

A New Horizon

PRESSING ON TOWARDS GOD'S FUTURE

giving GUIDE

*Your practical guide to generosity and participation in
Cornerstone's A New Horizon Campaign.*

CORNERSTONE 
Methodist Church



A

New

Horizon

Pressing on

towards

future”



Over the past year and a half, we have witnessed God's love take root and grow in our community in beautiful and unexpected ways. And now, we sense Him inviting us to step into something even greater.

Today, I'm honored to introduce **A New Horizon** — a capital campaign that calls us to go further in faith, in generosity, and in impact.

The New Horizon Capital Campaign is more than a financial goal; it is a shared vision. It is a commitment to expand our ministry, deepen our service, and reach hearts in ways we have only begun to imagine. It is an opportunity to create a lasting impact and extend our reach for the Kingdom of God.

The work God is placing before us in this next season will require all of us—our faith, our resources, and, most importantly, our trust that He is already at work in ways we

cannot yet fully see. This is not a journey for a few. It is a calling for our entire Cornerstone church family.

This is our moment to trust God's provision.

This is our opportunity to participate in something that will bless lives for generations to come.

As you read through this guide to capital giving, I invite you to prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to respond through sacrificial giving.

Ask Him how you might be part of this mission.

How is God calling you to help us reach the new horizon?

**Grace and peace,
Dr. Sterling M. Allen
Senior Pastor**

The Spiritual Side of Finances

Giving isn't just a financial decision—it's a spiritual one. When we bring our gifts to God, it's an act of worship. It's a way of saying, *"God, I trust You more than I trust my bank account."*

Let's be honest: everything we have comes from God in the first place. He's been incredibly generous to us and, if we want to grow in Christlikeness, that means learning to live with open hands. It means prioritizing our standard of giving above our standard of living.

Jesus put it simply: *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21). Where we put our money tells a story about what, and who, we value most. Buy a boat, and you want to get to the lake and learn boating. Buy a new set of golf clubs and you'll want to hit the links. Giving grows your faith and identifies your top priority. So, let's put it into something that actually lasts. Something eternal.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

Here are four spiritual truths to keep in mind when it comes to money.

God Owns It All

We like to talk about “our money” or “our stuff,” but Scripture reminds us that it all belongs to God. We are not owners - we are actually just stewards. (1 Chron. 29:12-14). That means we have been entrusted with God’s resources to manage well. Not just for ourselves, but for the good of others and the glory of God.

Everyone’s Investing Together

Whether we realize it or not, we’re always investing—into stocks, businesses, or God’s Kingdom. The real question isn’t **IF** but **WHERE**. When we give toward eternal things, our hearts follow. Giving isn’t just generosity; it’s formation. God uses it to shape us into people marked by joy, purpose, and a deeper connection to Him and others.

Life Is Fuller Trusting Him

Jesus reminds us not to worry about our needs—God already knows and promises to provide (Matthew 6:25). Trusting Him frees us from fear and scarcity. We loosen our grip on stuff and open our hands and hearts. Our priorities shift. We care about what God cares about and experience deeper peace, joy and closeness with Him—especially as generosity grows.

We Can’t Outgive God

God is the most generous giver.

He’s given us everything: time, talents, resources, even His Son, so we could have life with Him.

When we truly take that in, it changes us. Gratitude grows into generosity.

We don’t give to earn His love - we give because He already gave us more than we could repay.

Some Guidance from Scripture

Jesus didn't shy away from talking about money. In fact, He brought it up more than almost anything else. It isn't that He was obsessed with wealth, but He knows how deeply connected our finances are to our hearts. One of the most powerful moments in the gospels is when Jesus notices a poor widow giving just two small coins. It wasn't the amount that impressed Him—it was her heart. She gave all she had, trusting God would take care of her. Jesus also said, "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48). That's not meant to guilt us but rather invite us into something bigger. Because we have been blessed, we are called to be a blessing. We experience new life in Christ because of the greatest gift of all time! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Three Simple Prayers

”

God, show me how to reflect what really matters to me—especially through my giving.

“

God, help me give in a way that stretches my faith and shows I trust You to provide.

“

God, please use what You've given me to be a blessing to someone else.

As you pray about your own giving, consider these simple prayers as a starting point. Giving isn't just about dollars and cents—it's a way we engage in God's Kingdom work. And, through Cornerstone's **A New Horizon Capital Campaign**, He's inviting each of us to be a part of His Kingdom work at Cornerstone.



Big Questions to Ask God

When it comes to generosity, we believe the most important conversations are not financial, they are spiritual. That is why we are inviting you to bring two simple but powerful questions before God in prayer.

Why?

Why am I giving? What is motivating me?

