

Agenda

Beginning (5 min.)

Opening prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth,
 You create the fruit of the land to sustain our families and neighbours,
 You nurture the church, loving communities of faith,
 deepening our relationship with you and with one another,
 You offer us the gift of baptism and the sacrament of Christ's body and blood
 so that we may be fed and filled with your Holy Spirit,
 You bless us with generous hearts so that we may support the outcast,
 the hungry, the sick and all those who long for intimacy with Jesus.
 You fill us with determination to be mindful of the ministry and mission to which we are called,
 And you call us to generous support of our parishes, diocese and the wider church,
 Blessed are you o God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen

(Or use one from the Liturgical Resources, online at www.anglican.ca/gtp.)

Introduction

Share the purpose of this gathering:

- to learn more about Giving Our Thanks & Praise giving program
- to discover and articulate each individual's "Why I give" story to share with others

Middle (44 min.)

- **Why "Why I Give"?** (1 min.)
 - Sharing "Why I give" is an important element in the Inspire part of our giving program. We can all be inspired by one another when we share stories from the heart—in this case, exploring why each of us gives to God's mission.
- In pairs, discuss one of the following:
 - What brought you to the Anglican church or to this parish?
Why do you stay?
 - Share a memorable experience of either giving a gift or receiving a gift. Why do you give? ("Why," not "how" or "what.")
 - Why do you give to God's mission as lived out in our parish?

- **Discovering your “Why I give” story: Getting started (15 min.)**
 - Distribute paper and pens. Have participants work through this exercise in pairs, with the co-leads keeping time and moving things along.

Round 1 (5 min.)

- Listen and share with each other:
- What brought you into the Anglican church or to this congregation? Why do you stay?
- Share a memorable experience of either giving or receiving a gift.

Round 2 (15 min.)

- Listen as your partner answers the questions. Write down notes so your partner can use them to remember their “Why I give” story.

Person 1 (4 min.)

- Why do you give? (“Why,” not “how” or “what.”)
- Why do you give to God’s mission in our parish?

Person 2 (3 min.)

- **Share your responses:**
 - What did you, as the listener, find compelling or want to know more about?
 - How would this story invite others to join you in supporting our parish’s mission?

At 7 minutes, switch and repeat.

End (10 min.)

- Take time to reflect on your story and add more notes. Consider how to share your story with a friend, with a group in the congregation, or in worship.
- Later, write out your story or make notes. Seek out opportunities to practise your “Why I give” story with others. Do what you can to help one another improve the story and make it even more impactful.
- Now you have a story to tell when someone asks why you support God’s mission.
- Close with a prayer of thanksgiving. See additional prayers online at www.anglican.ca/gtp.