

# Frequently Asked Questions about Electronic Giving

## **Why would people want to give to the church electronically?**

Many people who give regularly find that giving by electronic transfer is a convenient option. Convenience is especially important during times when one cannot attend worship. Electronic giving also helps the church predict its income so that the mission and ministry of the church can be planned adequately.

## **When would this automatic contribution be withdrawn from a personal account?**

Most automatic contributions are withdrawn on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. The contributor is informed of the specific numerical date of withdrawal when the EFT is established. Most third party administrators withdraw funds around the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, although the numerical date is selected by the local church.

## **What does a parishioner need to do in order to set up an EFT with a church that has an established electronic giving program?**

In most instances, a parishioner simply completes an enrollment form, attaches a voided check, and submits them to the church office. After approximately three weeks, contributions will start being deducted on a regular basis.

## **Is there a minimal amount that a parishioner needs to give in order to establish an EFT transaction?**

Most churches do not have a minimum contribution requirement.

## **Is an EFT transaction risky?**

No. Actually, an EFT transaction is considered to be safer than writing a check or giving cash. An EFT is governed by strict regulations and guidelines. Nearly 10 billion EFT transactions are processed annually in the United States and Canada.

## **How can one keep a record of one's contributions?**

Each bank statement will include an itemized list of automatic withdrawals from the account. The EFT contribution to the church will be included in this list. Most churches will continue to send members a year-end giving statement.

## **What if the church member changes banks, closes/opens accounts, or desires to make a change in the contribution amount?**

A church member can change accounts or the amount contributed by contacting the church office or volunteer in charge of EFT transactions. The change will be effective with the next withdrawal. In the event that notification is not received with enough advance notice, an adjustment will be made within a few business days.

## **Will church members face any bank charges for EFT transactions?**

No. In fact, the church member will actually save money since no check is written to the church.

**Can parishioners give to the church by making a credit card contribution?** Although some churches do accept credit cards transactions as contributions, serious concerns may arise from a church accepting credit cards. These concerns include the high service fee assessed to the church in processing credit card contributions and the potential impact that credit card acceptance may have on the escalating consumer debt. Extreme caution should be exercised for both the church and the parishioner before completing credit card transactions.

