

Electronic Giving FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about FMBC's Electronic Giving Program

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash, or prepare envelopes. The following are some of the frequently asked questions about Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church's new electronic giving program.

Q. What are the major advantages of electronic giving?

A. Electronic giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

Q. How does electronic giving work?

A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Q. How are my contributions deducted and transferred?

A. First, you will sign up for the program and establish your account. Once established, you have many choices for giving: individualized, one-time contributions and/or scheduled, automatic contributions. You may designate one or more checking, savings or credit card accounts to be used.

Q. When will my contribution(s) be debited from the designated account?

A. A debit to your account will occur on the date you specified – either on a one-time basis or every month for recurring donations. It all depends on how you set your giving schedule up.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic transactions that can be used as proof of your contributions.

Q. Is there any other way to track my contributions?

A. At any time, you may sign on to your account and review your past and pending contributions. With respect to pending contributions, you can modify them as you find necessary.

Q. Is electronic giving risky?

A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, FMBC uses Vanco Services, LLC – an established and highly-regarded company that moves funds directly from church members to the church on the same day without any delay. Vanco processes contributions for more than 11,000 churches and nonprofit organizations.

Q. Just how secure is the FMBC website?

A. When you go to FMBC's website and navigate to the Electronic Giving area, you are presented with some additional information about the program and at the bottom of the page is the electronic giving form. Technically, we take advantage of a feature of the Internet where we are able to display a page-within-a-page. When you start to enter information within that form, you are actually interacting with a secure page on Vanco's server – which is highly secure and protected. Any information that is transferred back and forth through that form is encrypted and secure.

Q. How much does electronic giving cost?

A. It costs you nothing and FMBC pays a very small fee for the service.

Q. What if I try electronic giving for a period and decide that I don't want to continue?

A. Simple: all you have to do is cancel any pending transactions and not authorize any new transactions. The record of your prior giving will remain available and you can start up again if you change your mind.