



HOME

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE IN FAITH?

COMMITMENT
GUIDE

SURRENDER :: LISTEN :: OBEY

Hello, Willow Creek Huntley!

These are exciting times! We are part of a significant story that God is writing—a story of faith, trust, and hope that began more than 40 years ago.

In 1973, Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian stood before a classroom—a classroom containing a young Bill Hybels—and shared a vision of what he believed the local church could become. “Dr. B” spoke of a biblically functioning, passionate, surrendered-to-Christ, Acts 2 community that would: reach people who were far from God; help people find home and hope in Christ; grow people in faith and in community; allow people to come fully to life as they serve in His name.

This dream became a reality as Bill Hybels and others founded Willow Creek Community Church. For over 41 years now, courageous Christ followers have shown truly heroic levels of sacrifice and commitment so that this Acts 2 vision of what the local church could be would take root and grow in Northern Illinois. As Bill Hybels continues to say, “The local church is the hope of the world.”

I am grateful to God that He has invited me into this story; I hope that you feel the same way!

This COMMITMENT GUIDE is intended to offer assistance as you begin to move in faith. It is simply a tool to help you SURRENDER :: LISTEN :: OBEY.

Whatever God calls you to in Willow Creek Huntley’s future, I hope that you find that this is a spiritual process much more than it is a financial process. I hope that you recognize that generosity is something that God gives not something that He takes. And I hope you feel called by God to let your generosity move faithfully into generations to come.

In gratitude,



Todd Katter

Lead Pastor

Willow Creek Huntley

OUR PATH

Our prayer is that each and every one of us will enter into a discipleship process, a spiritual decision-making process we call, "Surrender :: Listen :: Obey" to determine what role God has for each of us in raising five million dollars to put toward the building of Willow Creek Huntley's permanent home.

Over the last few years, as a result of our congregation's faithfulness and generosity as well as our staff's strong stewardship, we've been able to purchase land (at an incredible, miraculous, "only God" price). Now, we are ready to move in faith toward building a church home.

With careful budgeting, continued strong stewardship, and our obedience to give through the blessing of God's enduring provision, Willow Creek Huntley will be able to assume up to five million dollars in responsible debt.

EXPERIENCING JOY

There is no fast formula to determine the financial commitment you may give toward our church's vision campaign. As always, the truest measure of stewardship is equal sacrifice not equal gifts. In other words, we're not looking to divide our total need by our total attendance, expecting everyone to give an equal gift. Instead, we're asking every one of us to consider making a gift—above and beyond our regular tithe—that is sacrificial or meaningful in proportion to the wealth that God has entrusted to each of us. We believe it is God's desire for every person to deeply invest in what God is doing here at Willow Creek Huntley, whatever that means for each person.

So, if there is no formula for what one might give, then how does anyone gauge how "right" their commitment decision might be? Carefully consider the questions that follow to help discern what might be sacrificial for you.

Brothers and sisters, God has shown you His mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to Him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping Him in the right way. Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1–2 (NIRV)

How willing am I to take time to pray about genuinely seeking God's guidance in how He might want to work through me?

What difference do I want my commitment to make in my heart and life? Will my commitment transform me and shape me, allowing me to more meaningfully invest myself in the mission and ministry of Willow Creek Huntley? Will my commitment accurately reflect my devotion to God and to His work in and through my church family?

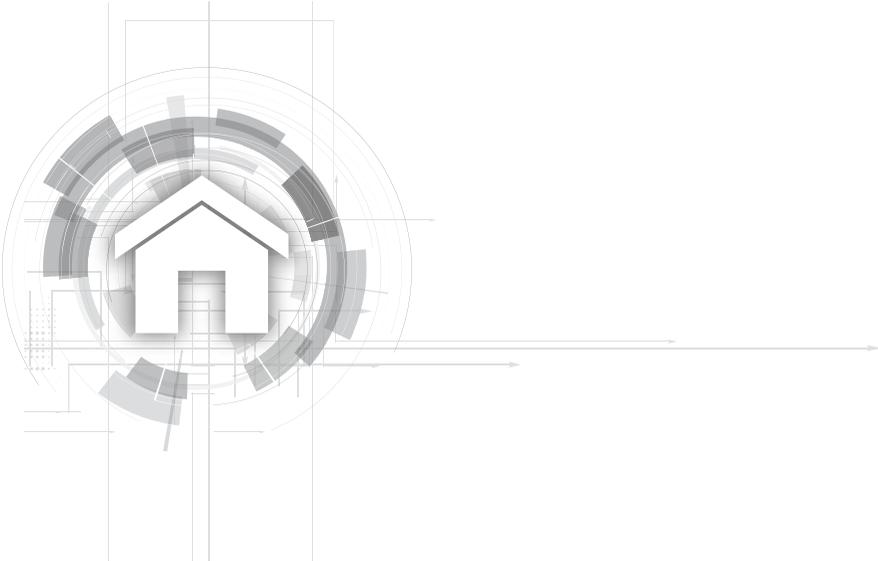
Will I have meaningful conversations about this decision with my family or those with whom I am in community at Willow Creek Huntley? What do I want that conversation to look like?

