

Gift of Stock

This has been an amazing year of recovery in the stock market and it may be a good time to consider a stock gift to St. Mark's, if it among those that have seen significant appreciation. Gifts of stock can satisfy your pledge or just offer additional financial assistance to St. Mark's.

Below are points of consideration:

1. Giving appreciated stock you've held for more than a year is better than giving cash. If you donate stock that has increased in value since you bought it more than a year ago – and if you itemize deductions -- you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. You'll also avoid capital-gains taxes on the increase in value over time, which you would have had to pay if you sold the stock then gave the charity the cash proceeds. You can deduct the fair market value only if you hold the stock for more than a year before giving it away. If you've held it for less than a year, your deduction is limited to your cost basis -- what you paid for the stock -- not the current value.

2. If it's a losing stock, it's better to sell it and give the cash. If the stock has lost value, it's better to sell the stock first and give the cash to the charity. You'll still be able to deduct your charitable donation if you itemize, but you'll also be able to take a capital loss when you sell the investment.

3. Contact Pam Stevenson at St. Mark's for transfer instructions and your brokerage firm about their procedure. Most banks and brokerage firms require a letter of instruction or letter of authorization to transfer the shares to any charity, and a mutual fund company may have a special form. It's a good idea to start the process by mid -December so the transfer has plenty of time to be completed by year-end, if that is your goal.

As always, you should consult your financial advisor or accountant.

If you have additional questions, I'd be happy to assist.

Wendy Stock, Endowment Chair