



TOGETHER,  
**WE DO**  
MORE

— Resource Kit Vol. 1 —

[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

Dear Church Leader,

Generosity, stewardship, giving . . . these are a few of the buzzwords we hear and talk a lot about these days.

Today's Vital Congregations aren't just passing the offering plate and preaching about tithing. Today's Vital Congregations are cultivating a culture of generosity—building a generation of people who give generously of their time, their resources and their finances to support community goals and needs.

We believe that generosity is this generation's legacy.

We have pulled together a list of some reading resources regarding the topic of generosity. We want to showcase what other churches and leaders are doing to cultivate generosity in their communities.

Sit back, grab your coffee and learn about some of the best practices deployed.

We hope you are inspired and encouraged to bring this movement into your own circles.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
Connectional Giving Team  
United Methodist Communications

**Title:** *Simple Rules for Money: John Wesley on Earning, Saving & Giving*  
**Author:** James A. Harnish  
**ISBN-10:** 0687466164  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0687466160  
**Pages:** 79 pages

# SIMPLE RULES FOR MONEY: JOHN WESLEY ON EARNING, SAVING & GIVING

by James A. Harnish (Author)



What would it take for you to make a radical change in the way you earn, save and spend your money? On a deeper level, what would be required for us to experience a fundamental shift in the relationship between our faith and our finances? –From the introduction

Faith and finances—these two areas of our lives sometimes seem poles apart. And yet, shouldn't our finances be shaped by our faith?

Guided by the Bible and the timeless wisdom of John Wesley, popular author James A. Harnish challenges Christians to face the issue of money head-on, with God's help.

**Ideal for individual or group use, this book's contents include:**

- “When Crisis Forces Change”
- “Gain All You Can: A New Opportunity”
- “Save All You Can: The New Frugality”
- “Give All You Can: A New Generosity”



*“Using the book as a resource to teach my Bible Study on finance for Christians for our Methodist Church Connect Group.”*

# FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

by Robert Schnase (Author)

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and

strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Title:** *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

**Author:** Robert Schnase

**ISBN-10:** 0687645409

**ISBN-13:** 978-0687645404

**Pages:** 144 pages



*"I got this for an adult Sunday school class, and we all like it so much that we are thinking about making it part of our new-member orientation. It is an outstanding book, along with the prayer book, to get folks out of the pews and doing God's work in the community."*



# THE GRATITUDE PATH: LEADING YOUR CHURCH TO GENEROSITY

by Kent Millard (Author)

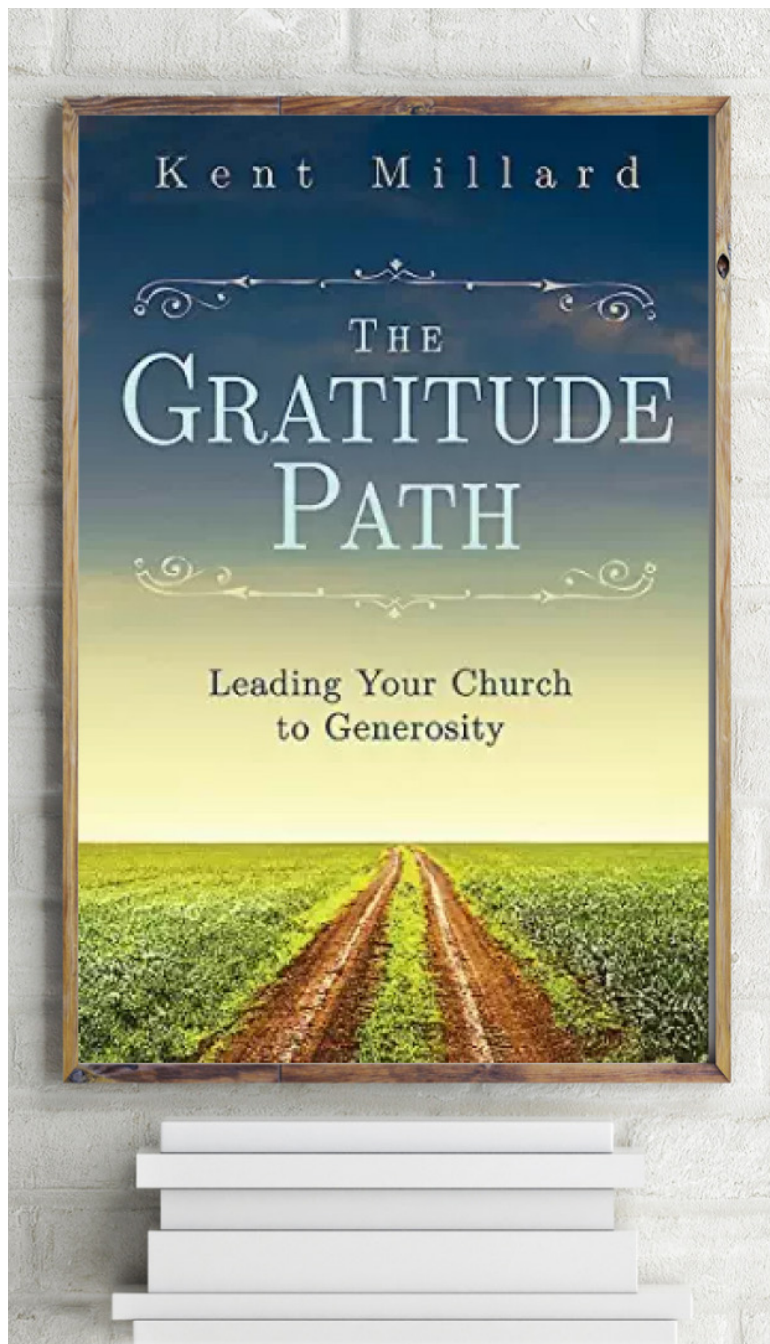
Financial giving is down in local Protestant churches across the nation, and small-to medium-size churches especially feel the impact of this decline. *The Gratitude Path* provides practical, no-nonsense help for pastors and church leaders, equipping them to teach about finance and stewardship from a biblical perspective.

