

Invite

Invite generosity

We know the reason many people don't give is because they have not been asked. Sadly, this is very true in the church. The Anglican church, like other mainline denominations, has largely abandoned the practice of annually inviting everyone in the community to pledge support of their mission by making an intentional and meaningful gift.

Instead, we have turned to event-based fundraising. Event-based fundraising has its place: ideally, it merely supplements the generosity of members as an opportunity to build fellowship among them or encourages the involvement of people beyond the community of faith in the church's outreach work.

It is time to return to the practice of inviting everyone in our parish to contribute to God's mission.

To revive this leading practice, the Giving Our Thanks & Praise giving program provides all the resources needed to invite every person to make an informed, intentional, and meaningful gift to support the ministry of parish.

We are an inclusive community

Whichever method of invitation you choose, make sure everyone in your community of faith is included. Sharing the story with everyone is important and allows everyone to make their own decision in response to the invitation. Beginning with thanks allows the opportunity to acknowledge all gifts. It also allows for clear communication that ALL gifts make a difference and are welcome.

The desired outcome is for each person to make a prayerful, intentional, and meaningful gift—whatever the amount might be.

Checklists for all these methods of inviting are found in the Planning Workbook.

Face-to-face and peer-to-peer invitation

The best way to invite others to support the ministry of your parish is for one person to tell another person face to face why they support this ministry and to invite the other person to join them by making an intentional and meaningful gift.

This is the tried and true method employed by other successful charitable organizations. However, there is a more compelling precedent for us as people of faith: The individual invitation is how Jesus

called people to follow his way of life and become disciples. Jesus invited people to join him and live like him.

A face-to-face invitation is a chance to

- thank people personally for contributions to the congregation
- talk about the ministry of the congregation and the denomination
- personally invite their generosity
- thank them again

For the giver, it is an opportunity to

- plan their gift in the context of the ministry of the congregation
- learn more about what their generosity accomplishes
- discuss the work of the church locally and by the denomination

For the person making the invitation, it is an opportunity to

- first plan their own gift before inviting others
- fully internalize and own the ministry of the congregation and the denomination
- listen to the needs and concerns of others and pass them on to the appropriate leaders

Individual or family

This is a face-to-face and peer-to-peer conversation with each person or family in the parish inviting them to contribute to the ministry of the congregation. The conversation is held in an agreed-upon location, such as a coffee shop or church meeting room. One person shares why they support the ministry (“Why I give”) and invites the other to join them.

Small group

This face-to-face and peer-to-peer conversation takes place in small non-family groups. Every person or family in the parish is invited to attend a conversation. Each conversation is with 10 to 20 people and is held in a community member’s home or in a meeting room of the church. The group convener or conveners (an individual or a couple of hosts) make the invitation. Conveners share their own “Why I give” story and invite the others to join them in making an intentional gift to support the ministry of the church.