

Does the Center accept Matching Funds?

Yes we do! The Center is a 501 (c)(3) organization offering education and youth activities in addition to religious services. Check with your company for specific requirements. For your information, our Tax Identification Number is 94-2252288.

Will you give me updates on my giving so I know how I am doing?

Yes, we will send you updates twice a year.

What if I need to make a change to my Intentional Giving Plan?

If changes in your life require that you make a change in your giving amount, please contact Rev. Meghan Dake-Morrell at (408) 294-1828 ext. 112.

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**Center for Spiritual Living
Questions and Answers about
Intentional Giving**

What is the Intentional Giving Pledge Drive?

It is a time for the Center's community to indicate how much money members and friends will contribute in 2017. The Center's operational spending plan is based on what is pledged and collected. By making your pledge, the Center has an indication of the funding available for 2017.

What is the goal of this year's Pledge Drive?

\$575,000

How do I know how much to pledge?

We encourage you to prayerfully consider what feels right to you given your personal situation. Some people will choose a specific dollar amount while others will choose to tithe 10% of their gross income. Listen to your heart and give what you think is the right amount for you.

When is my pledge, or my online intention to give, due for 2017?

Our target date is November 1, 2016. By completing and submitting a pledge card, or pledging online @ www.cslsj.org, you will help us create a solid budget projection for 2017. However, we accept pledges all year.

How does money I give to the Center differ from money I give to charity?

In terms of taxes it is the same. Any money given to the Center and identified as your pledge, gift, tithe, or offering is tax deductible. In terms of spiritual practice there is a difference. Giving or tithing as a spiritual practice suggests that you give to what spiritually feeds you. It is a way to experience the “law of circulation” in your life which recognizes that the Universe is abundant and that “as we give, we receive”.

Where does the money I give to the Center go?

Your contribution to the Center pays for basic day-to-day operational expenses. This includes staff, building and facilities costs, Sunday services, Youth and Family Program, prayer support and a multitude of free groups and services. Your gift allows the Center to expand its services impacting a broader audience with our teachings.

May I give my time and service to the Center rather than a financial contribution?

The Center relies on both the financial resources and the generous gift of service that many members of our community provide. The time, talent and treasure of our congregants vitalize our community. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference in fulfilling our vision of reaching people with our teaching.

What is tithing and why is it 10%? Where did the practice of giving 10% come from?

Tithing is based on an ancient spiritual practice from the Bible. To “tithes” is to give the first 10% of your gross income to the place where you are spiritually fed. Tithing is a way to put God first in your life and to practice trusting God as your source. Many people also find that tithing is a tangible way to express gratitude for all that has been provided. It is a way of sharing your good.

Does the Center tithe?

The Center practices the spiritual principle of “circulation” and currently makes charitable gifts from 8% of what it receives in gifts, tithes and offerings. We have created a schedule of increase so that we will be tithing 10% by January 2018: that is, 9% in 2017 and 10% thereafter. A portion of these funds goes to our parent organization, the Centers for Spiritual Living. We also contribute to other Center for Spiritual Living communities around the country to support the spread of our message. The remainder of our tithe goes to additional non-profits and other causes that are in alignment with our values and mission.

What if I only come to the Center occasionally? Should I still make a pledge or gift?

If the Center has had a positive impact on your life, we encourage you to make a financial contribution. Any level of support that you provide allows the Center to continue to serve our community and to reach more people with our teaching.

How do you know I am contributing to my pledge?

When you use personal checks, the Kiosk, or credit cards, we automatically apply that gift to your pledge. When you donate cash be sure to use the envelopes located under chair seats in the Sanctuary and include your name in the space provided.

Can you charge me automatically?

Yes we can! Fill out the Automatic Giving Program section of the Intentional Giving Card. Indicate the amount and whether your payment is weekly, monthly or one time only. *Note: A new credit card authorization is required each year, even if you filled out a form last year and your information has not changed.* You can also make arrangements with your banking institution for automatic payment through an online bill payer service.

Can I give online?

Yes you can! To set up your online Scheduled Giving, please go to our website, www.cslsj.org, and click on “Contribute” at the top of the homepage or click on “Donate Now” at the bottom of the homepage.

Do I have to become a member to pledge?

No, but we would love you to become a member of the Center. For membership information, please contact Mat Lindstedt at (408) 832-3800 or matlindstedt@cslsj.org.

What if I want to donate stock to the Center?

For those of you who would like to make a donation of stock to the Center, please contact Rev. Meghan Dake–Morrell, Finance Department at (408) 294-1828 ext. 112.