This book demonstrates a proven, step-by-step, achievable approach. It helps churches move away from complex stewardship models that can overwhelm church leadership, and outdated, budget-centric stewardship models, which no longer resonate with people, and offers a fresh alternative: a simpler, Christ-centered model that promotes spiritual health for the congregant and for the local church.



*"The first five chapters of The Gratitude Path are spiritually energizing, personal and thoughtfully devotional. Pastors could preach sermons based on each one of them. Chapter six is a pivotal organizational chapter for pastors and lay leaders. Here, Millard outlines his Gratitude Campaign step by step. This is a resource that we are happy to recommend to congregations."*

—Bill Enright, Senior Fellow, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University



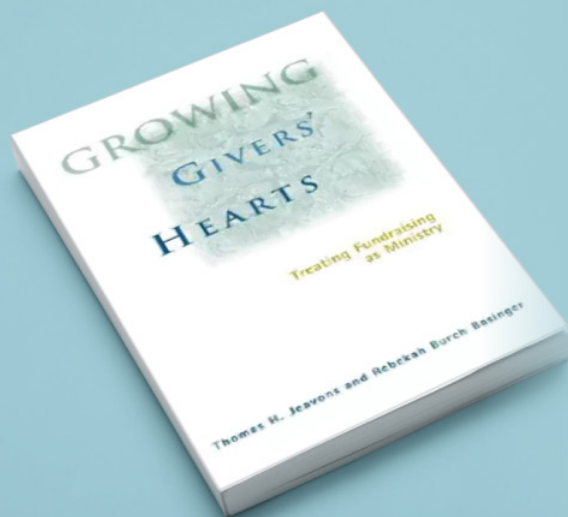
**Title:** *The Gratitude Path: Leading Your Church to Generosity*

**Author:** Kent Millard

**ISBN-10:** 1630883190

**ISBN-13:** 9781630883195

**Pages:** 96 pages



# GROWING GIVERS' HEARTS: TREATING FUNDRAISING AS A MINISTRY

**Title:** *Growing Givers' Hearts: Treating Fundraising As a Ministry*

**Authors:** Thomas H. Jeavons and Rebekah Burch Basinger

**ISBN-10:** 0787948292

**ISBN-13:** 978-0787948290

**Pages:** 208 pages

**by Thomas H. Jeavons (Author) and Rebekah Burch Basinger (Author)**



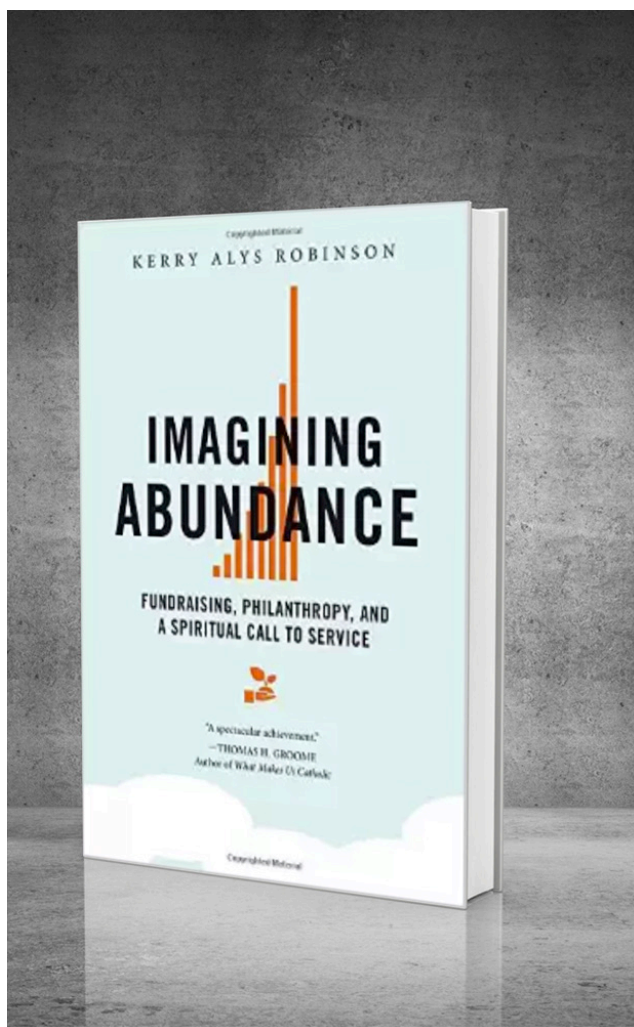
Here for the first time is a truly spiritual way of looking at fundraising as an opportunity to nurture current and prospective donors and facilitate their growth in faith. *Growing Givers' Hearts* explores how development staff, executives and board members from across the theological spectrum can make faith-building opportunities for donors their first priority, act on their confidence in God's abundance, draw from their theological tradition, in their approaches to fundraising, involve a vital cross section of staff in planning and cultivate spiritually mature leadership.

With this innovative approach, *Growing Givers' Hearts* empowers readers to work in spiritually grounded, deeply creative and professionally satisfying ways. Fundraisers in any Christian organization will find extraordinary insights in this important guide.

*"As someone who is a fundraiser for a Christian organization, I found this to be a refreshing look at fundraising from an explicitly Christian perspective. It doesn't focus very much on fundraising methods, but it reflects on what should be a major goal of Christian fundraising: the continued growth of the faith of a Christian organization's supporters. That is, in the methods they use, Christian fundraisers should seek to expand their givers' faith experience—that's the ultimate goal of stewardship. The book provides numerous examples of how Christian fundraisers have pursued this goal with their donors."*

*"The authors conducted lengthy interviews with staff in several well-regarded and successful Christian organizations, including seminaries and service organizations. The insights from these people are worth the price of the book. In addition, the authors also reviewed some of the history of Christian philanthropy, including St. Paul's exhortations of the earliest Christians."*

*"When fundraisers are easily criticized, this book gave me a real sense of inspiration about what I do."*



**Title:** *Imagining Abundance: Fundraising, Philanthropy, and a Spiritual Call to Service*

**Author:** Kerry Alys Robinson

**ISBN-10:** 0814637663

**ISBN-13:** 978-0814637661

**Pages:** 118 pages

# IMAGINING ABUNDANCE: FUNDRAISING, PHILANTHROPY, AND A SPIRITUAL CALL TO SERVICE

by Kerry Alys Robinson (Author)