This is one of the most spiritual questions we can ask. It invites us to check our hearts and reflect on where our deepest commitments really lie. It's easy to feel tension around money—most of us do. But this is a chance to ask God to grow our faith in a real and practical way.

Try praying something like this: *“God, out of everything You’ve placed in my hands, what would You have me give to Your work through Cornerstone’s A New Horizon Capital Campaign?”*

Scripture reminds us that giving should never be forced or done out of guilt. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, it's a personal decision, made freely and cheerfully in response to God's provision in our lives.


How much?

This one's a bit more practical—but just as spiritual.

Each of us has been given different resources and God knows exactly what He has entrusted to you. He is not looking for equal gifts—rather He is looking for hearts that are open, generous and willing.

Ask God: *“Lord, how can I give in a way that reflects the blessings You have poured into my life?”*

Cornerstone's **A New Horizon Capital Campaign** is not intended to create pressure. It's about participation. It's about **ALL** of us listening for God's voice and responding with faith, courage and joy.



Discerning your role

God has given us a vision for **A NEW HORIZON** at Cornerstone and we believe He's inviting all of us to be part of it.

That doesn't mean everyone's part will look the same. You might be excited about this season but still wondering, "What does this mean for me? What's my role in all of this?" That's totally normal.

This journey is both spiritual and practical - and it's something we want you to walk through prayerfully as a household. If you're married, talk and pray through this together. If you have children, this could be a powerful moment to let them see your faith in action.

In the pages ahead, you'll find three questions to help guide you in making a thoughtful, heartfelt and God-honoring decision about your commitment.

We believe as we each seek God and respond in faith, He'll do something beautiful—not just through our giving—but in our hearts.



QUESTION 1:

WHAT CAN I REASONABLY GIVE?

Let's start here—with what you already know.

Most of us can quickly come up with a number we feel we could give beyond our regular giving. It's the kind of number that makes sense when we look at our monthly budget—something that feels manageable and consistent.

This is a great starting point. Jot that number down on the first line below. Then multiply it by 36 months to see what that looks like over the course of the campaign.

It might surprise you how significant even a steady, reasonable gift becomes over time.

01

BUDGET

I could reasonably give \$_____ each month. At this level of giving my three-year gift would be \$ _____ x 12 months X 3 years = \$_____.

This may be a great starting point for you to prayerfully consider how you will join in God's work.

QUESTION 2:

WHAT COULD I GIVE BY ADJUSTING MY PRIORITIES?

Sure, it's partly about math. For example: *"If we ate out one less time each week, how much could we redirect to God's work at Cornerstone?"*

But more than that, it's about **HEART**. It invites us to think about what we are willing to shift, simplify or sacrifice, in order to invest in something that will last across **A NEW HORIZON** and beyond. Most of us have areas in our budget where money tends to disappear—streaming services, takeout, subscriptions, impulse buys. Those aren't bad things. But what if we were intentional about rethinking how we spend some of our discretionary income?

Studies show the average American household has around **\$20,000 per year** of discretionary spending. Even redirecting a small portion of that could have a significant Kingdom impact. The spiritual practice of choosing self-denial in favor of eternal purpose can actually enrich your life. It creates margin, deepens trust and opens us up for joy.

Take a look at this chart: One Family's Plan for Creative Giving.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	3 YEARS
Eliminate 1 meal out per week	\$70	\$280	\$3,360	\$10,080
Eliminate 2 coffees per week	\$11	\$44	\$528	\$1584
Cancel 1 subscription (ie. Hulu, Netflix, etc.)		\$16	\$192	\$576
Reduce entertainment/shopping		\$50	\$600	\$1800
Reduce Christmas budget			\$100	\$300
Reduce vacation budget			\$400	\$1200
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone package		\$20	\$240	\$720
Gift 20 shares of stock				\$2,000
Gift a portion of income tax refund			\$400	\$1,600
THREE-YEAR TOTAL			\$4365	\$20,580

This number is not intended to communicate a sense of expectation relative to your amount. It is simply an illustration designed to facilitate brainstorming. We encourage everyone to work through "Our Family's Plan for Creative Giving" on the next page. This is a great opportunity to include children in the conversation to help them see how you approach giving in your family..

OUR FAMILY'S PLAN FOR CREATIVE GIVING

POTENTIAL RESOURCES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	3 YEARS
Eliminate ___ meal(s) out per week				
Eliminate ___ coffees per week				
Cancel ___ subscriptions (ie. Hulu, Netflix, etc.)				
Reduce entertainment/shopping				
Reduce Christmas budget				
Reduce vacation budget				
Scale back cable/internet or cell phone package				
Gift ___ shares of stock				
Gift a portion of income tax refund				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
THREE-YEAR TOTAL				

02

REPRIORITIZE

+ \$ _____

- What ideas jump out to you? Could you imagine making a similar shift?
- What changes or creative sacrifices could free up resources for eternal impact?
- What is God prompting me to reconsider in how we spend and give?

