

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER OF CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Several members of our congregation have asked if they could have their offerings electronically drafted from their checking account. NOW YOU CAN! Many Methodist churches have been offering this payment option with great success. Many of us already use this convenient way to pay monthly bills.

By using electronic giving your church contributions are transferred automatically. Even when you are out-of-town or otherwise cannot attend Sunday worship your gift continues to be made. Electronic giving is totally voluntary and is offered only as a convenience to those who would like to use this method of payment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is electronic contribution?

A. It is a free automatic transfer of your contribution from your checking or savings account to First Methodist's account.

Q. What are the advantages of electronic contribution?

A. It simplifies the contribution process for you and your church. You benefit from the reduction in the number of checks you write or contributions you prepare. In turn, First Methodist benefits by a greater stability in contribution levels throughout the year.

Q. How are my contributions transferred from my account?

A. Once you authorize the amount of your contributions, they are electronically transferred to First Methodist account.

Q. When are my contributions transferred from my account?

A. On the dates you specify on your authorization form.

Q. If I don't write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

Q. Without cancelled checks, what can I use as a record of my contributions?

A. In addition to church records, your bank statement provides you with a list of automatic transactions. The church will continue to provide you with quarterly and annual records of your giving.

Q. Are electronic contributions risky?

A. Electronic funds transfer is regulated by the Federal Reserve and is less risky than checks. Electronic contributions cannot be lost or stolen and have an extremely high rate of accuracy.

Q. Is there any charge to me from my bank to use electronic fund transfer?

A. No. Electronic fund transfer carries no bank fees for you. First Methodist pays a very minimal charge (25 cents per transaction) for the use of electronic funds transfer.

Q. What if I change bank accounts?

A. Just complete a new authorization form.

Q. What if I try electronic contributions and I don't like it?

A. You can cancel your authorization at any time by notifying the church office.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. You fill out a simple form, attach a voided check from your account and provide it to the church office. Edith Phillips has copies of the form and will be happy to assist you in completing the form.

Q. I would like more information

A. Please contact Edith Phillips at 883-9025 Ext. 116 for additional information.