

Faith Promise Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST FAITH PROMISE & MISSIONS APPROACH

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What will our missions efforts entail?

- a. Christ Church's vision is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our mission is to accomplish our vision by Bringing people to Christ, Building people in Christ and Sending people for Christ. The focus of our Missions Committee and Missions Celebration is on Sending people for Christ.
- b. As Christ Church engages in the scriptural basis for missions and is exposed to expanded opportunities to serve others, it is hoped that the church will enter into an exciting and fulfilling deepening of our faith and commitment to our Christian walk.
- c. Through enhanced communications and pastoral support, we will become more aware of the opportunities to serve locally, nationally and internationally. We believe God will increase our desire and heart for missions through our:
 - i. Increased prayer support
 - ii. Increased participation
 - iii. Financial support
 - iv. Lifestyle commitment – To be different and live differently in all aspects of our daily life, so that we continue to grow in the likeness of Jesus

2. What is a Faith Promise?

A Faith Promise is a way of giving to mission outreach. Rather than waiting to respond to individual appeals as they come along, believers ask the Lord how much of His blessings they should give to missions over the next year – by means of their prayers, time, talents and finances. If God so leads them, they then commit to that annually as a "Faith Promise," which relies on faith that the Lord will make it possible to fulfill this promise. The Faith Promise will make missions giving a lasting, rather than sporadic, commitment.

3. Is there a scriptural basis for Faith Promise missions giving?

Faith Promise giving makes us channels of blessing. In His covenant with Abraham, God said that through Abraham's descendants, "all peoples of the earth would be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) Faith Promise giving is a way of passing on the blessing.

- i. Hannah, though beyond child-bearing age, promised a son she did not have to serve in the temple, if God would provide the son (1 Samuel 1:1-3)
- ii. The Macedonians gave beyond their means (more than they could afford) (2 Corinthians 8:2-3, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)
- iii. Faith Promise giving reflects our personal commitments (2 Corinthians 8:5)

- iv. Though Faith Promise giving is optional, it does clearly demonstrate our love (Philippians 2:1-4; Luke 6:38, Romans 12:9-10)

4. Who should make a Faith Promise?

God can and will work through anyone and everyone! Husbands, wives, singles, youth, and children should all be encouraged to make a Faith Promise to pray, serve and/or provide financial support for missions.

5. What's the relationship between the financial aspect of the Faith Promise and tithes/offerings?

Faith Promise giving is separate from the tithe and offerings. Tithing recognizes God's ownership - over me and all that I have. In practical terms, tithe money maintains the local church and its campus ministries. Faith Promise is a way for us to give specifically to help the needy people of the world, through our prayers, service and financial support. This is a new way for our church to fund missions, without the need to individually appeal for mission-specific funds throughout the year.

6. How do I get the time and funds to fulfill my Faith Promise?

God will provide unexpected opportunities you may not be thinking of now. He may lead you to save money or raise funds in a creative or innovative way. He may ask you to adjust your lifestyle so you have more time for prayer and service. He may ask you to sacrifice. It is important to remain open to the leading of the Lord.

7. Do I give my Faith Promise before I get it?

A Faith Promise is as it sounds, a FAITH commitment. Promise only what you believe God wants to give through you; then trust God to be faithful in this promise. Your Faith Promise involvement says that you believe:

- i. God will help provide your Faith Promise
- ii. Giving of your time and money, although important, is secondary to faith and praying
- iii. The gospel can change lives
- iv. Global outreach is vital to accomplishing the mission of the Church

8. How do I determine what my Faith Promise should be?

- a. Pray for God's leading in the what and how you should give - including prayer, participation, financial support and lifestyle commitment
- b. Be obedient to His leading
- c. Do not be surprised at what God lays on your heart
- d. Fill out and submit a Faith Promise Card during the Missions Celebration

9. How do I give my Faith Promise?

Pray, serve and give regularly, if you can, to support our local, national and international mission partners. Missionaries and mission organizations need ongoing support (not just at Christmas). A Faith Promise commitment card will be given to all church members so we can help to connect you to the various missions partners and plan a missions budget.

10. Is this a pledge and will I be notified of my progress?

- a. This is a promise to God, not a pledge to Christ Church. Your Faith Promise is between you and God.
- b. Although you will receive receipts for your financial donations to Christ Church missions, no one will notify you or keep track of your progress.
- c. If you make a Faith Promise to pray or serve, the Missions Committee will keep you informed of prayer needs and service opportunities. A Volunteer Questionnaire will be developed to allow you to specify your skills, interests and availability, so that we can help you find the missions partners that are right for you.

11. How long does my Faith Promise commitment last?

Faith Promise commitments will be made once for the year during the Missions Celebration Event.

12. What are Faith Promise funds used for?

Funds that are received through the Faith Promise will be used to support the local, national, and international missions of the church. These supported mission partners have been selected through hours spent in prayer, discussion, and study by the Missions Committee.

13. When Faith Promise funds are delivered to the church, how will the money be managed to ensure that it is used for missions?

The Faith Promise funds that are contributed by our members will be “designated funds” - separate and apart from our regular operating budget - and will be spent only on our mission efforts. There will be no co-mingling of funds. Reports on mission funds will be available monthly, with the support of the church’s business staff and the Missions’ Financial Committee.

14. How will it be decided where our Missions money goes?

- a. This is the responsibility of the Christ Church Missions Committee. They are utilizing a standard Missions Support Application form and establishing some basic criteria that our missions efforts will be required to meet. The committee will allocate the funding available through a prayerful approach.
- b. There are 3 teams that will assess the missions opportunities and recommend where Christ Church funding should go. Anyone who is interested in missions is invited to participate on these teams:
 - i. Local Missions Focus Team

- ii. National Missions Focus Team
- iii. International Missions Focus Team
- c. There is no requirement to have an equal distribution of monies, only a balanced approach to ensure missions are being effectively carried out in the desired areas.

15. I believe we should take care of our own first and only support missions in our local community.

- a. We live in a global world and believe that:
 - i. God loves all the people of the world
 - ii. As Christians, we are called to serve all the people
 - iii. Jesus said: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
 - iv. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).
- b. An individual’s prayers and service can be for whatever missions they want to support. The Faith Promise funds will be distributed according to the plan established by the Missions Committee and will support all of the church’s local, national, and international mission partners.

16. I want to support a particular mission effort. Can I designate my Faith Promise to one specific mission?

You may designate your preferences for serving with your time and talents to one or more missions. The Missions Committee’s plan and prayer will be used to allocate the Faith Promise funds. You are free, of course, to financially support a particular mission; however, your desires will need to be communicated separately from your Faith Promise for missions.