

## WAYS TO GIVE

Money contributed by check or cash through the weekly offering is the most common form of giving. However, there are other methods available.

### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

EFT is a method whereby funds are automatically transferred from your checking or savings account on a monthly basis. This is especially convenient for snowbirds who leave for an extended period of time in the winter. Contact the church office for details

### GIFTS OTHER THAN CASH

Gifts other than cash can be donated. Some examples are:

- ◆ Stocks/Bonds (or other securities)
- ◆ Personal Property (including art, jewelry, etc)
- ◆ Real Estate
- ◆ Gifts Through Foundations

### WILLS AND TRUSTS

The church can be designated as a beneficiary in any will or trust. Specific ministries, such as those in this brochure, can also be named. The future development fund may be an appropriate place to designate an endowment.

For more detailed information on these types of giving, contact the church office to request information on tax advantages that can be used now or with gifts to be received by the church upon the donor's death.

### A FEW GENERAL COMMENTS

- ◆ It is recommended that the donor consult a competent attorney/certified financial consultant when planning significant monetary or non-cash gifts to the church. Consultation with appropriate church officers is also encouraged.
- ◆ The donor may designate the use of his or her gift to any of the funds provided for in this brochure, or may leave such use to the discretion of the Stewardship Committee and/or Church Council.
- ◆ All other designated giving will be treated as "pass through," e.g.. "in and out" of the church books within a timely manner, applied to one of the funds in this brochure, or returned to the donor.
- ◆ All gifts other than cash may have to be converted into cash prior to distribution to the appropriate or designated fund.

Acceptance of all gifts is subject to approval by the Church Council and/or the Church Conference.

It is our hope you will find this information both useful and informative, and the horizons of your church giving will become clearer and broader. Above all, seek the Lord's will "for where your treasure



# Guide for Giving to our Church



## Hale United Methodist Church

201 West Main St., PO Box 46, Hale, Michigan 48739  
(989) 728-9522 or (989) 728-5035

E-Mail: [haleumc@centurytel.net](mailto:haleumc@centurytel.net)

Web Site: [www.haleumc.org](http://www.haleumc.org)

Recently, members of our congregation have expressed increased interest concerning ways of giving financially to support the continuing ministry of Hale United Methodist Church and other needs that the Lord has placed upon our hearts.

The Lord considers this an extremely important issue. Surprisingly, there are 2350 verses in Scripture referencing money, possessions and how we are to view them spiritually. Jesus equated how we handle money with the quality of our spiritual life (Luke 16:11). The Lord also considers giving an act of worship expressing love and gratitude to our creator (Numbers 18:24, Matthew 25:34-45).

There are several places within the structure of our church where gifts can be given.

## **GENERAL FUND**

The General Fund is the basic budget of the church and includes program and operational costs as well as various ministries we have felt led to support. Contribution is made through our regular weekly Sunday offering. Scripture teaches us to tithe. According to Malachi 3:10 we must “bring the tithe to the storehouse.” The basic fundamental support of the church should be the primary focus of our tithe. The Church Council and its committees are entrusted with allocation and distribution of these funds. See Acts 4:34-37. Contact the church office for details of the church budget.

## **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

While tithing to the General Fund supports the ongoing budget of the church, the Lord may place upon our heart other specific ministries He compels us to support. Giving to these ministries are based on:

- ◆ An Identified Need (Deuteronomy 15:7-8)
- ◆ How We Are Led (2 Corinthians 8:2-5, 12)
- ◆ How We Have Been Blessed (Matthew 25:14-30)

The following areas represent ministries our leadership has identified for special offering consideration. Please memo your offering identifying the designated area for your support.

### **MISSIONS**

The General Fund currently appropriates to Thad & Sally Wilkinson with Interhope Christian Orphanages as well as to Brent and Beth Cravens’ work in Kazakhstan through the Mission Society for United Methodists. If you feel led to specifically support our church’s missionaries memo your offering “Missions: \_\_\_\_\_” including the last name of the missionary. All giving to our budgeted missionaries above their general fund appropriation will be forwarded to them.

### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund that continually generates interest income. This interest is annually paid out to eligible college students through an application process. Gifts given to this fund will be added to the endowed principle.

## **CAMPERSHIP FUND**

Donations to the Campership Fund help offset the cost of the various summer camps our youth attend. This fund also helps with youth related mission trips. Both areas have been the source of very deep and lasting blessings for our young people

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

It has been a recurring dream of our membership to expand our church’s outreach and services to our community as we continue to provide for the nurturing needs of our congregation. We believe that Christ has placed before us “... an open door” of opportunity to do this. (Rev. 3:8) Consequently, over the years, we have acquired adjacent property to our church facility. Our dream is to be able to expand our facility for youth activities, Christian education classrooms, fellowship events, a dedicated Prayer Room and Sanctuary enlargement. As Isaiah 49:20b says” This place is too small for us; give us more space to live in.” The Future Development Fund is an appropriate place to direct your building fund giving for our church’s growth. This might be an appropriate area for the designation of an endowment through a will or trust.

## **EMERGENCY FUND**

The Emergency Fund is used at the discretion of the pastor to meet short-term economic needs of individuals in our community or church members in crisis. Current economic conditions make this fund even more critical.

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

This fund receives gifts of money contributed in memory or honor of loved ones or friends. A register is maintained which lists those memorialized or honored as well as the contributors. Gifts received in this manner may be given for a specific purpose, or are combined with other gifts and used at the discretion of the Memorial Secretary under the guidance of the Church Council. To designate for memorial giving provide the name of the person being memorialized or honored.

## **YOUTH**

Like missions giving, our church's youth ministry is part of our general fund operating budget. While we encourage your support of our youth ministry through your general fund giving, there may be times and situations which indicate a need for targeted giving to support youth outreach and discipleship.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Women (UMW) support a number of mission projects both at home and abroad. One such mission is support for Marilyn Wykes who serves OMS International at Wesley International School in Java, Indonesia. Local ministries include funeral dinners and youth scholarships.