

# Renovate & Elevate

Renovating Our Spaces, Elevating Our Future

## Creative Strategies for Giving



*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.*

**II Corinthians 9:11**



**CARMEL**  
UNITED METHODIST  
**CHURCH**

## Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Giving

Equal giving is never the goal at our church, but rather to come together as a church community – each sacrificing to achieve our vision. There is a role in this capital funding campaign for every member of the church and each contribution enables our success. You will not be pressured or told what you should give, but rather encouraged to pray to discern God's will for your giving. We ask everyone to pray the campaign prayer:

**God, what do You  
want to do  
through me?**



*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**II Corinthians 9:7**

## GIVING STRATEGIES FOR SAVERS

Savings for special projects, retirement or a “rainy day” may offer a resource for increased giving. Safely giving a portion of your savings to the work of God’s Kingdom through our church can also lower your taxes. It’s a win-win!

**This discussion about how different ways of giving can affect your taxes is not official tax advice. For your specific situation, please talk to your financial planner, CPA or tax professional.**

### Cash, Check & Credit Card

All gifts to our church are deductible and could lower your taxes, but the law changed several years ago. Unless you pay a significant amount in medical expenses or home mortgage interest (not principal), most people now take the standard deduction:

- \$ 15,000 single or married filing separately,
- \$ 30,000 married filing jointly or qualifying surviving spouse, or
- \$ 22,500 head of household.

One strategy is to **bunch all of your donations to charity**. Give more than a year’s worth of donations in the same year, say in January and December, to increase your total deductions above the standard amounts.

**Contact the Church office for our account numbers and more information: 317-844-7275 or [JDehart@CarmelUMC.org](mailto:JDehart@CarmelUMC.org)**

## LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

Do you own stocks, bonds or other securities that have increased in value over more than a year’s time? Instead of selling them and donating the after-tax amount, you can transfer those securities directly to our church. Your donation is the full, fair-market value on the date of the donation. And you do not pay any taxes on the sale!

	Sell first	vs. Transfer to Church
Market Value	\$20,000	\$20,000
Purchase Cost	\$10,000	\$10,000
Multi-Year Gains	\$10,000	\$10,000
Fed & State Tax*	\$2,500	\$0
Church receives	\$17,500	\$20,000

\*Estimate assumes a total of 25%

This is only available if you held the securities for more than a year’s time, and there’s a limit on the amount you can deduct each tax year.

### Over Age 70.5: Retirement Accounts

At age 70½, you can begin similar transfers from your Traditional Individual Retirement Accounts. Each Traditional IRA owner can transfer up to a total of \$108,000 every year across all qualified charities, including our church.

The most efficient way to give may be to write a check directly from your Traditional IRA. These gifts are not taxed as income, which may reduce your Medicare premiums and taxes on Social Security benefits.

### Over 73: Required Minimum Distributions

At age 73, these qualified charitable distributions gain another superpower. They count toward the money the government requires you to pull out of your Traditional IRA for that year, whether you need it or not.

## OTHER STRATEGIES

**Recurring Gifts:** Giving smaller amounts at higher frequencies--weekly, biweekly or monthly--add up to large gifts! Electronic funds transfers are an easy way to make these gifts.

**Diverted Funds:** Freeing up funds from other areas of spending allows a person to increase giving to God's work. Reducing lifestyle expenses including entertainment, dining out, dues, subscriptions, gifts, allowances or transportation can increase one's giving.

**Delayed Purchases:** Postponing major expenses such as automobiles, home projects or trips provides substantial giving opportunities.

**Income Producing Assets:** Interest income, payments from rental properties, or income from other assets provide a source for increased giving.

**Major Assets:** Sale of a house, car, land, or business provides additional income for giving.

**Raises & Bonuses:** Contributing raises and bonuses are also creative methods that can be used to increase giving.

**Freedom From Debt:** Debt obligations may be fulfilled over the next three years, freeing up recurring funds for additional giving.

**Unique Skills Income:** Some people have marketable hobbies or skills that enable them to give from those new profits.

**Charitable Giving Review:** Evaluating all charitable donations in light of their impact on the Kingdom of God affords a potential resource for significant giving.

**Corporate Gifts:** Business owners may be able to provide gifts-in-kind, resulting in a stronger gift to the church and tax benefits to the donor.

## ONE FAMILY'S COMMITMENT TO INCREASED GIVING

Activity	Week	Year	Three Years
Increase weekly giving	\$100	\$5,200	\$15,600
Eliminate family meal out	\$50	\$2,600	\$7,800
Eliminate one Starbucks	\$5	\$260	\$780
Reduce Christmas budget		\$250	\$750
Reduce vacation budget		\$250	\$750
Delay TV purchase for three years			\$1,000
Eliminate four "dates"		\$245	\$735
Erik's commitment	\$1	\$52	\$156
Andrew's commitment	\$0.50	\$26	\$78
Gift from savings			\$2,351
<b>Three-Year Total</b>			<b>\$30,000</b>
Over and above annual stewardship & missions giving			

**Carmel United Methodist Church**

621 South Rangeline Rd

Carmel, IN 46032

317-844-7275 ■ CarmelUMC.org