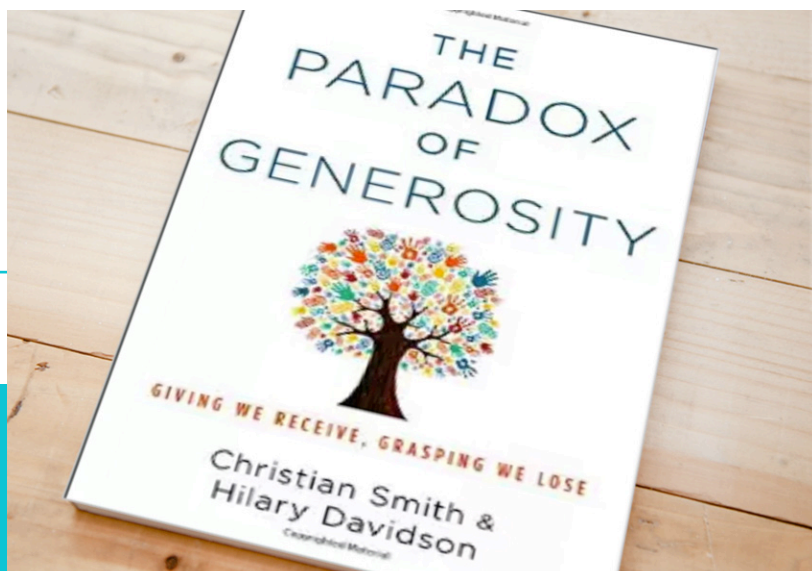


*"Kerry Robinson has presented philanthropy and fundraising within a spiritual and very personal context. This is an outstanding read and even better the second time!"*

Fundraising is ministry—a transformative ministry that challenges all people to realize their own gifts and how they can be used for the benefit of the church. In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson focuses on reasons each of us is called to be a steward. We act because we're excited about what it is that we do for the church and where we're called by God to be, we want others to be just as excited about what that is and we want people to be partners with us in that ministry.

In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson offers an inspirational and practical guide to effective fundraising that is ideal for anyone invested in a faith community. Bishops, provincials, pastors, ministers, executive and development directors and trustees of faith-based organizations will benefit from this healthy approach to the activity of fundraising that situates successful development in the context of ministry and mission.





**Title:** *The Paradox of Generosity*  
**Authors:** Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson  
**ISBN-10:** 0199394903  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0199394906  
**Pages:** 280 pages

# THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY: GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

By **Christian Smith (Author)** and **Hilary Davidson (Author)**

Determining why, when and to whom people feel compelled to be generous affords invaluable insight into positive and problematic ways of life. Organ donation, volunteering and the funding of charities can all be illuminated by sociological and psychological perspectives on how American adults conceive of and demonstrate generosity. Focusing not only on financial giving, but also on the many diverse forms generosity can take, Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson show the deep impact—usually good, sometimes destructive—that giving has on individuals.

*The Paradox of Generosity* is the first study to make use of the cutting-edge empirical data collected in Smith's groundbreaking, multidisciplinary, five-year Science of Generosity Initiative. It draws on an extensive survey of 2,000 Americans, more than 60 in-depth interviews with individuals across 12 states and analysis of more than 1,000 photographs and other visual materials. This wealth of evidence reveals a consistent link between demonstrating generosity and leading a better life: generous people are happier, suffer fewer illnesses and injuries, live with a greater sense of purpose and experience less

depression. Smith and Davidson also show, however, that to achieve a better life, a person must practice generosity regularly; random acts of kindness are not enough.

Offering a wide range of vividly illustrative case studies, this volume will be a crucial resource for anyone seeking to understand the true impact and meaning of generosity.

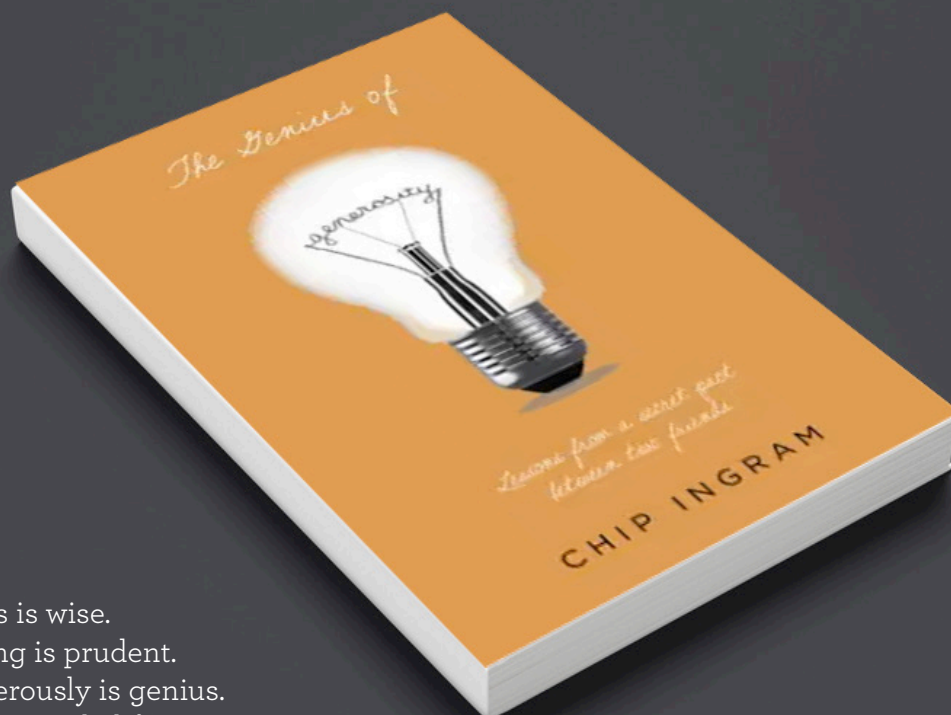


*"This is a seriously researched and scholarly book that is nevertheless easy to read because the text is aimed at the general reader, while the supporting detail is in the thorough endnotes."*



# THE GENIUS OF GENEROSITY: LESSONS FROM A SECRET PACT BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS

by Chip Ingram (Author)



Regular savings is wise.  
Careful spending is prudent.  
But giving generously is genius.  
It is the life that is truly life.