Am I thinking creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I am truly capable of giving? What assets and resources could I use as a gift beyond income?

What things can I afford that I would love to have but am willing to intentionally choose to live without because I am committing to give sacrificially?

As I learn more fully about how generosity is something God wants FOR me not FROM me, how am I discovering a new joy in giving?

Am I willing to sacrificially invest something of value today in order to gain something of greater value tomorrow? What do I want my future story, my legacy for God, to be?



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

INCOME AND GIVING

INCOME–STREAM GIVING

Giving as you receive income—from your regular income, bonuses, or through your personal business.

SACRIFICE

Changing your lifestyle and priorities to create additional resources for giving.

FREEDOM FROM DEBT

Retiring debt so that the resources that were once applied to that debt can now be available for giving.

INCOME–PRODUCING ASSETS

Giving from interest earned, income rental properties, or monies from other income–producing assets.

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING (continued)

GIVING ASSETS

GIVING APPRECIATED ASSETS

Consider transferring appreciated assets (stocks, real estate, precious metals, etc.) as a way to increase giving.

SALE OF ASSETS

Money resulting from the sale of personal assets, or from personally owned business assets, could be given.

SAVING AND INVESTMENTS

You may be able to give some portion of accumulated assets without significantly affecting your future security. The "returns" from investing in ministry may be more significant to you than simply accumulating more market returns.

TIME AND TALENT

ADDITIONAL INCOME

Using your skills and talents and taking on extra work could produce additional income to use as a gift.

GIFTS IN KIND

Donating specific services or materials, either personally or through your business, provides a unique opportunity for increased giving above and beyond your financial commitment to this vision.

When you do the process of surrender, listen, obey, slowly and mindfully, over weeks, you have no idea what a rich experience this will be in your life. You'll remember every part of it. You'll be filled with exhilarating joy.

—Bill Hybels

GIVING APPRECIATED ASSETS

If an investment-like stocks, real estate, and other assets—has increased in value since its purchase and has been held for more than one year, then there may be tax advantages to transferring ownership of that asset to the church as a charitable donation. Giving the appreciated asset may eliminate potential capital-gains taxes for the donor while still allowing the donor to receive the contribution credit for the current market value of the asset. Because of its tax-exempt status, the church can sell the asset and receive full market value less transaction costs.

Honor God with everything you own; give Him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (MSG)

What if I sell first and then give the cash? You may have to pay capital-gains taxes, which will reduce the after-tax proceeds from the sale.

	SELL FIRST	GIVE ASSET
Market Value	20,000	20,000
Original Cost	-10,000	-10,000
Appreciated Gain	10,000	10,000
Tax (assuming 20)	2,000	-0-
AFTER-TAX VALUE OF GIFT TO THE CHURCH	18,000	20,000
CONTRIBUTION CREDIT TO DONOR	18,000	20,000

NOTE: Tax positions and tax laws can be complicated and can change with new laws. Any discussion of tax treatment is not intended, and should not be considered tax advice. Consult your personal tax professional for advice on your tax position. Questions? Contact Jim Butler: jbutler@wcservingvolunteer.org

DISCOVERING YOUR POTENTIAL FOR GIVING

This worksheet can help you evaluate what you have available to give.

INCOME & SACRIFICE	
Analyze your projected income and spending patterns for the next three years and determine how much could be given and when. Alter your lifestyle in order to give what you save or don't spend.	
POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

GIVING ASSETS	
What accumulated assets in your life could be transferred to the church? What assets could be sold so that their value could be permanently invested in ministry?	
POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

TIME & TALENT

Determine what you could do to earn extra resources that could be given during this period. Are there "gifts in kind" of services and/or materials you could give?

POSSIBILITIES	AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
RESULTING THREE-YEAR POTENTIAL COMMITMENT	\$

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NLT)

As you pray and discern how God may be asking you to sacrificially give to advance His vision for us, let this gift chart be a discipleship tool for you. Allow this to be something that challenges and inspires you toward greater generosity for Christ’s Kingdom as we move in faith toward our permanent home.

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	IN 3 YEARS
<i>Numbers are approximate</i>			
12,821	55,556	666,667	2,000,000
6,411	27,778	333,334	1,000,000
3,206	13,889	166,667	500,000
1,924	8,334	100,000	300,000
1,283	5,556	66,667	200,000
642	2,778	33,334	100,000
481	2,084	25,000	75,000
321	1,389	16,667	50,000
161	695	8,334	25,000
65	278	3,334	10,000
52	223	2,667	8,000
33	139	1,667	5,000
20	84	1,000	3,000

GIVING OPTIONS

- Online at WCHuntleyHome.org (schedule recurring or one-time gifts)
- Cash or Check (indicate HOME in the memo section of your check)
- Stocks, Bonds, Precious Metals, Other Appreciable Assets



Mailing address: 10880 Illinois Hwy. Rt. 47 Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 765-7940 | willowhuntley.org