



# TCC Needs Your Help

## Giving is Down, but Why? And What Can We Do?

Your Church Governance Council has noticed that there were few pledge cards returned last year - less than 20. Overall giving by the congregation is down in 2019 by about 10-12% (estimated) through the end of August. As a result, we'd like to suggest a few things that we all can do to make it easier for the church to pay its obligations, staff, and continue to support its vibrant missions (Youth Group, Church School, Center for Hope and Healing, Revitalized Worship and Music Ministry, as well as Community Gathering events such as church and community suppers, etc).

Why is cash flow down all of a sudden? Well, a couple of reasons. First, we have unfortunately lost some members who gave quite a lot of not just their time and talent, but their treasure to support our mission and ministry. Additionally, as people's lives become busier on Sundays, folks choose not to come to worship as often. But 95% of our congregation members still write checks. So let's say that we pledge \$25 a week to the church. If we attended weekly, we'd place \$100 in the plate per month. But if we now attend only once or twice monthly, we're giving \$25 or \$50 where we once gave \$100. It's not because we're consciously thinking about reducing our contribution, but if we attend less, it just happens that way, because we write the check for the same amount no matter how often we attend. So we have made it really easy for members to give electronically through automatic payments. Many of you use these for home mortgage loans, car loans, or utility payments already. At TCC, you can sign up to have payments through a credit card or deducted straight from your checking account. This will help TCC better manage cash flow if members don't attend as regularly (as in the summer) and it can be easily adjusted however often our spirits call us to give more when we are called to do so; just ask our church secretary, Leigh-Ann.

### **Making online donations is quick and easy: just follow these steps:**

1. Go to [TCCUCC.org](http://TCCUCC.org) (our church's website)
2. Click on the "Giving" tab
3. Click on the box that says, "Donate to TCC"
4. Enter all the information in the boxes provided. Most donations should be directed to the "General Fund"

We're also going to try some different things around our stewardship appeal for financial resources this year. About 40% of the congregation doesn't even open these letters that are sent to their homes (and that's reflected in the fact that pledge cards don't get returned).

***So let's make a deal:*** TCC will send less mail each fall, if we take more seriously our obligation to give thanks to God with our time, talent, and treasure. We need to re-commit ourselves to keeping TCC vital: There is a way, a truth, a light through which we can find nowhere else but in our gathered, blessed, and wonderful lives. Let's figure out how to keep TCC vibrant this year!