The Bible teaches us that generosity is the gateway to intimacy with God as we steward the Owner's resources to please him. In *The Genius of Generosity*, pastor and author Chip Ingram provides motivation and practical application from Scripture to help each of us grow toward a life of greater giving.

**Title:** *The Genius of Generosity: Lessons from a Secret Pact Between Two Friends*

**Author:** Chip Ingram

**ASIN:** B005LDVBR2

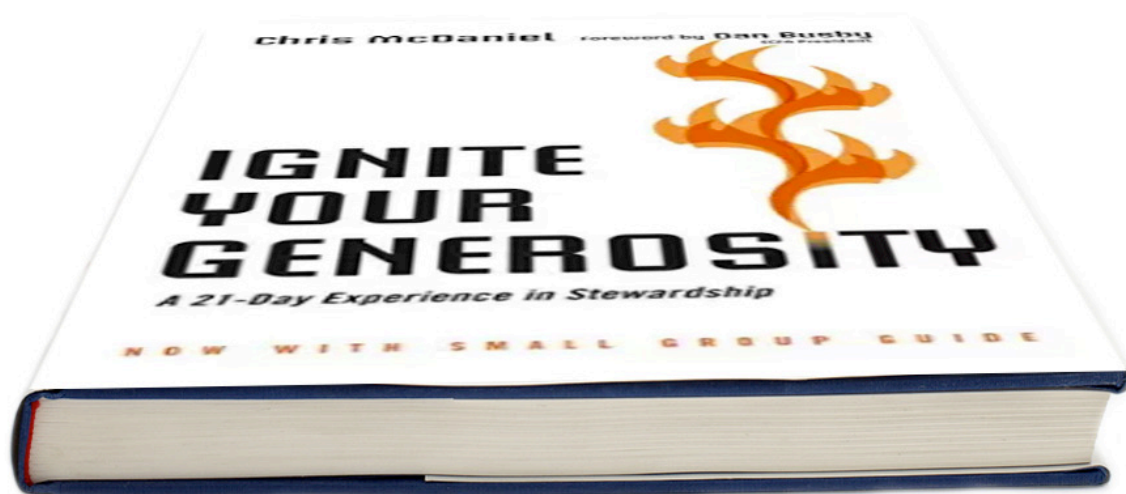
**Pages:** 100 pages



*"This does a masterful job of explaining what happens when you catch the vision that God conveys to us through Scripture regarding the act of generosity. Here's a quote from the book, 'We tend to think that giving our money is a big deal; but it's actually God's training wheels for growing a generous heart.' It's only four chapters long and less than 100 pages to read. Ready to catch the vision now?? Good!!"*

# IGNITE YOUR GENEROSITY: A 21-DAY EXPERIENCE IN STEWARDSHIP

by Chris McDaniel (Author), Dan Busby (Foreword)



We know it's important to be generous. But it can be hard to know what healthy stewardship looks like in our families and churches. What if God has deeper and richer lessons to teach us about what it means to live generously?

*Ignite Your Generosity* will help you see your resources of time, talents and treasures in a fresh, God-honoring way. A 21-day devotional, this book is now expanded with a four-week small-group guide that is perfect for both individual and church use. Every day's reading features an engaging story, Scripture for further study and personal reflection questions to grow in the area of stewardship.

Begin your journey of pursuing generosity God's way. Discover the joy and fulfillment that comes from a life of giving freely to his plans and purposes.

**Title:** *Ignite Your Generosity: A 21-Day Experience in Stewardship*, Kindle Edition

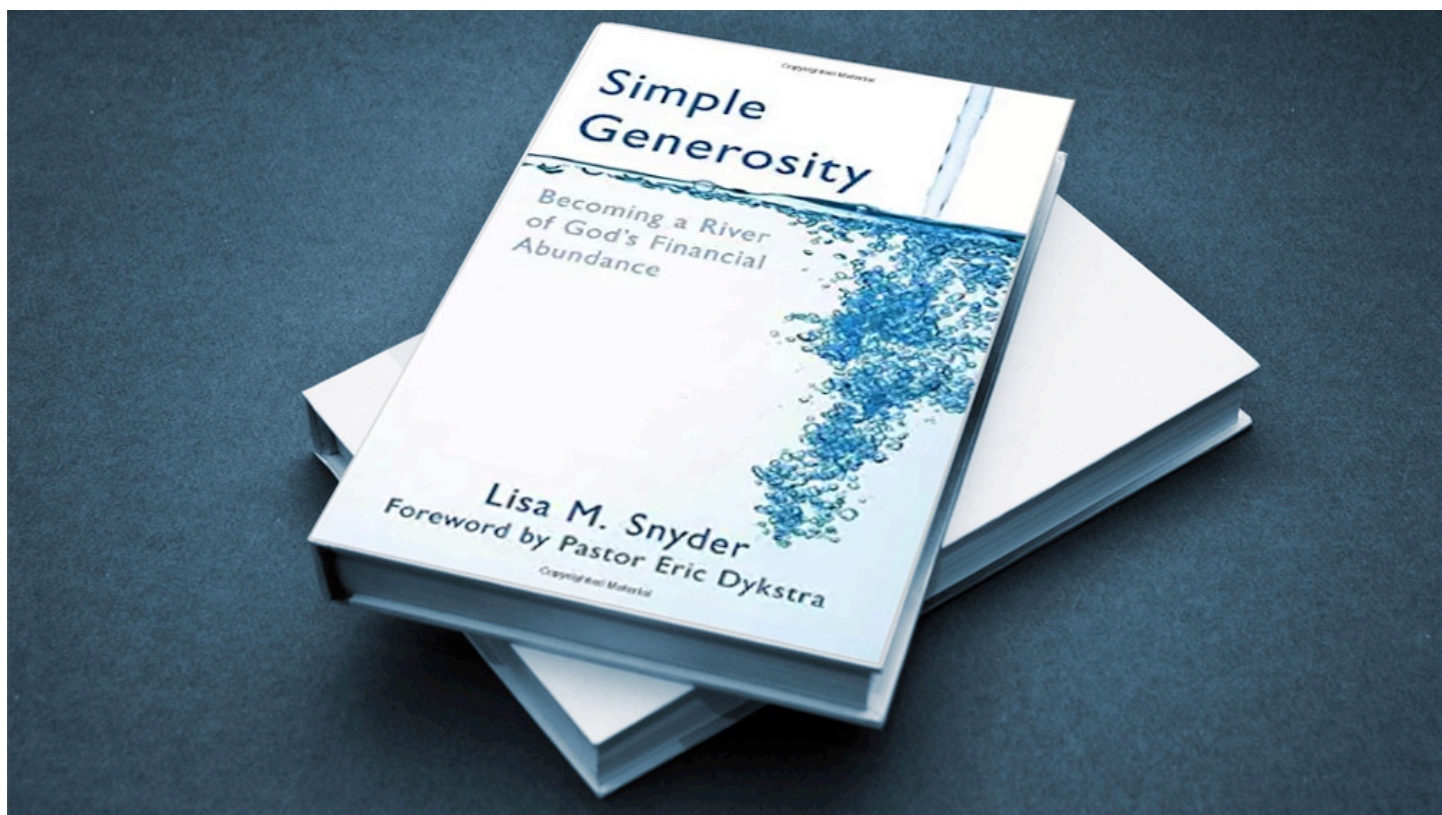
**Author:** Chris McDaniel (Author), Dan Busby (Foreword)

