

# SUMMARY of RESPONSES TO STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS SURVEY

The following data represents input from 65 Stewardship Survey participants(Nov-Dec 2007).

*Thanks for your input!*

## Question 1. How frequently has your congregation conducted stewardship campaigns?

- ◆ 85.5% (53) indicated that they have conducted an annual stewardship campaign for at least the past five years.
- ◆ 4 indicated that they ran a campaign or pledge drive this year for the first time in several years. *Congratulations!*
- ◆ 5 indicated that they have never or only occasionally conduct campaigns.

## Questions 2-5. Respondents indicated the resources or programs they have used and indicated their results.

### **CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

- ◆ 29 (72.5%) had a positive impression, giving increased
- ◆ 11 (27.5%) giving remained about the same

#### *Other Comments about Consecration Sunday*

- ◆ Total pledging increased approximately 20% last year
- ◆ 10% first year, more the next
- ◆ Only know that we had new pledges and increased giving that met our budget needs
- ◆ 17%
- ◆ 50% of the pledges made that day had an increase over last year, but only 40 of the 73 pledges submitted
- ◆ 60 % of pledges increased the amount of their pledge; Overall a 39% increase in pledged amount to church
- ◆ 10%
- ◆ 11%
- ◆ slight increase every year
- ◆ Don't know % but last year using Consecration Sunday we increased pledges to \$32,000. This year there are more increased numbers of pledges and they are up to \$42,000
- ◆ 20% 1st year it was quite good; subsequent years impact less
- ◆ 15% first year, lesser amounts in later years
- ◆ We used a modified Consecration Sunday idea, and the giving increased

## **QUILL/LETTER WRITING**

- ◆ 7 (36.8%) had a positive impression, giving increased
- ◆ 11 (57.9%) said giving remained about the same
- ◆ 1 negative experience

### *Other Comments about Quill/letter writing campaign*

- ◆ Not sure, I wasn't here when they used it. I heard it went well for the first couple of years.
- ◆ Giving remained the same, but some negative fall out when contacts not at same giving level.
- ◆ 2%
- ◆ About 8-10% with 3 new tithers and 5 moving toward tithe - out of about 40 pledges but 20 assumed givers
- ◆ Several givers complained about Quill's direct approach
- ◆ Great increase the first year, less the second

## **EVERY MEMBER VISITATION**

- ◆ 3 (27.3%) had a positive impression, giving increased
- ◆ 7 (63.6%) giving remained about the same
- ◆ 1 had a negative impression

## **CYCLES OF DISCIPLESHIP**

- ◆ 2 had a positive impression, giving increased

### *Other Comments about Cycles of Discipleship*

- Perused it as a potential: Too expensive & calls for even more committees & groups

## **GROW ONE SUNDAY**

- ◆ 2 had a positive impression, giving increased
- ◆ 3 giving remained about the same

### *Other Comments about Grow One Sunday*

- ◆ people felt they entered into a contract with God and not the "church" – their giving was a personal commitment

## CREATED OUR OWN

- ◆ 21 (33.3%) indicated they created their own program

### *Comments about Creating Our Own Program*

- ◆ We send testimonial letters from lay members
- ◆ We do a version of "pony express" where members circulate baskets with Pledge cards and return them on a particular Sunday
- ◆ We borrowed from others, and then made ours personal to our church
- ◆ The results of the stewardship campaign aren't always in financial giving as my churches are good givers... It is in their renewed commitment of serving the Lord with their financial gifts as well as their gifts of time and service...In my churches that is much more important than money

## USED OTHER PROGRAMS

- ◆ 19 (30.2%) indicated that they used other programs.
  - We created our own, using letter writing, worship focus, personal approaches
  - Living Stewardship (2)
  - Consecration Sunday; our own version of Consecration Sunday (5)
  - Consecration Sunday but not full program. Do have guest preacher and meal afterwards
  - If you want to walk on water theme and Consecration Sunday along with Faith & Money info
  - Resources from the Abingdon's Guide for Stewardship
  - Logos: Mission Based Stewardship; New Beginnings, An Opportunity for Giving; this year Rick Warren's The Purpose Driven Community Series, Stewardship is part of that program; Stewardship: Gift and Task...etc..
  - Year-around stewardship package
  - Money Matters out of Ginghamburg Church (combined with Consecration Sunday idea
  - Leway's "Celebrate the Gift"(2)
  - We have used some of the above, some of our own, this year it was Stewardship Skits on each of 5 Sundays along with one letter from the Finance Committee
  - Continuing the Journey
  - We try to educate throughout the year

**Question 7. What Stewardship programs would you recommend to others?**

**Consecration Sunday (18 responses)**

*Consecration Sunday Comments*

Easy and worked well. We modified the last phase to help members understand the importance of pledging to balance the budget.

Moves giving into and faith/thanksgiving response rather than a budget meeting mandate

Good because it's a step by step. Very comprehensive. Has had a positive effect on the giving in every church I have used it.

Involved leadership more and brought church together for shared focus with year long stewardship education

Focus on giving in thanksgiving to God rather than meeting the budget. We say this each Sunday as the reason we take an offering - and sing "Give Thanks" from Faith We Sing.

Biblically based and spiritually centered

Great discipleship booster but wears out after 3-4 years

**Grow one Sunday** (2 responses) Because it shifts focus from budget to spirituality, and informs givers on tithing, is an easy way to get lay leadership started leading

**Living Stewardship** (2 responses) operates like a low key Consecration Sunday

**Cycles of Discipleship** (2 responses)

**Celebrate the Gift** (2 responses)

*The following programs were recommended by one respondent.*

**Small groups** Members talking with members in small groups about why they give and how they decide what to give

**Faith Promise** preserves privacy, emphasizes trust & personal responsibility

**Create your own** It will fit the needs of your congregation, Stewardship Skits from a book call My Almost from His Highest

**Treasures of the Transformed life**

**Money Matters** deals with both giving and the issue of debt - a MAJOR factor in the lives of many. We saw a 14% increase this year alone.

## **Quill**

### **David Jeremiah's study**

### **Every Member Visitation**

**Transformed Giving** A good program for one year, as it ties everything together (study materials, sermons, Commitment Sunday), but would not be as effective in subsequent years

## **OTHER NOTES....**

- Be sure everyone understands where the money goes and where it comes from (pledges, fund raisers, etc.)

- Meet with members and then send them a campaign letter describing why it's important to give.

- Consistent Pledging in whatever format

- It's not the program but the spirit within which it is conducted. Faith -based giving with the goal of tithing from everyone is what is asked for and modeled by the Finance Committee and preached from the pulpit

- David Jeremiahs Bible study resources on stewardship

- Raised \$11,000 in 5 weeks this summer - over and above pledges - by asking particular folks to give \$400-\$600 in one time budget crunch. Began with Church Council idea and 10 people that night pledged \$3,100.

### **Question 6. Individuals who offered to share their experiences with others.**

Several individuals expressed willingness to share their experiences with others. The Foundation will gather their wisdom and make resources available through the website. Please inquire for more information or if you would like to share your experiences.