desired, as a symbol of your electronic offering.

Do I have other options for electronic gifts to MIPC?

Some regular givers to MIPC are already using their bank's online Bill Pay service to make electronic gifts to MIPC. Those payments are issued and mailed to MIPC as paper checks which are then deposited along with the following Sunday's offering. In most cases, such payments can be optionally scheduled as automatically recurring transactions (e.g. monthly). We are unable to provide instructions to you on how to use your bank's or credit union's Bill Pay service since the details vary across financial institutions; however, if you are familiar with your bank's online Bill Pay system and are comfortable using it, you are most welcome to make gifts to MIPC in that manner. Indeed, since the church is not charged any fee as a payee, MIPC receives the full benefit (100%) of such gifts.

May I continue to make my gifts through checks/cash placed in the offering plate if that is my preference?

Yes! Absolutely!