

The Free Methodist Church in Canada

Donors Questions & Answers about PAR



The Free Methodist Church in Canada PAR Program administered by the United Church of Canada for church members

1. What is PAR?

If you are used to automatic withdrawals from your bank account for insurance, mortgage or utility bills, then you already understand PAR (**P**re-**A**uthorized **R**emittances). Pre-authorized remittances are electronic transfers from one bank account to another. In the case of our church PAR program, a pre-authorized transfer is made from the bank account of each PAR contributor to the bank account of our church on or about the 20th of each month. The United Church of Canada has been administering the program for the last 25 years. Many churches outside of the United Church of Canada have been using this program.

2. What are the benefits of PAR?

The PAR system was developed to help local churches to have regular, dependable contributions. If some members are away for the summer or winter, this helps to continue the commitment without having to "catch up" on givings.

3. How do I participate?

Complete an authorization card and provide a void cheque to your Treasurer. That's it.

4. Can I change contribution amounts?

Yes. Your Treasurer must provide changes to the United Church of Canada by the 10th of each month in order to ensure changes are reflected in the debit scheduled on the 20th of each month.

5. When are the transactions processed?

The debits from individual accounts and the lump sum credits to the church accounts happen on the 20th of each month (or the next business day if the 20th falls on a weekend). This date is not variable. Credits to the church account are on the 20th (or preceding business day if the 20th falls on a weekend).

6. Is there a minimum number of people needed to go on PAR?

There is no minimum number required by the United Church for your congregation to start the PAR program, but the more people on the program, the more beneficial to the church.



7. What does the program cost?

The PAR program costs the local congregation 50¢ per transaction, which is deducted at the time of transfer. This helps to defray administrative costs incurred by the United Church. Individuals pay the normal chequing/debit fees to their local bank or credit union if any.

8. Who is responsible for tax receipts?

Your church still does the tax receipts. The United Church of Canada only administers the financial transfers of the program for your church.