



## OVERVIEW

We envision growing in generosity. Our hearts follow our treasures; giving reminds us that everything we have was given by God and that we depend on Him to meet our every need. Through His spirit, each of us can meaningfully invest in telling God's story in our city and throughout the world. Below are giving strategies, prayer and reflection prompts to consider as you plan your financial intention to Reach.

## PRAYER & REFLECTION

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:9, "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

- Pray that your life would be transformed by the Gospel.

Reflect on Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it."

- Do you see yourself as a steward or caretaker of what belongs to God?

Paul writes in Philippians 4:12-13, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."

- Are you content with God's current provision?
- Pray for contentment in your life.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, "Now about the collection of the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

- As you consider your giving to the General Fund (and separately your giving toward Reach), ask God what would be an appropriate sum of money in keeping with your income.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

- Pray that you will grow in the discipline of generosity.

## PRAYER OVER YOUR GIFT

- Pray that God would use your gift to reach those in need of the Gospel.
- Pray that Blackhawk Church would pull in the same direction, that God would grow generous hearts as we consider releasing resources for His work through Blackhawk and beyond.
- Pray for God’s continued guidance as we seek His will for our church in this season.
- Pray that our church experiences the truth of the words from Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- Pray for guidance in practicing the discipline of generosity in your own life.
- Pray that we move toward flourishing as we give ourselves away and spend ourselves for the well-being of others.

For a more detailed look at generosity, pick up a Generosity booklet at the Info Desk at your site, or view it [online](#).

## GIVING STRATEGIES

As you prayerfully think about what God will have you give, consider the strategies below. The included table worksheets could be a helpful tool in evaluating what your generosity could look like for the next 30 months, through December 2019.

### Give through income

- Receive it, give it: As you receive income from your employment, raises, bonuses, side work, gifts, tax returns, etc., give from it.
- Make sacrifices: Altering your lifestyle and priorities in small and big ways can create additional resources to give away. Commit to one less latte a week. Eat in. Take a staycation. Drive the car another year before replacing it. Wait on remodeling your home or buying that bigger house. Keep setting it aside: After a debt is paid off, reallocate and give resources that were previously set aside for that expense.
- Complete the below income and expense reduction giving table to help reveal your generosity potential.

INCOME GIVING POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
EXPENSE REDUCTION GIVING POSSIBILITIES	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL INCOME & EXPENSE GIVING POSSIBILITIES	\$

### Give through assets

- Non-cash gifts: Consider giving eligible appreciated securities, such as stock and mutual funds. You can receive giving credit for the full market value and avoid capital gains tax.

- Make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Consider other financial assets such as bank accounts or property. Consider releasing some of these resources.
- Something now, something later: One of the greatest gifts you can provide to ensure the mission continues is by making a planned gift through your estate.
- Complete the below asset giving table to further reveal your generosity potential.

ASSET GIVING POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL ASSET GIVING POSSIBILITIES</b>	\$

## FREQUENTLY ASKED FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

### Is Reach giving different than General Fund giving?

Yes. Gifts made toward Reach have a separate designation than the General Fund. Gifts toward Reach are over and above regular giving to the General Fund.

### How do I indicate my financial intention to Reach?

At our Sunday services on May 21, 2017, together as one church, each of us will confidentially indicate our total financial intention to the Reach initiative through December 2019 on an Intention Card. Intentions can also be made online at [reach.blackhawkchurch.org/intention](http://reach.blackhawkchurch.org/intention). Completing an Intention Card lets us know that you're in, and indicates how much you intend to give to the Reach initiative over and above your regular giving at Blackhawk. Adding up all intentions lets us know our total intended amount as a church. The intention step is not a financial transaction; it is a statement of intent and may be altered.

### What is Blackhawk's current debt? Will the Reach initiative increase the debt?

From the time we moved to the Brader Way site in 2007 until today, we have taken on debt of approximately \$21.5 million. The current debt is approximately \$10.8 million. For a construction project, it is not unusual for a church to have debt financing in place as an insurance policy for unforeseen circumstances such as cash flow timing and cost overruns. Also, this step ensures no delay in construction. Our plan is that our future debt will be similar to our current debt once we have completed Reach initiative projects. Any potential debt increase would require a congregational member vote. We are committed to reducing the debt as quickly as possible while maintaining a healthy ministry and meeting local and global needs.

