

Giving Team kickoff

Once you have the Giving Team recruited—even if it is just you!—the first step is to meet and get started.

You may find that you prefer to cover this agenda over two sessions, not one.

This is an important meeting with the purposes of:

- increasing our understanding of giving, generosity, and gratitude as a way of living our faith
- getting familiar with the Giving Our Thanks & Praise giving program
- making decisions on how you will carry out the program, including preparing to introduce the giving program to the parish, planning the implementation of the program

The Planning Workbook is where you will record your decisions and map out the program. It will also refer you back to the sections in the Program Guide for you to consult when needed.

- introducing “Why I give” stories and inviting team members to start crafting their own “Why I give” story
- inviting the Giving Team members to take the lead in making an appropriate, intentional, and meaningful gift to the mission of your church. Each will be given a response card to fill in and return as soon as possible

It's a great idea for whoever is leading the meeting to have their “Why I give” story developed and ready to share with the team, plus their response card filled in and sealed in an envelope.

Ahead of Time

Make copies of the following for everyone:

- Planning Workbook with current data filled in by the treasurer
- Inspire! Invite! Thank!
- Questions ministry leaders ask
- Decision-making tool – one of the giving charts and an intention card with return envelope

It may help to have a calendar of events for your community of faith handy so you can choose the best dates for your program and set a timeline.

Agenda

Beginning

Open with prayer. Use the following or one created by you for this program (p. 25) or something from the Liturgical Resources section of the web resources.

Gracious and generous God,
Creator and giver of all that is good,
we thank you for our many blessings.
We acknowledge that all that we have is from you.
We offer you thanks and praise
for the beauty of the earth, our work, our family, our loved ones,
and all the gifts we have been given.

Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers
of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes.
Help us plan to serve our church, our community, and our world with your gifts.
May we serve you and pray with a joyful spirit of mind and heart.
We remain your faithful stewards.
Amen

Thank people for responding to the invitation to be part of this important ministry.

Opening exercise

This exercise helps the Giving Team members start to develop their own “Why I give” story or testimony to share with others.

- In pairs, discuss one of the following questions:
 1. What brought you to the Anglican church or to this parish? Why do you stay?
 2. Share a memorable experience of either giving a gift or receiving a gift. Why do you give? (“Why,” not “how” or “what.”)
 3. Why do you give to God’s mission as lived out in our parish?

- Giving Team co-leads share their own story of “Why I give.”

Your team may feel comfortable discussing the above questions together, or they could take time to jot down some notes to think about after the meeting.

As a group, consider how to share your stories with a friend, with a group in the congregation, or in worship, maybe by including stories in the bulletin.

Invite everyone to write out their story after the meeting. People might practise telling it to fellow team members in the coming days or at future Giving Team Meeting. Do what you can to help one another improve your stories and give them even more impact.

Co-leads then invite the other Giving Team members to join in living out God's mission in this parish. Distribute intention cards and decision-making tools. Request that each person give the invitation prayerful consideration and determine an intentional and meaningful gift. Ask that they fill in the intention card and return it in a sealed envelope as soon as possible. (You have just made your first "ask," or invitation!)

Introducing Giving Our Thanks & Praise

- Hand out Five things to know about Giving Our Thanks & Praise, plus Inspire, Invite, Thanks and Questions Leaders ask

These handouts put the program into perspective and answers some basic questions people have been asking.

Middle

Setting goals

Using the Planning Workbook, get a start on identifying your goals.

You may need more time to complete the worksheet and bring it back to a later meeting of the Giving Team.

What method of invitation will you use:

- Face-to-face individuals
- Face-to-face small groups
- Letter

What additional resources need to be developed:

- "Why I give" stories
- Narrative budget

Setting a timeline

Review the calendar of events for the coming months in your parish, and determine the best time to launch the giving program.

- When is the best season in your community?

Advent

Epiphany Lent

Easter/Pentecost

Thanksgiving

- Will the Sundays coincide with any other important dates?

How long will the program be?

Five weeks

Three weeks

One week

Consecutive weeks

Once a month

End

- Identify what needs to be accomplished immediately – who will do what by when.
- Set the next meeting date.
- Close with prayer from the Liturgical Resources.