

frequently asked questions

What is the Every Member Canvass (EMC)? What does it support?

The Every Member Canvass (EMC) is the annual fundraising pledge campaign that supports the mission and yearly programs of the church. The EMC funds the Cathedral's annual operating budget to enable our common life and outreach in the community for the coming year. The EMC helps cover the costs of everything from lightbulbs and coffee cups to innovative programs and vital technology.

What is a pledge? And why should I pledge?

Parish members are asked to make a pledge of financial support to sustain our mission and ministry in the coming calendar year (2022). Making a pledge in response to God's call, like Isaiah, allows the vestry to budget responsibly and ensure with confidence that the Cathedral's programmatic needs will be met. Increases in pledge commitments and new pledges will allow us to make up the sizeable gap of lost revenue that is a result of economic circumstances beyond our control. The reduced returns from the parking garage, Treebeards restaurant, and the school means a greater percentage of our annual budget will need to come from parishioner pledges. Your gift will help us live fully into our vision for the future.

How do I fulfill my pledge?

Christ Church Cathedral operates fiscally on the calendar year — January to December. Pledges need not be paid now and may be adjusted during the year. Payments, which are tax deductible, may be made on your schedule, in a lump sum or installments, in cash, by check, credit card, and through our online giving portal. There are several payment options and you may select the one that works best for you. There are ever increasing ways to make giving to the church easy just like other non-profits — such as qualified charitable distributions from IRA accounts, contributions through Donor Advised Funds, and the gift of stocks or securities. For more ways to give, contact Karen Kraycirik or visit the Give page of the website: www.christchurchcathedral.org/give

Did you know?

A pledge payment or gift to the Cathedral can be made via a charitable distribution from your IRA, with potentially substantial tax benefits to you. See your accountant or investment advisor for more information!

Have you considered including the Cathedral in your estate plans?

Remembering Christ Church Cathedral in your estate plans provides a lasting gift for the future. A portion of the annual budget is funded through annual distributions from the Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Fund. If you'd like more information about leaving a legacy gift contact Karen Kraycirik or visit the Cathedral's website: www.christchurchcathedral.org/plannedgiving



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

An Episcopal Community in the Heart of Houston, Texas

letter from the stewardship council

We invite you to walk with us on this journey by making a pledge.

In order to live into our vision action plan and faithfully enter God's future for Christ Church Cathedral, we need the financial support of every parishioner. The costs of financing Cathedral ministries, even at the level they currently exist, increase each year. As we imagine and develop God's plans for our future ministry to the parish, to downtown Houston and beyond, we will require more financial support.

We all find ourselves in various stages of life, and whether it's a period of abundance or a period of challenge, our circumstances are unique. For nearly two centuries, Christ Church has stood the test of time — proving to be steadfast and strong in the face of adversity, generous and compassionate through prosperity and scarcity. This upcoming year should be no different.

With gratitude, we share that last year 572 families made a pledge to Christ Church Cathedral for a total of \$3.36 million. The Vestry anticipates that we need \$3.46 million in pledges in order to fully and responsibly fund the 2022 budget. That's an increase over last year's pledge total — a reachable goal!

We are asking everyone to participate in this year's Every Member Canvass, no matter the amount. We are hopeful this year to increase our number of pledges by 5%. Every gift counts, every pledge makes a difference, and every contribution renews our commitment to God, answering the call and saying, "Here I am. Send me."

We look forward to the new opportunities that God will set before us, and we invite your continued support through time, talent, and treasure to turn this vision for the future into a reality.

Faithfully,
The 2021 Stewardship Council

CHAD CROSS	GAY GULLEDGE
JOHN DENNIS	SUSAN HOFFIUS
DEBBY FRANCIS	MARK HULL
CHARLIE GILLMAN	FRANCES KITTRELL
ELIZABETH GOZA	ELAINE KRAUSE

Range of Pledges	Pledges Received	
	2021 ACTUAL	2022 GOAL
25,000 and above	22	23
15,000 to 24,999	28	29
10,000 to 14,999	41	44
5,000 to 9,999	105	110
2,000 to 4,999	162	170
1,000 to 1,999	113	120
\$999 and less	101	104
TOTAL	572	600

Out of an estimated 800 families in the congregation, 228 did not pledge in 2021. If more families pledge and do so generously, we will be able to expand our mission.

Every Member Canvass 2022

November 14 is Loyalty Sunday when we hope to have all pledge cards returned. A special blessing will be said in thanksgiving for these gifts from God during each worship service.