### How are major financial decisions made at Blackhawk?

Blackhawk staff and Elders seek guidance and advice on major financial matters from financial and business leaders from within our congregation.

### How can I participate in Reach?

It will take people engaging and investing where they live. It will take a recalibration of priorities. Through Reach, we are asking everyone at Blackhawk to pray, live and give in new ways. As you think about your part in this story, prayerfully consider the following questions:

- Am I growing in dependence on God through prayer, both in my own life and for the sake of others?

- Am I invested in the lives of those around me in ways that are characterized by the Gospel?
- If someone were to look at how I use my resources, what would they learn about my priorities?
- Will my financial intention to Reach allow me to more meaningfully engage in God's story, starting in our city and spreading throughout the world?

### **How can I track progress made toward my Reach intention?**

To see progress toward your intended financial amount to Reach, login at [my.blackhawkchurch.org/portal/my\\_pledges.aspx](http://my.blackhawkchurch.org/portal/my_pledges.aspx).

### **What if my circumstances change and I want to alter my financial intention to Reach?**

To increase, decrease or cancel your existing financial intention, first, cancel the original intention. Then if you want to indicate a new Reach intention amount, make a new Reach intention.

- To cancel an existing Reach intention, visit the My Pledges page at [my.blackhawkchurch.org/portal/my\\_pledges.aspx](http://my.blackhawkchurch.org/portal/my_pledges.aspx). After logging in, click cancel by the Reach intention, then click yes to confirm. If you only want to cancel a Reach intention, stop here.
- To make a new Reach intention, if still on the website, click "Create Another Intention" or visit [reach.blackhawkchurch.org/intention](http://reach.blackhawkchurch.org/intention) to create the new intention to Reach.

If you have any problems, questions or prefer not to use the website, please email [accounting@blackhawkchurch.org](mailto:accounting@blackhawkchurch.org) or call 608-828-4200 and ask for accounting for assistance in altering your Reach intention.

### **What happens if the Reach initiative falls short of the goal?**

We believe that God has presented these opportunities and we are responding to what He is doing. The goal is very ambitious and a big stretch for us, but we serve a big God who is capable of more than we can begin to imagine. Our hope would be to accomplish the projects outlined in the Reach initiative, but we will celebrate and be wise with whatever God provides. Right now, we anticipate moving toward the work God is doing through Zion City Church and securing land and a permanent building for Fitchburg, then expanding the Brader Way facility and positioning ourselves to launch a new site in the future.

### **What is the giving time frame of Reach?**

Reach intentions indicate total intended giving through December 2019. Our official Reach giving kickoff is June 11, 2017, but you can begin giving to Reach at any time.

### **How do I give to Reach?**

Gifts made toward Reach have a separate designation and are over and above regular giving to the General Fund.

- Online giving: Online giving is an easy and secure option for giving to Reach. You can set up a one-time or recurring gift toward your total intended Reach amount at [reach.blackhawkchurch.org/give](http://reach.blackhawkchurch.org/give) (click on the Give button). You may give using e-check, debit or credit cards. Please note: Blackhawk pays a 2-4% surcharge when you use debit or credit cards. We do not encourage incurring credit card debt to give.
- Offering boxes: You can find offering boxes at the entrances/exits of each worship venue. Checks should be made payable to Blackhawk Church with Reach listed as the designation on the memo line. For cash gifts, write Reach as a designation along with the amount on an envelope provided by the offering box.
- Non-cash gifts: If you wish to give eligible appreciated securities such as stock or mutual funds to Reach, in order to receive giving credit for the full market value and avoid capital gains tax, please complete the non-cash gift form available at [www.blackhawkchurch.org/noncashgiftform](http://www.blackhawkchurch.org/noncashgiftform). The completed form can be sent to [accounting@blackhawkchurch.org](mailto:accounting@blackhawkchurch.org). This information allows us to

identify the donor of the securities and the designation of the donation. The form contains account information for your investment provider to make the transfer.