QUESTION 3:

WHAT CAN I GIVE THROUGH GREATER RELIANCE ON GOD?

If Question 1 is about REASON and Question 2 is about PRIORITIES—then this one is all about FAITH.

What would it look like if your commitment was not just a financial decision, but a faith-filled step—a way to trust God on a deeper level?

This question invites you to consider:

What might I give that would stretch me to rely more on God's provision?

Not in a reckless way, but with a humble, prayerful posture that says, “Lord, I want to trust You more— even with this.”

When we give in a way that challenges our comfort zone, it often opens the door for us to see God's faithfulness in new and personal ways. He loves to meet us in those places where we are learning to depend on Him.

Take time to ask:

What does a faith-filled commitment look like for me or for our household?

Don't skip this question—it might just be the one that leads to the most growth!

03

FAITH FACTOR

+ \$ _____

- What amount would stretch my faith and grow my trust in God's provision?
- How can I experience God in a deeper way by giving beyond what feels “safe”?

Putting it all together

Take time to pray over the numbers you've written down. Ask God to give you both clarity and peace. Pray that your commitment would come from a place of trust and worship given with open hands and a willing heart. And be open to the Spirit's leading. God may invite you to adjust your gift up or down to better align with His will for you and your household.

If you're married, take time to pray through this together. If you have children, consider including them in the conversation in an age-appropriate way. These moments can plant deep seeds of faith that will blossom and grow on **A NEW HORIZON**.

1 **BUDGET**
What can I reasonably give above my regular tithe?

\$ _____

2 **REPRIORITIZE**
What can I give up for a priority I love more?

\$ _____

3 **FAITH FACTOR**
What positions me to rely on God in a greater capacity?

\$ _____

4 **COMMITMENT**
I/we pledge to support Cornerstone's A New Horizon Capital Campaign

\$ _____

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS MAY 3, 2026
Let this process be more than just financial—let it be an act of surrender, trust, and worship.

Together, we can achieve the vision

If each of us makes a prayerful, heartfelt commitment to God's work here at Cornerstone, the impact will be **incredible**. We truly believe this vision is within reach—not because a few people give a lot, but because all of us participate. Every gift, every act of sacrifice matters. We won't all give the same amount, but we can all give with the same spirit of faith and sacrifice. That's what unites us in this generational moment.

3-YEAR GIFT GUIDE	
Gifts Needed	Three-Year Gift Level
1	\$200,000+
2	\$100,000
4	\$50,000-\$99,999
6	\$25,000-\$49,999
10	\$10,000-\$24,999
15	\$5,000-\$9,999
Many	< \$5,000
GOAL	\$1,200,000

In this giving chart, you see it isn't about setting tiers or expectations, it's simply a way to visualize how, when we each respond to God's leading, our shared goal can become a reality.

What matters most is this: *Every single pledge counts, and when we come together, trusting God and giving as He leads, we'll see something truly beautiful and amazing unfold not just in dollars raised, but in lives changed!*

Ways to Give

There are many ways to participate in Cornerstone's **A New Horizon Capital Campaign**

Cash or Check

You can give to both the Operating Budget and Cornerstone's **A New Horizon Capital Campaign** with cash or by using a check—just clearly note how much you would like designated to each on the memo line.

Online Giving

Give securely and conveniently online at:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2P8/home>

Stock Transfers

If you have appreciated stock, donating it directly may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes and still receive the full charitable deduction. Cornerstone Methodist Church has a brokerage account set up to receive stock donations. We will sell the stock and direct the proceeds toward Cornerstone's **A New Horizon Capital Campaign**. Contact Sandy Faler at (281) 859-4141 for transfer details.

Other Assets & In-Kind Gifts

About 90% of the world's wealth is held in material goods. You may have items such as collectibles, coins, vehicles, IRA distributions, land, or other assets that could be donated. These "in-kind" gifts can often be fully tax-deductible. If you'd like to explore this option, contact Dr. Sterling Allen, Senior Pastor, at (281) 859-4141 or email him at sallen@cornerstonegmc.org. We would be honored to help you through the process.

Begin giving before the end of the year to take advantage of potential charitable tax deductions over 3 years. **Commitment Sunday, May 3rd, is a great day to make your initial A New Horizon gift!**

*Thank you for your
commitment to
Cornerstone's A New
Horizon Capital and to
the future generations
to come.*

*Don't forget to bring
your Commitment Card
to church on May 3rd*

A New Horizon
PRESSING ON TOWARDS GOD'S FUTURE

COMMITMENT
SUNDAY
May 3, 2026

Cornerstone Methodist Church • 18081 West Road • Houston, Texas 77095 • cornerstonegmc.org