

How is the Church Financed?

Like most United Church congregations, Robertson-Wesley is self-supporting, that is, the cost of the facility, staff and operation of the Church and the building is born by the congregation and visitors.

The Church does not charge a membership fee, but depends on free-will offerings. This is based on our wish that all feel welcome to participate fully in the life of the church regardless of their financial situation, and the belief that the Spirit will inspire the generosity needed for the Church to thrive. The following has been prepared to give people help in deciding what is appropriate for their financial contributions.

Blessing in Abundance

Consider these words: “The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work...You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us...” (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Local Operating Expenses

Contributions allocated to “Robertson-Wesley United Church” are used principally for the operation of the local congregation. It also includes our share of the operating expenses of the wider United Church.

Mission & Service Fund

The Mission and Service Fund (M&S) of the United Church of Canada and its activities and projects are financed by voluntary contributions from the people as well. Contributions to the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund can be made in the following ways:

- M&S Bucket Offerings which happen 4 times a year in worship.
- Special one-time offerings for specific world emergencies.
- Special Communion offering.

M&S helps in world-wide disaster relief, poverty relief, UC Chaplaincy at prisons and Universities, to name a few examples.

100th Anniversary Legacy Fund

The Robertson-Wesley building is over 100 years old and has been designated as a heritage building by the City of Edmonton. We are thus entitled to receive a \$50,000 matching grant every five years to help with the exterior maintenance of the building. The City of Edmonton support does not provide all the funding necessary to maintain the building, thus your contributions are important. In response to this reality, we maintain substantial reserve funds, inviting regular contributions to our capital fund, and make special appeals from time to time for major, one-time projects.

Revenue

Although the church depends primarily on contributions from participants for revenue, Robertson-Wesley does have some added sources which provide significant additional

income. This includes building rentals to a variety of community groups, weddings and funerals, grocery gift cards and other regular fundraising projects.

Percentage Table

The table below offers a guide as to what your weekly giving would be as a percentage of gross income.

Gross Annual Income	Weekly Contribution in Dollars				
	2%	3%	5%	7%	10%
\$120,000	46	70	116	162	230
\$100,000	38	58	96	134	192
\$80,000	31	46	77	108	154
\$70,000	27	40	67	95	135
\$60,000	23	35	58	81	115
\$50,000	19	29	48	67	96
\$40,000	15	23	38	54	77
\$30,000	12	17	29	40	58
\$20,000	8	12	19	27	38
\$10,000	4	6	10	13	19

Making a Pledge

Each year we conduct a Stewardship pledge campaign. A pledge is not contractual, but through prayerful consideration, it is a commitment and an expression of faith

indicating how much people plan to contribute to the church in the coming year which helps our Finance Committee create a yearly balanced budget.

Methods of Giving

We receive some contributions on an annual basis, some as one-time donations and some in response to special appeals. Regular contributions may be made through weekly offering envelopes, post-dated cheques, or the pre-authorized remittance system (PAR).

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes can be requested through the office for either weekly, monthly or yearly contributions. At that time you will be given an offering envelope number so that your contributions can be noted for a tax receipt at the end of the year. Offering envelopes are also available in the pews.

Pre-Authorized Remittance

This is a system whereby you may authorize monthly payments to be made by electronic transfer from your bank account, or credit card to the church's account according to the amount you specify. The amount given can be changed at any time when notice is given to the envelope steward.

PayPal

The church has a PayPal account where you can also make contributions to the church.

Statements and Income Tax

Statements of your church contributions are issued quarterly throughout the year. And official income tax receipts are issued by the end of February. Regular contributions, M&S

contributions, and special church appeals are all tax deductible as charitable donations. In Alberta we receive a 50% tax refund after the first \$200 of total charitable contributions. More information on charitable giving can be found on the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Bequests

Another way that people can support Robertson-Wesley United Church in an on-going manner is through a Bequest. People can make R-W a beneficiary in their will. For more info. please contact the church office.

Catching the Spirit

As one would expect, people tend to contribute modestly when they are new to the church and gradually increase to a higher level of giving as they develop their understanding and appreciation for the church's mission. The church has often been compared to a ship on a voyage, led by a vision of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to transform lives and to transform the world. With the Spirit in our hearts, like wind in our sails, nothing is impossible!

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Financing the Life and Work of Robertson-Wesley

