

Gathering the Giving Team

The annual parish giving program is an opportunity for those who join the Giving Team to:

- **inspire** people by telling how your parish makes a difference, how it is responding to God's mission in their lives as people of faith and the ministry of the parish as well as making an impact in the wider world
- **invite** people to share their gifts to help ensure that the ministry and God's mission in your community continue to thrive
- **thank** people for everything they contribute to your mission and ministry

It's a time for learning, reflection, prayer, and generosity. What an important ministry in the life of your parish!

Not only will a giving program help to shape and strengthen the future ministry of your parish and the Anglican Church, but it is also an opportunity for the people in your parish to deepen their faith. It will create fertile ground for future mission and for seeing generosity and gratitude as a way of life and a spiritual practice in the lives of many.

Like most other important ministries, a giving program is most effective if the commitment and leadership are shared between the clergy and respected lay people. And whether the Giving Team is fully lay-led or led by a clergy and lay team, having co-leads is always beneficial for the program; to support one another and increase mutual accountability, to say nothing of following how Jesus sent out the disciples two by two.

One requirement for all Giving Team members should be non-negotiable: that every member of the Giving Team (and every volunteer who invites, talks to, or writes to members of the parish) makes a commitment of financial support to mission of the parish. The amount will be different for each person, but the gift should be meaningful and intentional.

Recruitment

While a large team is possible in some situations, we also know that parishes with different experiences and resources will need to organize the program differently. We have included a Role Description for the Giving Team Co-Leads and in the online resources there are additional Role Descriptions for you to use to adapt for what will work in *your* parish.

Once you have crafted your roles, discern who is best suited to be part of the Giving Team and invite them to be part of the team. The handout *Why be part of Our Giving Team?*, in the Appendix, can be shared as an additional encouragement.

What does a Giving Team look like?

Your Giving Team should look like your parish and include people who are:

- younger and older
- female and male
- long-time and new
- introverts and extroverts
- keen on the ministry of the congregation
- wise and respected in the community
- willing to speak about why they give