

Over and Above Giving



Our regular giving supports the ongoing ministries of Harvest Fellowship. With Harvest Fellowship's Legacy Generosity Initiative, God is calling us to make gifts **over and above** our current giving. Our challenge is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to answer God's call while continuing to provide for ourselves, our families, our church, and our futures. This guide contains ideas to help you manage money wisely by:

- Reassessing your lifestyle
- Reallocating your resources
- Rearranging your priorities
- Practicing priority budgeting

We pray this guide will help you as you consider God's call to steward His resources well in this critical time in the life of our church.

Reassess Your Lifestyle

➤ **Go on a “Spending Fast”**

For one month, skip “want” expenses like eating out or streaming. Redirect those funds to the generosity initiative. After that month, consider extending your fast and giving long-term to the initiative.

➤ **Increase Giving when Income Increases**

Periodic salary increases or bonuses are fantastic opportunities to increase giving. Rather than adjusting your lifestyle to fit your income, commit that “extra” cash to the Legacy Initiative.

Rearrange Your Priorities

➤ **Give From Your Excess**

One man decided to sell his prized baseball cards (worth over \$20,000) and give the proceeds to a generosity initiative. Another couple decided to give the \$80,000 they had saved for a lake cabin. Do you have anything of monetary value that you can commit to this initiative?

➤ **Sacrifice Your Time**

If your regular income meets your needs, consider committing some of your spare time to a part-time job and giving those earnings to the Generosity Initiative. This is especially an option for families whose children are grown and retired folks.

Reallocate Your Resources

➤ **Redirect Short-Term Expenditures**

Often, we have significant short-term expenses like school tuition and car loans. Once satisfied, consider committing this “excess” to the Legacy Initiative.

➤ **Identify "Money Leaks"**

Look for things like subscriptions you no longer use and recurring charges that no longer provide value. Reallocate those funds to the Legacy Initiative.

➤ **Commit Unexpected Income**

Often, people pray for God to provide a way for them to give beyond what they can afford. Answers are usually unexpected! One couple who had been praying about their commitment to the generosity initiative at their church unexpectedly received an inheritance and gave the entire amount to the initiative in addition to their commitment from their regular income.

➤ **Consider Your Changing Financial Picture**

Most people’s financial commitments change over time. You don’t have to commit to giving in equal increments over the three-year campaign. Maybe you can give more in the third year than in the first, or vice versa. As you think about your financial commitments, don’t just consider your giving potential right now. It might be that you can commit to giving 20% of your total commitment in the first year, 50% in the second, and 30% in the third. It’s okay to be creative!

Practice *Priority Budgeting*

Generous giving requires intentionality. Following through on intentions requires planning and budgeting. *Priority budgeting* is a goal-oriented approach to managing household finances where you:

- Start budgeting by tracking your current spending. Don't set arbitrary spending limits that are overly restrictive. You'll never follow it!
- Categorize expenses into essential (mortgage/rent, utilities, food, transportation) and discretionary spending. Treat tithes and offerings as essential.
- Identify and prioritize saving for future goals like buying a new car or paying for a child's education.
- Practice *zero-based budgeting* by allocating every dollar so that *income minus expenses equals zero*.
- Use cash for discretionary items as much as possible.
- Track small purchases. Minor expenses add up!
- Budget for annual expenses like insurance premiums or holiday shopping.

Once you've established a plan, be willing to reassess and adjust. Things change. You will only follow a budget if you can live on it.



PRAY for guidance | **ENGAGE** w/ others | **GIVE** generously

Tax-Saving Strategies

The PCA Foundation (pcafoundation.com) can help you implement tax-saving strategies as you give. These strategies include:

➤ **Giving Long Term Appreciated Assets**

Giving long-term (held greater than 1 year) appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate, mutual funds, or private business interests can increase the net value of the donation by up to 20% compared to selling the asset and donating the proceeds. You avoid paying capital gains tax, and if you itemize, you can typically claim an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the asset.

➤ **Bunching**

Bunching is a tax-planning strategy where you consolidate multiple years of donations into a single tax year, itemizing in the "bunching" year and taking the standard deduction in "off" years. This allows you to deduct more than the standard deduction in the bunching year and take advantage of the standard deduction in off years. A PCA Foundation donor advised fund can distribute donations to approved charities as directed by you in those "off" years.

➤ **Taking A Qualified Charitable Distribution**

A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows those aged 70½ and older to transfer up to \$111,000 (in 2026) from an IRA to the PCA Foundation, satisfying the required minimum distribution without increasing adjusted gross income.

Every financial situation is different. Please consult a qualified financial advisor before making a long-term financial commitment. David Osterhouse, CPA, is available to discuss these giving strategies with you.

If you need help establishing a PCA Foundation donor advised fund or a "blackbaud portal" account, contact Eva Goldstein at 678-825-1047. Harvest Fellowship is Designated Fund 4042.

Ways to Give

- **Check:** Make checks payable to “Harvest Fellowship” with “Legacy” in the memo. Place your check in the donation plate or mail to Harvest Fellowship, P.O. Box 475, Lusby, MD 20657.
- **Bank Bill Pay Service:** Set up Harvest Fellowship as a bill-pay recipient. Designate “Legacy” in the memo line.
- **Credit/Debit Card or Direct Debit/ACH:** Go to hfpc.org/givingbycc and select *10344-Special Offering* in the pulldown.
- **Recurring Gifts:** Set up a recurring gift by following the directions at hfpc.org/recurring and selecting *10344-Harvest Fellowship Church_Lusby MD (Special Offerings)*. You must have a PCA Foundation “blackbaud portal” account to manage a recurring gift.
- **Cash:** Put cash in an envelope labeled “Legacy” and place it in the offering plate. Include your name if you want us to track it. “Legacy” envelopes are available on the offering plate stand near the sanctuary entrance.

A Final Word

If you are overwhelmed by the prospect of giving *over and above* what you already give, you’re not alone. Several in our congregation have benefited from coaching and self-paced courses offered by Crown Financial Ministries (crown.org) that help them move from *struggling to control what they think they own* to *joyously stewarding all that God has provided*. Use this challenge as an opportunity to take another step closer to being a Lifetime Giver on your Generosity Journey!

***You don’t need to pledge to give
to the Legacy Generosity Initiative,
but your pledge helps us plan as we
move***