

# 2009-2010 Church of the Epiphany Pledge Campaign



## Frequently asked “pledge” questions:

### Who should pledge?

All members are expected to pledge. Part of being a “member in good standing” is committing to an annual pledge. Our goal is 100% participation.

### How much should I pledge?

Only you can decide. This is the time to count blessings and generously give back from our abundance.

### Why should I pledge? Can't I just put money in the plate?

Pledging is a spiritual statement of your ongoing support for the mission and shared ministry of Epiphany. On a practical level, when members pledge their financial support for the upcoming year, the church can make a realistic budget regarding staff, programs and operating expenses. Our church's operating budget is completely dependent upon pledge income. The vestry will finalize a budget for 2010 based upon the amount pledged by our members during the fall pledge campaign. Pledges provide a steady and consistent stream of income for the church.

### After I pledge, how can I fulfill my pledge?

When you pledge, you'll sign a pledge form that indicates how you will make your payment. We strongly encourage electronic funds transfer from your bank account so that a monthly transfer takes place automatically. Some members might find it convenient to fulfill your pledge by credit card but it is a costly for the church to process credit cards, up to the tune of \$3,600 per year. You can also pay your pledge monthly, quarterly or annually by check, either mailing it to the church office or dropping it in the Sunday collection.

### Is my pledge confidential?

Yes. For most of us our pledge is deeply personal and the church will honor your pledge with respect and care. Specific pledge information is limited to the bookkeeper, the Rector, the Treasurer and the Sr. Warden. Members of the Vestry and Stewardship Committee have information regarding pledge statistics and pledge trends, but the amounts of individual pledges are not distributed or discussed.

### Does everyone pledge about the same amount?

Definitely not! At Church of the Epiphany we are critically dependent upon a small number of large pledges. Approximately 10% of our pledges account for almost 40% of our pledge income. This is not sustainable nor is it a healthy model for financial stability. One of the goals of the 2010 pledge campaign is for a greater number of parishioners to take on a more balanced share of financial support.

### Church of the Epiphany 2009 Pledge Pyramid

Pledge Range	# of Pledges in 2009	Percent of Total # of Pledges	Total Pledge Amount	% of Pledge Dollar Amount
\$10,000+	5	4%	\$64,400	19%
\$9,999 – \$7,500	5	4%	\$42,360	13%
\$7,499 - \$5,000	5	4%	\$29,420	9%
\$4,999 - \$2,500	31	23%	\$103,480	31%
\$2,499 - \$1,000	51	38%	\$78,380	23%
\$999 - \$1	37	27%	\$16,371	5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>134</b>		<b>\$334,411</b>	

### What is the goal for the 2010 pledge campaign?

Our goal is to fund programs and ministries at 2008 levels. To do so, we will need to increase total pledge income to approximately \$425,000.

### What's next?

Please mark your calendars for the *Collection and Blessings of Pledges* on **November 15**. Please come with your pledge.

### Your feedback is welcome

We've heard from you (and learned from you) as to what you liked about last year's campaign and what you didn't like. So please, if you have strong feelings about some aspect of our stewardship campaign, speak to our Rector or one of our committee members soon. We welcome your input.

### Think about what belonging to our wonderful church means to you, your family and our community.

### May you find peace and joy in your giving.

**Stewardship Committee:** Heather Hansen and Claire Dikas (Co-chairs), Liz Olson (Sr. Warden), Rev. Melanie Donahoe (Rector), Starmie Taylor, Steve Blake and Ronica Smucker