

Hope Fund FAQs

What is the Hope Fund?

It is an annual way that God will work through us to cast vision and HOPE in big and exciting ways.

Each year, we will FUND several projects, each of which have been prayed over and elected by our leadership team. Each of these projects are above and beyond our regular annual operating expenses.

This is an annual opportunity to engage in vision— God is doing new things through us!

How do I make a commitment?

Well, we have commitment cards. These are located in the church lobby, run the pews, or in the “I’m In” booklet you received. Also, you need to do a few things before you commit to something like this.

First, you need to talk to God (PRAY). It’s a big decision and prayer is critical. You need to hear from God— so ask Him how He wants to give HOPE through you. Once you have that clarity, use the commitment card and turn it in (drop in the offering or in one of our giving boxes).

Second, you need to leave room for God to move (STRETCH). We grow in giving by trusting that God will provide, a a lot of times, what He impresses on our hearts to give is larger than what we currently have. But trust and obey— He loves doing miracles.

Third, it is to give sacrificially. The Bible never says we should give because of guilt or because we feel pressured to do so. What the Bible DOES say is that followers of Jesus are to freely give— it isn't about equal amount, but about equal sacrifice— simply obeying His direction.

You can give your gift online (www.albemarlefirst.org and select Give Online— select the Hope Fund) or at the church campus (use an offering envelope— mark it for the Hope Fund and turn in during an offering time, or in the giving boxes).

Does this replace other giving (like missions)?

No— if you have made other commitments (like tithing, missions, BGMC or Speed the Light), this commitment doesn't replace that one. It is a different opportunity to give.

However, some folks haven't made a commitment like this before. The Hope Fund is a great way to begin giving, to trust God and test His word.

Is there a specific giving goal that I should make?

Yes. You should pray, stretch and give (see above under second question).

However, here is some perspective. We are praying and believing God to work through us to make \$100K in new commitments. We believe that there are some folks who will lead the way and give a large amount. We also believe that many others will give at (what we call) a leadership level and others will commit to give above and beyond what they're currently giving.

A lead gift is a gift of \$10K or more. We believe there are a couple of gifts that will be given like this.

A leadership level commitment is one that is about \$2000. This could be a one time gift or spread out over the year (in monthly installments). Pastor Nate and his family committed to this level of giving.

There will also be lots of gifts less than these amounts. Actually, most of the gifts will come in this way. Whether one time gifts or monthly commitments.

When should I give?

Well, delayed obedience is disobedience. If you have heard from God, we would encourage you to make your commitment asap.

If it's the first time you've given like this, just give your gift online (www.albemarlefirst.org and select Give Online) or at the church campus (during an offering moment or in one of the giving boxes)

If you're going to begin giving monthly, simply include in your regular giving. The best way to do this is to set up an account online (www.albemarlefirst.org and select Give Online) and engage the option for recurring gifts.

If you're giving a one time gift, you can do that online or on campus at any time. We will be able to fund ministry once we receive the gifts.

What if the goal is not met? What will be funded?

That's a good question, and even though we have faith that God will provide, we also understand that the timing could be longer than we expect.

So, each month we will disperse accordingly to the missions partners and church partners as we are able. We will work with other partners and projects as we are able. This will take much prayer and discernment, and we will keep you updated along the way.