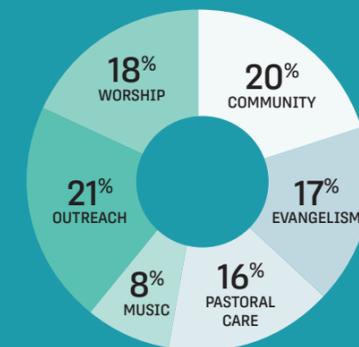
Ways to make your pledge

When it comes to making your pledge for the upcoming year, there are many options available. Complete and sign a 2022 EMC pledge card and place it in the offering plate during any church service at Christ Church Cathedral or return it in the enclosed envelope to the parish offices at 1117 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002.

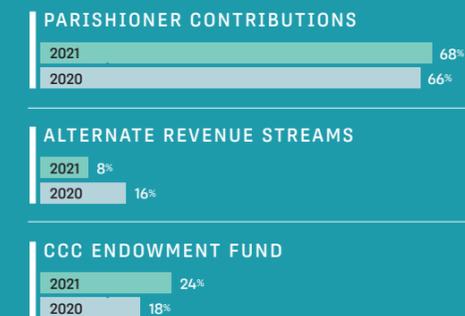
You can also make your pledge via the Cathedral's website at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/emc. Look for the "Make My Pledge" button when you click the GIVE button on the top right hand corner of the home page.

If you'd like an alternative to the website or mailing in a pledge card, contact Minister for Stewardship Karen Kraycirik for additional information on how to pledge, setting up scheduled giving, or any other questions regarding pledging or payments. 713-590-3338 or kkraycirik@christchurchcathedral.org

Where our money is spent



Where our funding comes from



online pledge card



Scan with your phone



Every Member Canvass 2022

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for us?
I said: Here I am. Send me.

— Isaiah 6:8

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL



Standing at the entrance to the temple in Jerusalem, Isaiah saw the Lord in a vision. The Lord had a message to deliver to the nation of Judah, and He expressed His desire for a messenger.

In this scripture, Isaiah recounts a moment in his life as a young man, turning to the nation's center of religious life at a time when the future of his country looked especially bleak. God was asking much of Isaiah; the task at hand was not a simple one.

Despite his own sense of inadequacy, Isaiah offers himself for God's service: "Here I am. Send me." Isaiah answers affirmatively and without hesitation. The prophet begins his ministry through a *vision*.

Christ Church Cathedral also accepts God's call in the form of a vision — having launched the new vision action plan "Rooted in Christ; Built on Christ" in 2020. This vision action plan inspires and guides our mission and ministry for the years ahead. The journey we take together over the next five years will be as indispensable and critical as any in the 182-year history of Christ Church.

The challenges of the last year and half have been without parallel — but so too has the response of our generous and faithful congregation. As you page through this brochure, we hope it will give you a brief look at the impact your gifts have made and renew your faith in the opportunities that lie just beyond the horizon.

It is impossible to imagine what the Cathedral would be in the twenty-first century without the courage and foresight of those who came before us.

We have also been blessed by faithful and committed leadership from the vestry, the councils, and numerous volunteers. Through good planning and unwavering support, we have been able to respond to God's call in new and creative ways, not just during a global pandemic, but as the needs of those we serve have changed. We must keep moving forward faithfully, leading the charge and experiencing re-formation to best serve this community, our city, and the world beyond.



The "Rooted in Christ; Built on Christ" vision action plan is composed of strategic themes — each one generative of the next.

These themes will guide our programming, investment of resources, and development for the next five years. Here are just some of the ways clergy, councils, and staff have been hard at work to incorporate these themes into the planning of ministry and programs.

sharing the good news

Isaiah was called as a messenger, and so we too must share the Gospel with others. For over a century, Christ Church has been known as a center for musical excellence, as music is an integral part of our worship and an essential piece to our ministry. The Cathedral Choirs produced four virtual choir projects, joining dozens of voices in harmony, and thus creating some of our most popular content on our virtual platforms. Children's Ministry teamed up with St. Martin's and St. John the Divine to create a globally shared Vacation Bible School and receiving over 5K views. Thanks to the livestream technology in place in the Cathedral, and now Reynolds Hall, virtual Sunday attendance has grown significantly both within and outside Houston. Our 1 p.m. La Santa Eucaristía (in Spanish) draws online worshippers from Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Peru, El Salvador, and Ecuador regularly. Encuentro Juvenil, the Cathedral Youth virtual mission trip, connected youth from the Diocese of Texas and the Diocese of Costa Rica through a weekend of fostering friendships and inspiring collaboration. We will continue to empower our community to share the Good News of Jesus in all areas of our lives — breaking down the geographical boundaries of our church in ways never imagined before.

