



# ***TRANSFORM***

*the change to which Jesus calls us*

Generosity Journey Toolkit

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

*Romans 12:1-2*

## THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY

Financial decisions come in all sizes. Some are so small that we don't recognize them as financial decisions - *"Oh, look! Chocolate at the checkout counter!"* Some we do recognize, but they require little thought or effort - *"How many streaming services do we really need?"* Some require real planning and perhaps expert input - *"How much is 'enough' to set aside for retirement?"*

Numbers with dollar signs in front of them can make us anxious. That is an honest response, and a natural one. Yet, giving generously has great rewards. Giving invites God into our lives like nothing else.

Trust the Lord as He guides you on this generosity journey. Deciding to give is a significant decision. Giving is a tangible way that we declare our trust and commitment to God. Giving paves the way for God to partner with us in our lives.

## STEPPING OUT ON YOUR JOURNEY

This toolkit is designed to help us see how the Lord has blessed us and how He invites us to trust Him.

The first step is to allow God to renew our minds as we seek to discern God's will in this change to which Jesus calls us. This is how we grow spiritually - how the Lord *transforms* us - as we seek Him and His Kingdom through generous living and giving.

*We are the church and this is our chance.*

## MAKING YOUR COMMITMENT

On Sunday October 25, we will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity by making a commitment to our **Transform** capital campaign, a 3-year financial commitment, over and above regular giving, to the future of our church.

## PLANNING YOUR GIVING

Giving does not need to be in equal increments over the 3-year period of the campaign.

You may be able to give more in year two and three than in year one.

Giving more in year one will help the church save on any money borrowed to finance construction.



We are invited to commit our hearts in faith to share the love of Jesus Christ in our community. Imagine the work we can achieve with God's help through the **Transform** campaign. I/We will endeavor to give **over and above my/our regular offerings** to God.

Total 3 Year Commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Over the next three years, I/We plan to give accordingly.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly for 156 Weeks

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly for 36 Months

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually for 3 Years

I/We wish to give to the **Transform** campaign by a means other than cash.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Value of asset given: \_\_\_\_\_

*For Example: Stocks, Bonds, IRA Distributions, Securities, Paid-Up Insurance Policies, Charitable Trusts*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your commitment is an indication of your intention to give as you are able.

*Now is the time to*  
**TRANSFORM**

PERSONAL INFORMATION  
(PLEASE PRINT)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## LIVING A GENEROUS LIFE

This is about more than a capital campaign. Generosity isn't a transaction, it's a lifestyle.

In worship, we have heard about changing direction, following a new path. Repentance and believing in the good news are the best changes of direction we can make to lead us on our new path with Jesus.

*"[R]epent, and believe in the good news...[Jesus] saw Levi...and said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him..." - Mark 1:14-15, 2:13-17*

The journey to living a generous life is a spiritual one, and our new God-led path will indeed *transform* us.

Living a generous life means that – intentionally and prayerfully – we find ways to let our giving touch our living. This is a lifestyle of generosity. We believe this is the change to which Jesus is calling us.

*"If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me." - 2 Samuel 24:24*

Living a generous life involves a level of giving that affects our plans, our activities, our attitudes and our approach to life. We give up something in one area of life to give more of ourselves in another area that is more important to us.

## THOUGHTS ON GENEROUS GIVING

To claim Jesus as our Lord, we must put Him first in our lives. When Jesus is only one of many priorities in our life, we have lost our way.

*“so that he might come to have the first place in everything...” - Colossians 1:15-20*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself...” - Matthew 22:34-40*

But how do we go about making Jesus the priority in our life? How can we let God *transform* us into the generous Christians we want to be?

### SETTING PRIORITIES

One way to make a serious 3-year commitment is to rearrange priorities and give up something in our current budget. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a purchase or rethinking travel plans.

### REDIRECTING FUTURE EXPENSES

We may have a significant short-term expenditure that is for a specific purpose. Our cash flow will change when we pay off that loan or when our child graduates from college. If you will no longer have such an expenditure during our 3-year campaign, can you consider using those funds toward your commitment?

### HANDLING INCREASES IN INCOME

Some of us may receive an increase in salary or a year-end bonus. The temptation is to use those funds on something for yourself. Is God calling you to do something else with those extra resources?

*We are the church and this is our chance.*

## SMALL CHANGES = BIG IMPACT

It will take many substantial gifts to reach our *Transform* capital campaign goal. However, and just as important, it will take a commitment from each person – everyone - to achieve the overall goal. Even small sacrificial changes in our lives will help.

**“[L]et them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me... [W]hat will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” - Matthew 16:24-26**

Here are a few examples of how small changes can have a big impact on the life of FPCA.

<i>Small Sacrifices Add Up Quickly</i>	<i>Average Cost/Month</i>	<i>x 36 Months</i>	<i>x 250 Families*</i>
4 Half-Gallons of Ice Cream 	\$22	\$792	\$198,000
2 Large Pizzas 	\$24	\$864	\$216,000
1 Fast Food Family Meal 	\$30	\$1,080	\$270,000
1 Family Movie & Popcorn 	\$75	\$2,700	\$675,000
<b><i>Small Sacrifices Yield Big Results</i></b>			<b>\$1,359,000</b>

\*FPCA has more than 250 families and is growing, but some families are small and would have smaller expenditures. The purpose here is to demonstrate that skipping that chocolate bar or eliminating unused cable/telephone services can have significant impact.