**ASIN:** B00U073OLo

**Pages:** 80 pages



*"God calls us to be generous with our time, talent and treasure. This devotional is an excellent tool to encourage believers in their journey to have a transformed heart that is increasingly generous."*



# SIMPLE GENEROSITY: BECOMING A RIVER OF GOD'S FINANCIAL ABUNDANCE

**by Lisa M. Snyder (Author),  
Eric Dykstra (Foreword)**

Genesis 12 says that you are “blessed to be a blessing.” Sounds simple, right? But then there’s life—budgets and bills, incoming money and outgoing expenses. Food, clothes, housing.

It can seem that instead of being blessed to bless, you have been blessed in order to worry and do math.

When did generosity become so complicated?

What if you could begin again and understand what the Bible says about money and generosity, miracles and abundance?

**Title:** *Simple Generosity: Becoming a River of God's Financial Abundance*

**Author:** Lisa M. Snyder (Author), Eric Dykstra (Foreword)

**ISBN-10:** 0692295828

**ISBN-13:** 978-0692295823

**Pages:** 148 pages

What if you could become a river—allowing God’s abundant provision to flow through you to the people around you?

What if generosity could once again be simple?



*“This is an excellent book that has changed the way that I look at money, tithing and generosity in every area of my life. It is easy to read but absolutely life altering when you finally get the concept that you are a river of blessing! I have passed it on to a friend, and am waiting to get it back so I can read it again!”*

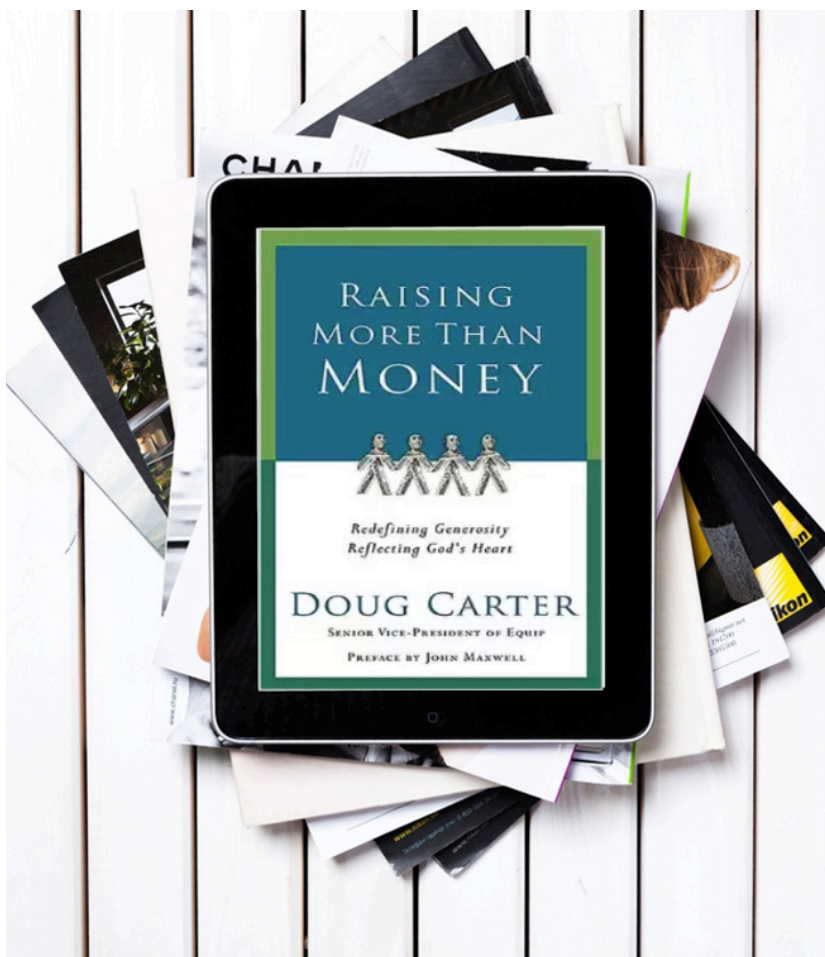


# RAISING MORE THAN MONEY: REDEFINING GENEROSITY, REFLECTING GOD'S HEART

by **Doug M. Carter (Author),  
John Maxwell (Preface)**

Pastors do not enter the ministry because they like to ask for money, but most discover quickly that fundraising is essential if their ministries are going to succeed. In this book, Doug Carter shows how to teach givers to participate in ministries with their gifts and offerings. Using examples from EQUIP and from EQUIP partners who have successfully used these principles in their churches and ministries, Carter shows the reader how to build relationships into stewardship and then create partnerships for ministry.

