

Donations of Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement Accounts.

Donations of Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are gaining in popularity at St. Mark's. During March, we received two distributions totaling almost \$21,000. And, with the changes in the tax law for 2018, it may be even more financially advantageous to make your offerings to St. Mark's through your IRA RMD.

Why is that? First, the IRA RMD contribution is not counted as income for the year. As a result, you may find yourself in a lower tax bracket paying even lower taxes. Second, not itemizing your St. Mark's contributions may qualify you for the standard deduction, simplifying your annual tax return preparation.

But there's more! By making your distribution now instead of waiting until the end of the year, our Treasurer spreads your contribution over the number of months remaining in the year. Those individuals who made their IRA RMD contributions in March will be credited in equal increments in our financial statements from March through December. One distribution at the start of the year can meet your pledge for the entire year.

Give it some thought and speak with your financial advisor about the benefits of charitable giving through your IRA RMD. Our own Ken Anderson can also answer your questions.