

Designated Giving Policy

In October of 2011, the Vestry of St. Alban's Episcopal Church approved a Designated Giving Policy. As a result of this policy, it is hoped that those who give will be able to do so with a greater understanding of how this kind of giving relates to St. Alban's church life and ministry, as well as to IRS policy regarding the tax-deductibility of gifts.

Background

Designated giving, by definition, is a monetary gift made to the church for a specified or "designated" purpose. St. Alban's Church shares a number of concerns with designated giving generally, including:

- Undesignated giving, to the general, annual church budget, as opposed to designated giving, demonstrates support of the church body's planned ministries and purposes, as approved each year by the body and its Vestry.
- Designated giving may sometimes supplant, as opposed to supplement, our call as believers to regular, faithful giving to God's work through our local church.
- Designated giving, depending on the particular designation, may run afoul of the Internal Revenue Service's rules for deductibility. (For example, a contribution designated for an individual, or a program or project not approved by the church, is most likely not tax-deductible.)

Policy

St. Alban's Church discourages designated giving to the extent a person who wishes to contribute to a designated project or program has not first established, or has not committed to establishing, a record of regular, faithful undesignated giving, to the general needs of the church.

On the other hand, giving, even if "designated", demonstrates a donor's heart to contribute to God's work here, and when done in a right way, is encouraged for the sake of both the giver and God's work.

Designated giving is generally encouraged in the case of a church-approved project or "wish list" item, which has been announced to the church, in some fashion, for all to participate in. We believe that giving to such church-approved programs or projects can help persons experience the joy, excitement and blessing from giving of their resources to that which we believe would further our mission here, and God's kingdom generally. Anyone who has an idea for, or knows of a need that might be met through designated giving, should speak to any member of the Vestry, or otherwise submit their idea to the Vestry. If the idea or perceived need is not approved by the Vestry for designated giving (if, for example, the project is not consistent with St. Alban's mission or ministry direction), that person/ those persons proposing a designated giving project and/ or offering a designated gift can expect to receive an explanation as to why that particular idea would not be acted upon favorably.

To accord with IRS regulations for deductibility, every designated gift given, even if to a church-approved project or program, necessarily needs to be given with the understanding that ultimately it is within the church's sole discretion whether or not to expend the gift for the designated purpose.