In his foreword to *Raising More Than Money*, John C. Maxwell says, "Doug's vocation in the realm of development has focused more on teaching givers to reflect the giving nature of Christ than about raising money. I'm confident that if you embrace the principles that Doug shares, it will impact your life now and throughout eternity."



*"Great book . . . I liked it well enough to purchase a copy for a friend! It's that good."*

**Title:** *Raising More Than Money: Redefining Generosity, Reflecting God's Heart*

**Author:** Doug M. Carter (Author), John M. Maxwell (Preface)

**ISBN-10:** 141851957X

**ISBN-13:** 978-1418519575

**Pages:** 224 pages



# THE BUSINESS OF GENEROSITY:

## HOW COMPANIES, NONPROFITS, AND CHURCHES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER REMARKABLE GOOD

by **Stephen R. Graves (Author)**

Generosity is big business in the 21st century. Walk down any retail aisle and see product labels boast of the social good your purchase will accomplish. Skim the list of university keynote speakers and see as many social entrepreneurs as politicians. Listen to nonprofits talk and hear about financial sustainability. And just count the number of new companies whose central offering is attached to the concept of generosity. Everyone is looking for a multiple bottom line.

In *The Business of Generosity*, business owner and executive coach Stephen Graves brings clarity to this fast-growing field. He outlines different models of generosity in the market (How is Toms Shoes different from UPromise?) and asks tough questions (Are we simply sanctifying our consumerism? What good does giving money actually do?).

In the end, Graves paints a picture of what is right and what is possible in the world of generosity while reminding readers of the dangers of generosity pursued selfishly.

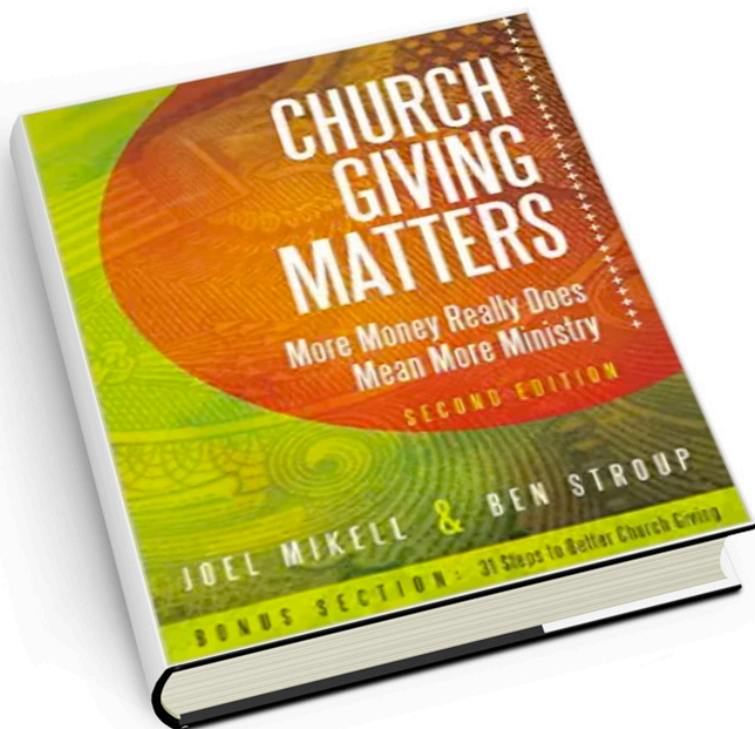
**Title:** *The Business of Generosity: How Companies, Nonprofits, and Churches Are Working Together to Deliver Remarkable Good*

**Author:** Stephen R. Graves

**ASIN:** BooJWVWFRY

**Pages:** 98 pages





# CHURCH GIVING MATTERS: MORE MONEY REALLY DOES MEAN MORE MINISTRY, 2ND EDITION

by **Ben Stroup (Author)** and  
**Joel Mikell (Author)**

There is a wide gap between how pastors are trained and what churches expect of them. Pastors are trained to preach, while congregations expect them to manage a complex, nonprofit organization, measuring their success by the people in the pews and the dollars in the plate. On top of that, the ever-increasing complexity of local church ministry is demanding more money while the rules of funding ministry are changing, leaving many pastors feeling uncomfortable, unprepared and overwhelmed.

With practical tools and effective leadership principles that can be immediately implemented, Ben and Joel assist church leaders in changing the conversation from “What do we have to cut to survive?” to “What does God want us to do next?”

If you desire to gain a better understanding of how to lead your church through tough and prosperous economic times, and if you believe God will provide all you need to accomplish the ministry he has placed on your heart, this book will be an invaluable resource to help you fund your God-inspired vision.

**Title:** *Church Giving Matters: More Money Really Does Mean More Ministry*

**Author:** Ben Stroup and Joel Mikell

**ISBN-10:** 1496123506

**ISBN-13:** 978-1496123503

**Pages:** 128 pages



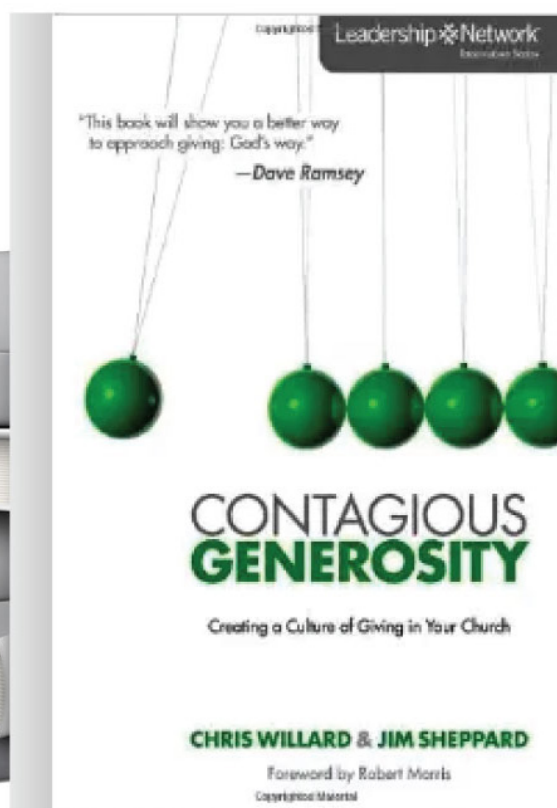
*“No one knows the topic of church giving like Ben Stroup and Joel Mikell. With decades of experience, Ben and Joel share valuable insights into effectively increasing your church’s stewardship efforts. In a day [and] age where many churches struggle to effectively communicate the importance of giving, Ben and Joel provide a step-by-step guide that will help you solve any stewardship issues your church might be having.”*



