

Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship and Financial Pledges

Q. One of the words we often hear when giving is discussed is *stewardship*. What does that word mean?

A. In the story Jesus told in Matthew 24:42-51, the steward was one who was trusted with responsibility while the master was away. The task of the steward is to do whatever the master would want if the master were present. As Christians we have been appointed stewards of God's creation and all that God has given us in our lives. That means how we live matters to God. Our use of our financial resources also is an expression of our care for that which is not ours but God's.

Q. Why is it important for me to give to both the General Fund and the Mortgage Fund?

A. FLC maintains two separate funds, one for day-to-day operations and the other to pay the mortgage. On an annual basis, the costs for operations are about three times the costs for paying the mortgage. You have a choice about how you want to designate your gift, but please keep in mind that our financial commitments as a congregation are for both ministry and mortgage. You can also check the box on the pledge form to give permission for your dollars to be used as needed.

Q. What is the financial goal for the General Fund and how was it determined?

A. Just to maintain our current ministry takes about \$22,000 per month. This amount is determined by the congregation at its annual business meeting.

Q. May I use one check for both the mortgage fund and the general fund?

A. Yes. Offering envelopes will include a line for the Mortgage Fund and the General Fund. If you use an envelope, please designate the amounts for the "General Fund" or "Mortgage Fund" on the outside of the envelope and the memo line of the check. Your financial contributions are always applied as you indicate on your pledge form.

Q: When do I start paying on the Financial Pledge for *Flowing Faith*?

A: This is a twelve-month pledge. You are asked to begin paying on your pledge in January. It is always helpful when people "pay forward" especially at the end of the calendar year or before the beginning of the summer.