

# Electronic Giving

## *Open your heart without opening your checkbook*

*Electronic Giving* is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes. Although *Direct Debit Giving* is the original and most popular form of electronic giving, the term is now widely used to describe *Credit & Debit Card Giving* and *Online Giving* as well.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Electronic Giving

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### **Q. What are the major advantages of Electronic Giving?**

- A. Electronic giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

### **Q. How does Electronic Giving work?**

- A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account, or from your credit or debit card, to the church bank account. Your contributions can be set up as a one time or recurring donation.

### **Q. What is a One Time or Recurring donation?**

- A. A one time donation is done online and occurs once on the date you specify. A recurring donation is an ongoing scheduled contribution, such as weekly or monthly, and is set up either online or through a paper Electronic Giving Authorization Form.

### **Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register or credit/debit card account?**

- A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register or watch for it on your credit card statement on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement and also on the Aldersgate giving statement.

### **Q. Is giving by direct debit risky?**

- A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, the church uses Vanco Services, LLC—an established

company that moves funds directly from church members to the church on the same day without any delay. Vanco processes contributions for more than 10,000 churches and nonprofit organizations.

### **Q. How much does Electronic Giving cost?**

- A. It costs you nothing and it costs the church very little. The lowest cost method to the church is giving directly from your checking or savings account. When using a credit or debit card, the church is charged 2.75% of the contribution. You, the donor, will be given the option to increase your donation by 2.75% to help offset this fee.

### **Q. What if I try electronic giving and don't like it?**

- A. You can cancel your authorization at any time by logging in online and cancel all future contributions, or you can notify the church.

### **Q. How can I sign up for Electronic Giving?**

- A. The church encourages you to sign up for Electronic Giving online so you can easily monitor and view your online donation history, change your donation plan, and make one time electronic donations. You must have an active email account to use Electronic Giving online. Just visit Aldersgate website at [www.aldersgatedsm.org](http://www.aldersgatedsm.org) and click on Electronic Giving and/or the Donate button. If you don't want to sign up for Electronic Giving online, you can fill out a paper Electronic Giving Authorization Form at the church office.

### **Q. What if I need help setting up Electronic Giving online?**

- A. Talk to the church office manager to coordinate a time she/he can help walk you through the process.