

Giving Strategy for Highland Christian Fellowship

Our giving strategy is based on the biblical principles outlined in the document, "The Ministry of Giving." Essentially, each believer gives a portion of God's material provision in order to bless others and further the work of making disciples of all nations.

A unique aspect of our giving strategy is that we do not have a finance committee or a budget that determines where gifts are directed. Each believer determines where his gifts are directed. There are two ways that someone may give: directly to the recipient or designated to the recipient through the HCF account. Any undesignated gifts given to HCF will be used for the regular expenses of our fellowship (rent, supplies, etc).

The church body will approve an annual financial plan that determines what needs and ministries may be given to through the HCF account by designated gifts (See articles 4 and 6 of the Constitution of HCF). This financial plan may be modified by the church body throughout the year.

The elders and deacons are responsible for overseeing the use of the church account, keeping the church body informed of developing needs, and meeting financial needs from the church account in emergency situations.

Our goal is to give both locally and internationally. As a church family, we acknowledge the biblical priority of caring for those in the fellowship who are in need and supporting commissioned ministries that have need. We also desire to keep our sights on the mission to reach the world for Christ.

Financial Plan 2015 Highland Christian Fellowship

The following is a list of people and ministries that may receive funds through the Highland Christian Fellowship account. In order to appear on this list, the recipient must be: a) commissioned by the body; b) a benevolence or ministry need approved by the body; c) a missionary (or agency) approved by the body. These people and ministries will receive funds as designated by the congregation as they give.

- **Local Ministries Commissioned by HCF**
 - **Matthew McDill** – Bible Teacher, Elder.¹
 - **Teacher**
 - If someone is invited to teach during HCF worship, a love offering will be taken for him. If necessary, funds from the HCF general fund will be used to make this gift at least \$100.
 - This line will also be used if someone in our church body teaches and individuals desire to show their appreciation through a financial gift.
 - **Worship Leader**
- **Missions²**
 - **David Black** – ministry to indigenous churches in Ethiopia and India.
- **Benevolence**
 - **Frank Ransom** – Receives funds through this account from former church members for retirement support.
 - **Misty Reynolds Family** – Monthly needs for single mom homeschooling children; **\$1600.**³
 - **The Dees Family** – Their son, Joseph, has cancer and is undergoing special treatment out of town, incurring extra expenses.
 - **The Bryk Family** – Support while they get reestablished after their house fire.

¹ The McDill's monthly need is around \$6,000. Their primary income is from HCF giving, but there is no salary or obligation for HCF to meet their monthly needs. All financial support for them must be designated giving. [For tax purposes, the McDills are assigning \$1600 a month of support received from HCF for housing.]

² Occasionally missionaries will speak to and receive one-time gifts from HCF. Anyone from HCF who goes on short-term missions trips may be commissioned or approved to use the account for fundraising. The missionary and church will determine case by case if either of these is necessary.

³ By including a specific amount, we are setting a goal to try to make sure the Reynolds receive this much each month. This is not their total income, but is the current need after other income. As with all other items, this need will be met by the designated gifts of individuals. If we are not meeting this need, we will communicate it to the body. If more than needed is given, we will use it to meet their future needs. Extended family sends \$500 a month that counts toward the \$1600. If someone would like to give a gift for the Reynolds to receive beyond the monthly goal, he can designate it "extra gift."

The Ministry of Giving

1. The ministry of giving is different than the tithes of the Old Covenant.
 - a. The New Testament does not teach believers to tithe.
 - b. Most community needs of the Old Covenant for which the tithe was required have been fulfilled or are not longer a part of the community of faith.
 - c. Tithing does not fulfill the New Testament teaching on giving (2 Cor 9:7).
2. The ministry of giving is a privilege from God (2 Cor 8:1,4; 9:15; 1 Chron 29:10-19).
3. The ministry of giving is done willingly (2 Cor 8:3, 8, 11, 12; 9:2, 5, 7).
4. The ministry of giving is for God's glory (2 Cor 8:19; 9:7, 11-12, 13; Matt 6:1-4).
5. The ministry of giving should be cheerful (2 Cor 9:7).
6. The ministry of giving should be passionate (2 Cor 8:4, 7, 11; 9:2, 4).
7. The ministry of giving should be generous (2 Cor 8:2; 9:11, 13)
8. The ministry of giving should be sacrificial (2 Cor 8:2-3, 9. Luke 21:1-4).
9. The ministry of giving should be in accordance with our supply (2 Cor 8:3; 8:12; Luke 12:48)
10. The ministry of giving should be motivated by love (2 Cor 8:8, 24; 1 Cor 13:3).
11. The ministry of giving is a blessing to the giver (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor 8:10; 9:6, 8, 11; Phil 4:19; Matt 6:19-20).
12. The ministry of giving includes taking care of those in need (Matt 5:42; 19:21; 2 Cor 8:4, 9, 13-15; 9:1, 12; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1; James 2:15-16; 2 Thess 3:10-12).
13. The ministry of giving includes supporting ministry.
 - Those in ministry (often specifically elders) are not to be seeking personal gain through it (Acts 20:33-35; 1 Tim 3:3; 6:5, 8; Titus 1:7, 11; 1 Peter 5:21; Tim 6:5).
 - A direct link between ministry and material support can be an obstacle to the gospel (1 Cor 9:12; 2 Cor 11:7; 1 Thess 2:9; 2 Thess 3:7-8).
 - Local ministers are cared for by the local church (1 Tim 5:17; Gal 6:6).
 - Sent ministers are supported by local churches (2 Cor 11:8-9; 12, 13; Phil 4:14-16).
14. The ministry of giving is done individually and corporately (Matt 5:42; 19:21; 2 Cor 11:7-11; Phil 4:14-16).
 - Examples of giving in the NT indicate that when believers gave corporately, they were giving to a particular need or types of needs (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 9:1, 5).
 - Believers who receive help from the church have certain qualifications (1 Tim 5:3-16; 2 Thess 3:6-12).
 - The corporate funds are handled with integrity and accountability (1 Cor 16:3-4).