

Diocesan Stewardship Share Policy

The Diocesan Stewardship Share is a commitment by a congregation to give time, talents, and money as an expression of faith and a response to God's generosity. This policy addresses the financial participation of a congregation in the common life of the Diocese. All congregations are required to fully participate.

The Diocesan Stewardship Share: Is based upon a percentageⁱ of the congregation's operating revenues.

Operating Revenues include: *All funds available for operations.*

Examples of income to report:

1. Loose plate offerings
2. All payments toward pledges
3. All amounts in regular offering envelopes, including the envelopes of members of the Church School
4. All unpledged or undesignated offerings. Include Easter, Christmas, etc., if used for operating purposes
5. Payments from persons who made no pledge or declined to use envelopes.
6. All monetary and the value of in-kind donations used for operating purposes
7. Donations from visitors or persons not members of the congregation
8. Amounts transferred from investments to the operating budget. Some congregations call this the "draw on investments."
 - o "Money from investments, used for operations" does not mean investment funds that could be used for operations (i.e., the entire investment portfolio). It means all amounts from investments that were actually transferred into operating accounts or used for operating expenses during the current year.
 - o Include interest from all operating accounts, dividends and interest from investments used for parish operating expenses. If restricted investment income is used for operating expenses, include the income. If withdrawals of principal or capital gains were made to cover operating expenses, include the amount of those withdrawals.

Exceptions: Fundraising for Outreach and Youth Activities. Income designated for Altar Flowers. Grants. Special offerings raised and used for specific capital improvements, not repairs, (new roof, organ, HVAC, flooring, windows, etc.)

Share Payments Due: Payments are due each month, with the prior month's payment due by the tenth of the following month. Payments shall be accompanied by one completed copy of the Diocesan Stewardship Share Worksheet and one copy of the Treasurer's Monthly Report.

ⁱ The *percentage* is set by Convention with the adoption of Diocesan Budget as presented by the Diocesan Council with any amendments. It is the recommendation of the OFS Task Force to reduce this percentage by 1% per year until it reaches 15%.