

Online Giving Resources for Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Congregations

There is no one perfect online giving system that all congregations should use. In an informal survey of a representative sample of congregations, the four most widely used online giving systems are:

- **Vanco** www.vancopayments.com
- **Paypal** www.paypal.com
- **Tithe.ly** www.get.tithly.ly
- **Realm/ACS** (if the parish uses Realm already)

The questions to consider are:

- **How much will you pay in fees?** There are two kinds of fees: a monthly service fee and a per-transaction fee. Some services have both and some have only one of the two. Most per-transaction fees are 1-3% of the gift if it is made using a credit card, which donors choose. Some online services offer the option to have the donor pay the fee.
- **How much service do you want?** Usually, there is correlation between the cost and the extent of the support provided. For example, the Diocese of Massachusetts uses Network for Good and is provided with an editable giving page, monthly giving options, designation options and flexible reporting that can be accessed from anywhere. The current fee for Network for Good is \$200 plus 3% of each gift. That is on the high side of cost but the support makes it worth it, especially with the diocese's volume and the need for designations. That's likely to be more than most congregations need.
- **How quickly do you need the money?** Most services will get you the money quickly, but for others there is a delay. Network for Good, for example, sends one check per month with all the donations received for that month. At least one congregation has dropped Network for Good for that reason, and it is not included as a recommended option.

Other options and resources:

- **Bank transfers:** Many congregations accept gifts directly into their bank account from members of the congregation. Individuals set it up with their bank much as they do with online bill paying.
- **Federal Tax ID:** Required by some services to set up an account. In some cases, the numbers are sufficient. If a copy of the letter is required, contact Tom Hamel, Controller, Diocese of Massachusetts Treasurer's Office, at thamel@diomass.org.
 - Federal Identification Number: 31-1629166
 - Group Exemption Number: 3741
- **Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices Blog:**
<https://www.ecfvp.org/blogs/3764/funding-ministry-during-the-covid-19-crisis>
- **The Episcopal Network for Stewardship:**
www.TENS.org (username: 1PETER password: FOUR:10) The diocese pays for a membership to TENS on behalf of the congregations of the diocese. It is not public access.
- **Questions:** Please contact Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, (baustinspooner@diomass.org) with any questions.