

Q&A on Giving at Corinth

Corinth Reformed Church – Hickory, NC
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1. Why do we give?

The “voluntary offering” system in a church is so much a part of our culture that we tend to forget there’s any other way to support the ministry. But it’s relatively new in the history of world religions, and directly associated with freedom of religion. If the government does not support one particular faith, then adherents of that faith must give voluntarily.

2. Is there biblical support?

In the Bible offerings are both for relief of the poor and for the support of facilities and staff. The principle of giving 10% is throughout the Old Testament, including Malachi’s famous rebuke about “robbing God” by not tithing (Malachi 3:10). The broader biblical idea is “stewardship,” that ALL we have is God’s, and we are only giving him what he gave us (Luke 16:1-17). The early church practiced voluntary offerings, which the Apostle Paul said should flow naturally from a grateful heart: “Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

3. What does the General Fund at Corinth support?

A gift to Corinth Reformed Church, unless otherwise indicated, supports the General Fund, with a fiscal year beginning April 1. This covers staff salaries, programs, building upkeep, and support of our mission projects. Contact the church office for the current year’s budget.

4. What are the most common ways to give to the General Fund?

You may give by cash or check in the regular Sunday offerings. If you would like a set of church offering envelopes, contact the church office. You may use the online bill pay feature of your bank and send the gift to Corinth Reformed Church, 150 Sixteenth Avenue NW, Hickory, NC 28601. You may give by credit or debit card with the link on our web site, corinthtoday.org/give. If you have a Realm account, you can click on “Giving” to set up one-time or recurring gifts. You may also text the word “Corinth” to 73256. If we know the donor’s name and address, we provide quarterly statements of tax-deductible gifts.

5. What mission projects does Corinth support?

We currently support 7 projects related to the denomination, such as Faithful & Welcoming Churches, Abernethy Laurels, camps, retreat centers, etc. We support 17 cross-cultural projects, with our greatest emphasis place on ministries in Nicaragua, Moldova, and Kenya. We support 26 local and regional projects, including Safe Harbor, Cornerstone, Forgiven Ministry, Cooperative Christian Ministries, Young Life, The Hickory Soup Kitchen, and various L-R campus ministries. For a complete list, contact the church office.

6. Who oversees Corinth's finances?

The Board of Deacons is made up of six members elected by the congregation to oversee all financial matters of the church, from proposing and overseeing the budget to managing cash flow to ensuring the safe and proper handling of church funds. For a current list of members of the Board of Deacons, contact the church office.

7. What other options are there for giving other than the General Fund?

Giving may also be designated as follows –

- **Missions:** You may designate additional funds to any of the mission projects we support, and your gift will be added to the contributions from our General Fund budget.
- **Good Samaritan Fund:** You may designate a gift to support our fund that helps members and non-members in times of financial crisis.
- **Charitable Foundation:** Primarily for larger gifts (such as estates), the Corinth Reformed Church Charitable Foundation, Inc., is a separate charitable entity whose board members are members of Corinth and invest the funds to provide income for the church's ongoing work.
- **Memorial Fund:** Smaller designated gifts may be made to our Memorial Fund for items that serve the church's needs in memory or honor of a loved one.
- **OCWM:** You may designate a gift to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) to support the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. No General Fund gifts support OCWM, so your gift must be designated to support OCWM or the Western North Carolina Association.