## MORE THOUGHTS: GIVING FROM STORED RESOURCES

Some gifts might be close at hand - but overlooked.

*“Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” - Ephesians 3:20-21*

### APPRECIATED ASSETS

Gifts of appreciated assets are typically investment securities. Making these gifts can be advantageous to both the donor and the church. A conversation with a financial planner can be helpful in making these decisions.

Unlike gifts of cash that have already incurred income tax, certain gifts of appreciated assets can avoid a capital gains tax. As the donor, you can receive a deduction for the full market value of the asset. That, in effect, makes these gifts less costly to make.

### CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER

Charitable IRA rollover gifts apply to those who are over 70-1/2 years old and have an IRA account.

It is possible to make a gift from an IRA directly to FPCA. You can support the campaign through a tax-free transfer of up to \$100,000 yearly. This type of gift can provide additional benefits by allowing it to count toward the IRA's required minimum distribution for the year, thus reducing taxable income.

## A FINAL THOUGHT

As you consider your financial commitment to God and His work, you may want to consider estate planning. Perhaps this is a good time to make provision for God in your will. It may be as simple as including a provision that 10 percent of your estate be donated to FPCA. It can also involve a planned giving method such as a charitable remainder trust.

While such bequests do not provide immediate financial benefits to the *Transform* capital campaign, they are still wonderful gifts of faith commitment. Church roofs do not last forever, especially when hailstorms are inevitable. Children not yet born will still need this church to nurture their faith. What better legacy of a generous life than continued support of God's work in this world?

*To discuss the possibility of giving through any of these “stored resources” gifts, please contact Jeanne Chin through the church office (817.274.8286).*

## GENEROSITY JOURNEY

We hope this generosity journey toolbox helps you in thinking about your spiritual transformation as a generous giver, living a generous life.

Remembering that this truly is a spiritual journey, ask yourself: *“What drives my generosity?”*

For most of us, the answer has less to do with the size of your gift and more to do with the spirit in which you offer it. In Luke 21:1-4, Jesus looks on suspiciously as the wealthy make their offerings, for he knows they have sacrificed little in proportion to their blessings. Then comes a widow who can only give two small coins. *“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them,”* Jesus says, *“for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”*

When considering the amount to give, reflect on God’s example as the first and most generous giver.

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” - John 3:16***

By following God’s example, we give from our very best; we give sacrificially; we give in love.



## THE CHALLENGE

Dear FPCA Family,

Our church has a bold vision - to *transform* life by glorifying God, following Jesus and loving our neighbor. It is the vision of being a spiritual center for this community, of meeting people where they are and of having a campus that draws more people into our family. We truly have the chance to answer God's call for our church. When we embrace the change to which Jesus calls us, He will *transform* our church home, and He will transform us.

Our goal for Step 1 of the capital campaign is \$2,500,000, above and beyond our regular giving, over the next 3 years. An equally important goal is for the entire congregation to participate not just in financing the update to our facilities, but also in the "update" to our spiritual lives.

As this guide shows, every gift - every single gift - makes a difference. We are praying together about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. The truth is that all of us are not in a position to make a huge gift. However, all of us CAN share a gift that pleases God and stretches us with a sacrificial commitment to invest in this vision. All of us can be generous.

We are asking everyone to spend time discussing this with God. If there are others in your household, involve them in the conversation as well. Pray about not necessarily settling on the first amount you consider - pray about the possibility of moving up a step in your giving. Only you know what is possible, so we invite you to pray about what is right for you and pleasing to God.

Thank you for taking this journey seriously and for the privilege of allowing us to journey with you.

*Rich McDermott* *Chris Corbitt*

## GIFT PROFILE GUIDE

To follow Jesus as disciples, we must leave our familiar surroundings and go where he calls us, obeying his commands and following in his footsteps. And our calling is to be disciples who make other disciples.

We do have a big task ahead of us. But, if each one of us makes a serious commitment over the 3 years, the Lord can *transform* both our space and our lives for the future.

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**“If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.” - 2 Samuel 24:24**

<i>Number of Commitments</i>	<i>Amount of Each 3-Year Commitment</i>
1	\$350,000
2	\$250,000
2	\$100,000
3	\$75,000
5	\$50,000
6	\$36,000
9	\$24,000
10	\$15,000
15	\$10,000
20	\$7,200
25	\$3,600
Other Commitments	Under \$3,600



**TRANSFORM**  
**GOAL \$2,500,000**

# *How can I **transform**?*

## **PRAY**

Pray over your own finances and diligently examine your spending habits.

Pray for generosity in the hearts of the whole FPCA family.

Pray for the pastors and leadership as they make ongoing decisions throughout this campaign.

## **TRUST GOD**

Trust God in His provision for you.

Put your hope in God's power, promise and faithfulness.

Know that He will never leave nor forsake you.

## **COMMIT**

Consider where God is calling you to make sacrifices.

Commit to supporting our **Transform** capital campaign through your generous pledge during the commitment services on Sunday, March 29.

*We are the church, and this is our chance!  
We pray that the Lord will **transform** our lives and our building!*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH ARLINGTON