

## Stewardship Statement of St. David's Vestry

We believe that all we have belongs to God. Our treasures, our world, our very lives are gifts from God for us to use as God directs us.

**We believe** the tithe (10% of our treasure) is the minimum standard to return to God, therefore

**We commit** as individuals to pledge a tithe or to have a plan to increase our giving to meet or exceed this goal, recognizing that our giving may include financial support for Godly work in other ministries and organizations beyond St. David's.

**We believe** the world we live in is a gift from God, and its care is our responsibility, therefore

**We commit** to strive to be stewards of the earth, in the choices we make about our corporate life as the Body of Christ at St. David's and in the choices we make as individuals.

**We believe** life itself is a gift from God, therefore

**We commit** to offer a percentage of our time in service to others following the example of Jesus Christ.

We offer this statement to you, the parishioners whom we are called to serve, as a witness of our commitment to be good stewards of all God's gifts.

## 2009 General Convention Resolution on Tithing

### FINAL VERSION - Concurred

RESOLUTION:	C055
TITLE:	Reaffirm Tithing as Minimum Standard
TOPIC:	Tithing
COMMITTEE:	17 - Stewardship and Development
HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION:	Bishops
PROPOSER:	Mr. Albert T. Mollegen, Jr.

**Resolved**, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm the tithing as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the General Convention Secretariat is requested to make provisions for the members of each House conveniently to indicate that they either are tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years, by signing their name and clearly printing their name and diocese, or, if they feel it inappropriate to make such a private matter public, signing and clearly printing the word "Anonymous" and giving either their state of residence or the state or foreign country where they were born; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the record of names and "Anonymous" signings be published in the Convention Journal and in such other Church publications as the Presiding Bishop may designate.

#### EXPLANATION:

In living memory, the 1982 General Convention was the first to state that the tithing is "the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians." Several subsequent Conventions have re-affirmed this concept in the same or similar language. In the 1982 Stewardship Legislative Committee, there was vigorous debate as to whether the resolution should be a canon (they decided "no"), whether passing such a resolution was too legalistic, whether the resolution should specify whether the calculation should be based on before-tax or after-tax income, whether the calculation is restricted to gifts to this Church or whether financial support for other Godly work should be included, and so on. The 1982 Committee ultimately intentionally left such matters up to each individual Church member to decide. Subsequent Conventions have followed this precedent. Tithing is an important spiritual discipline. Except in the most unusual circumstances, it is a major contributor to the giver's spiritual health and inner joy.

Note that the sometimes-offered wording "biblical tithing" is inaccurate because the word "tithing" does not always refer to the same thing in different places in the bible: sometimes it refers to income, sometimes to property. Other biblical standards include "all" as in "You shall love the Lord your God with all..." and 50-50, as in "If you have two cloaks..."