



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many churches have suspended services for several weeks. Providing church members with options for giving electronically is essential when we can't pass the offering plate.

My church isn't set up for electronic giving. What should I do?

Now is a great time to set it up. While we're all finding ways to practice virtual church, electronic giving offers your church members another way to connect with the church they love.

But how do I do it?

There are several platforms designed specifically for churches to receive electronic donations. Here are a few we like:

Givelify: <https://www.givelify.com/>

Tithley: <https://get.tithe.ly/>

Vanco: <https://www.vancopayments.com/>

Setting up an account with a service like Paypal ([paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com)) or Square ([square.com](https://www.squareup.com)) is another option.

Won't this cost the church money?

Yes, most forms of electronic giving have some transaction fees. But think of it this way: even if there's a 3% fee on a credit card transaction, wouldn't you rather have \$97 from a \$100 gift made on a credit or debit card, then no gift at all?

Many people pay for everything electronically these days, and if you don't give them an option for electronic giving – especially in these days of virtual worship – you will likely miss out on their gift completely.

You can work with your bank to set up electronic fund transfers, or automatic withdrawals, from your members. The bank might still charge you a fee, but they're generally low. You can also encourage people to set up automatic payments from their bank's online bill pay system.

Those are both great options, but the platforms listed above will give your church members even more easy-to-use options for supporting the church.

I'm still not sure where to start. Is there someone I can talk to?

Yes! Staff from the Center for Faith and Giving are available to help. Contact Bruce Barkhauer at bbarkhauer@disciples.org.

The Center for Faith and Giving is a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Learn more at www.centerforfaithandgiving.org and www.disciples.org.