

WHY WE GIVE



CAN WE LEARN TO CELEBRATE GIVING?

Recently I returned to one of my former pastorates. When the preacher said, “It’s time for the offering,” people cheered, “Yea! Great! All right!”

I asked my neighbor, “Are they cheering for the offering?” That is exactly what was happening!

I grew up in a worship style where a shouted “Amen!” would have required performing CPR on a traditional soul. My first congregation taught me the joy of engaging in worship. However, never had I heard anyone cheer when the pastor said it was time for the offering.

I liked it. The offering is the true high point of worship because we have the great privilege of showing our gratitude and dedication to God. While I am sure some people consider it irreverent to cheer as the offering is announced, I believe it is the right response.

What if cheering for the offering spread across our denomination? What if churches – even for just one Sunday – would let out a respectful cheer when the pastor said, “It’s now time to share our tithes and offerings”? Somehow, we must communicate that, as beneficiaries of Christ’s gifts, we are grateful, generous and joyful givers. When it is time for the offering, let’s celebrate!

One of our connectional giving opportunities—the General Administration Fund—may not have the catchiest name. However, it enables amazing things—financial accountability for our church, the quadrennial General Conference where key decisions are made and more. Let’s celebrate and give generously.

To learn more about how you can share God’s gifts through The United Methodist Church, go to www.umcsgiving.org.

– Adapted from article by the Rev. Mary John Dye, Statesville District superintendent, Western North Carolina Conference, Oct. 21, 2009

SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS



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