

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Open your heart without opening your checkbook!

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks or carry cash.

Frequently Asked Questions About Electronic Giving

Q. What are the major advantages of electronic giving?

A. Electronic Giving is about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic Giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend worship services. The church, in turn, benefits from donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

Q. How does Electronic Giving work?

A. Contributions are automatically transferred from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Q. How are my automatic contributions deducted and transferred?

A. You must sign and return an authorization form to the church indicating the amount you wish to contribute. Contributions are then transferred through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network – the same network used by families to make mortgage and utility payments or to receive payroll earnings and Social Security income. It is also called Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or automatic payment.

Q. When will my contribution be debited from my account?

A. A debit to your account will occur on the date(s) you specify on your authorization form.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement with "Mt. Vernon" and possibly "SST" in the description.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic contributions that can be used as proof of your contributions. They will also appear on your church giving statement.

Q. Is Electronic Giving risky?

A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic contributions, the church uses Stewardship Technology, an established and highly-regarded company that has partnered with our church's software company.

Q. How much does Electronic Giving cost?

A. It costs you nothing and it costs the church very little. It is the lowest cost method of transferring funds.

Q. What if I try Electronic Giving and don't like it?

A. You can cancel or change your authorization at any time by notifying the church.

Q. How can I sign up for Electronic Giving?

A. Complete, sign and return an authorization form to the church office. A new authorization form must be completed prior to the start of each calendar year.