



UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND

10 Bricketts Mill Road ♦ Suite 5 ♦ PO Box 370 ♦ Hampstead NH 03841
ph: 800-595-4347 ♦ fax: 866-231-5921
email: info@umfne.org ♦ web site: www.umfne.org



Benchmarks for Congregational Stewardship

A. Members know about the missions supported by the church.

- Preaching and stewardship spiritual formation or education occurs throughout the year.
- Opportunities other than the weekly offering provide support for selected missions projects.
- Results of special mission project giving are reported immediately.
- All fundraising efforts get calendared through the Finance Committee and Church Council to coordinate scheduling and timing of projects.

B. Pledged or reliable giving contributions support at least 75% of the total planned expenditures. (85% recommended)

- Opportunities provided for members to explore and learn about personal finance management, tithing and pledging.
- Members know who to ask about church finances or special gift/giving ideas.
- Pledge or commitment opportunities provided year round.
- The pastor has some knowledge of members giving patterns.

C. Budget process is participatory and focused on cooperation and mutual support among ministry areas.

- Finance Committee understands its responsibility for funding proposed ministry.
- Ministry is proposed first, then funding is explored.
- Planning process includes full disclosure of all resources/assets.
- Narrative formats or storytelling supplements the line item budget.
- A funded budget is proposed each year.

D. Written policies guide fund management and distribution for all special funds such as Endowment, Memorials, Scholarships, Discretionary and Building Use Income.

- Once adopted, policies are reviewed and updated at least every three years, preferably every year.
- Communication about gifts to these enduring funds provided at least quarterly.
- Communication about planned giving and gifts from assets or estates provided at least quarterly.

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