# CONTAGIOUS GENEROSITY: CREATING A CULTURE OF GIVING IN YOUR CHURCH

by **Chris Willard (Author) and Jim Sheppard (Author),**  
**Robert Morris (Foreword)**

What does it look like when pastors cultivate a culture of generosity in the churches by actively teaching and mentoring people in the spiritual act of giving? It's generosity that's contagious. A growing number of leaders are beginning to discover that there are key factors that make some churches thrive with abundant resources while others struggle with shrinking budgets. Chris Willard and Jim Sheppard have spent years consulting with church leaders across a broad spectrum of church settings and have gathered their observations into this resource, part of the Leadership Network Innovation Series. *Contagious Generosity* highlights the best practices gleaned from real-life church leadership situations and shows how church leaders effectively can cultivate a culture of generous giving in the local church. It explains why some churches are experiencing unexplainable ministry growth and unprecedented church funding . . . even in the midst of tough economic times.



**Title:** *Contagious Generosity: Creating a Culture of Giving in Your Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)*

**Authors:** Chris Willard and Jim Sheppard

**ISBN-10:** 0310893135

**ISBN-13:** 978-0310893134

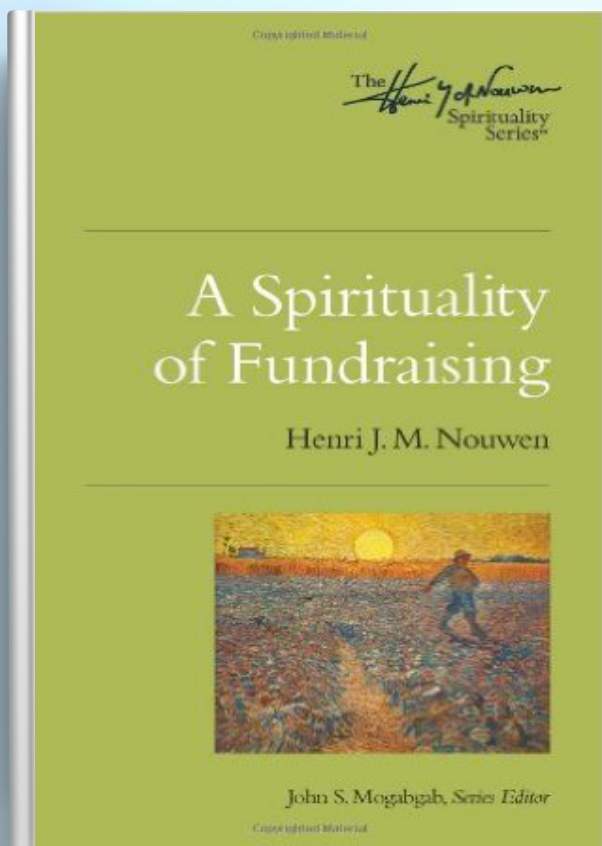
**Pages:** 192 pages



*"These insights will spark conversation and innovation in your church. This will raise the bar on generosity and thinking outside of self in your church. Essentially, that is what the gospel already tells us to do. Jesus was/is our example of generosity."*

# A SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING

by Henri Nouwen (Author)



**Title:** *A Spirituality of Fundraising*

**Author:** Henri Nouwen

**ISBN-10:** 0835810445

**ISBN-13:** 978-0835810449

**Pages:** 64 pages

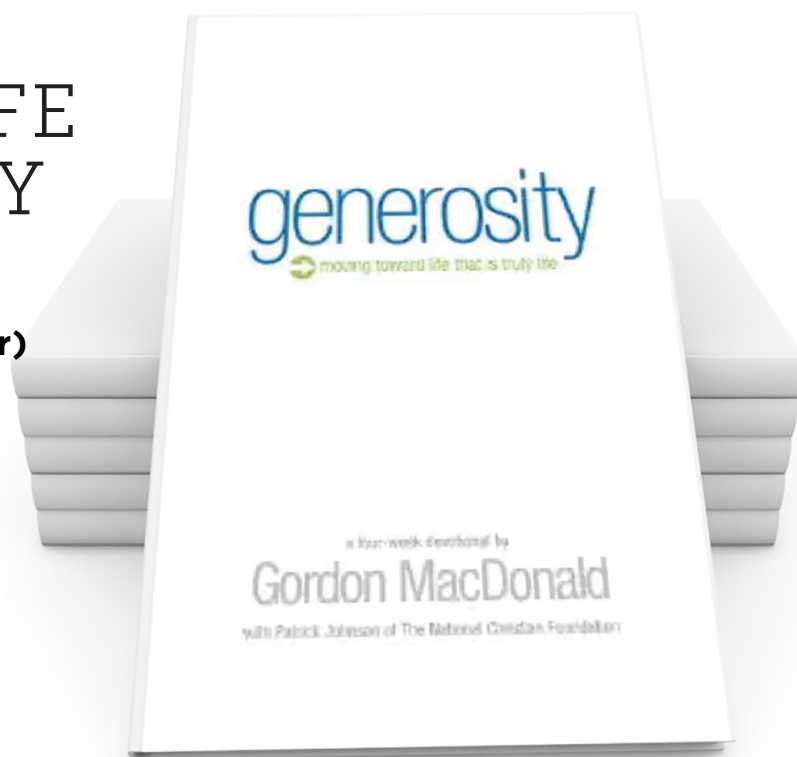
A Spirituality of Fundraising (Henri Nouwen Spirituality) [Henri J.M. Nouwen, John S Mogabgab] on Amazon.com. \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Have you ever raised funds for your church, another organization, or a mission trip? Maybe you felt uncomfortable about asking people to donate money. It's time to change the way you view this important task.