serving the world

It is a blessing to be called to the Body of Christ, but with that call we are expected to also be the hands and feet of Jesus. Outreach to our community, those who live on the margins, and the world has always been a pillar of the mission and ministry of Christ Church. Several of the "Rooted in Christ; Built on Christ" themes take outreach further to meet increased needs and identify new areas of support. Life's basic necessities are the core of The Beacon, offering resources to help Houston's homeless live a life of dignity and hope. The Beacon expanded its services exponentially in 2020, when most feeding ministries in the city suspended operations altogether. The Mission Outreach Council hosted the Alternative Giving Market and Christmas at the Cathedral on virtual platforms, offering their support to non-profit organizations serving underserved people of the city of Houston. Our At Risk Youth Program assisted an unprecedented number of families in crisis, providing a lifeline to those in dire need due to either pandemic or its associated economic fallout. And later this fall the Caring for God's Good Earth task force will present recommendations to the vestry on how to green the world around us and educate our congregation to be good stewards of the earth. With servant hands and hearts of all ages, we will put faith into action to amplify and enhance our outreach to Houston's communities.

formation inspires fellowship

When you focus on formation that transforms both the mind and the heart, organically you create space for meaningful fellowship among communities big and small. Hundreds of parishioners participated in intentional small groups throughout the past year and a half — starting with Acts in Easter, moving through Cathedral Reads, and engaging with Via Cathedral. The Adult Formation Council has been training small group facilitators to grow future opportunities for small group programming. Cathedral created curriculum, like Acts in Easter, has been offered to the wider church and used in other faith communities across the country allowing Episcopalians beyond our walls to foster relationships with one another and Christ. Bible studies, Youth Summer Shade, the Knitters and Crocheters group, Young Adult hangouts, Children's Ministry's Donuts & Devos in the Driveway, and Bridge/Rummikub night all provided opportunities to create deeper connections while acquiring new skills and knowledge through a lens of faith.

embracing all people

Christ Church is committed to being an open, loving, and diverse parish that embraces all who wish to know God in this place. The Pastoral Care Council has done good work to build community among those who care for loved ones with dementia/Alzheimer's Disease. Through the council's Rapid Response team, volunteers worked to assist the emerging technology needs of many so everyone could stay connected electronically. The Justice and Peace Council engages in work to embrace our LGBTQ+ community through programs such as Coming Out in Church, creating safe space for conversation and the struggles they, their families and friends experience. In addition to holding a two-day racial reconciliation conference in May 2021, this fall the council hosted a series to provide education and enlightenment on combatting anti-Semitism. Marcia Quintanilla and the Cathedral Youth participated in a five week focus group using an award-winning book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*. We will work together to better understand and meet all people wherever they are in their journey of life; to welcome them, love them, and help them find their spiritual home.

MEET THE EVERY MEMBER CANVASS CO-CHAIRS

"We are proud to serve our Cathedral as EMC co-chairs."

THE BECHTOL FAMILY

Hailey and Brent first found their way to the Cathedral 15 years ago because they were looking for an Episcopal church with character. They were immediately drawn to the downtown location and the architectural beauty of the buildings and worship spaces but kept coming back because of the people they met in those early days. Since then, they have raised their three children at Christ Church watching them grow as acolytes in worship services, posing for Christmas Eve pictures in front of the fountain, and washing down glazed donut holes with cups of lemonade. For the Bechtols, the Cathedral offers a general warmth and humor, as well as a shared respect for varied opinions, personalities, and cultural differences.



"We are honored to serve as co-chairs of this year's EMC."

THE GODOWNS FAMILY

Steve and Denise are native South Carolinians, both having moved to Houston in 1979 and 1981 respectively. Along with their son, Franklin, they joined the Cathedral in 2008. Denise has served on many councils and committees and presently serves on the Welcome Team and Reception Committee. Franklin took part in Rhythms of Grace and enjoys attending the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Steve began attending services at the Cathedral in 2015 after retiring from 40 years as an organist choir director in various Episcopal churches in the Diocese.