*"I have founded nonprofits and consulted with nonprofits. I really believe that one of the greatest limiting factors for nonprofits is an inappropriate reticence to raise funds. Execs too often feel like a burden or a nag. This quick read will help you reformat your hard drive, so to speak. Nouwen gives a much better understanding of what our attitude should be in pursuing funding to fulfill our vision. I will recommend or simply give this book to everyone I find who struggles with fundraising." Ray Morris*

# GENEROSITY: MOVING TOWARD A LIFE THAT IS TRULY LIFE

by **Gordon MacDonald (Author)**



How would you like to raise the tide of generosity in your life and in your church while discovering greater spiritual maturity through giving? *Generosity* was designed to help you do just this. Churches are using *Generosity* in powerful, creative ways to change the money conversation. People give generously when they reflect on God's generosity, and this book will help you and your church do just that.

Let award-winning author Gordon MacDonald show you how in this four-week devotional, with 100,000 copies in print, that uses Scripture to demonstrate God's desire for each of us to live a generous life.

**Title:** *Generosity: Moving Toward a Life that Is Truly Life*

**Author:** Gordon MacDonald

**ISBN-10:** 0977117413

**ISBN-13:** 978-0977117413

**Pages:** 100 pages



*"This book truly challenged my family to be generous. We always give. However, giving is just the bottom of the top. As we went through this book, we decided we will be generous with our entire life. We are going to be percentage givers."*

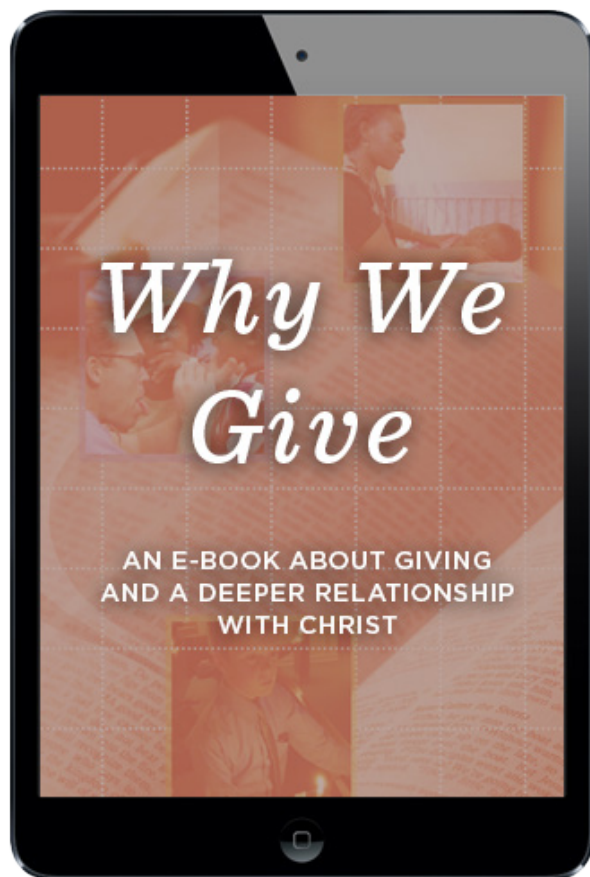
TOGETHER,  
**WE DO**  
MORE

— Resource Kit Vol. 1 —

This resource is compiled by  
United Methodist Communications.

[www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org)





# WHY WE GIVE

by UMCGiving

The Bible is clear. Galatians 6:2, NRSV, says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Jesus says it this way, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 19:19b). To learn more about how giving can lead you into a deeper relationship with Christ, complete the form for a free e-book.

**Title:** *Why We Give*

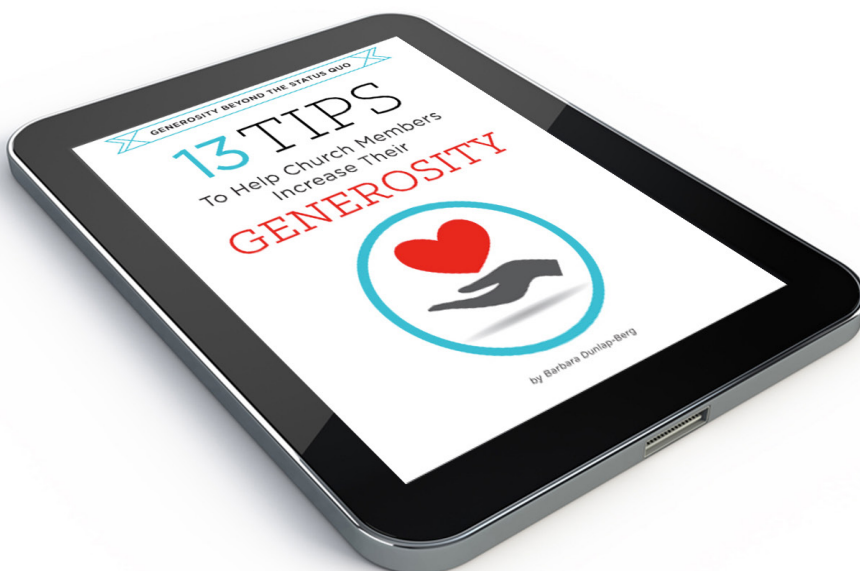
**Author:** UMCGiving

**Link:** [umcgiving.org/why-we-give](http://umcgiving.org/why-we-give)

# GENEROSITY BEYOND THE STATUS QUO

by UMCGiving

People want to make a difference. So, when we share about the vibrant ways The United Methodist Church is serving Christ locally and around the globe, we allow our members to join God’s ministry in a tangible way. Here are some simple proactive solutions that will help you share generosity principles with your church members.



**Title:** Generosity Beyond the Status Quo

**Author:** UMCGiving

**Link:** [umcgiving.org/resource-articles/generosity-beyond-the-status-quo](http://umcgiving.org/resource-articles/generosity-beyond-the-status-quo)

This resource is compiled by United Methodist Communications.



[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

