



Stewardship Committee

PURPOSE: The Stewardship Committee offers church members an opportunity to focus on appreciation for God's generous abundance, our personal management of God's gifts entrusted to us (time, talent and resources), and how we use God's resources to honor's God's passion for responding to needs and caring for the "lost". Typically, Stewardship Committee's take responsibility for the annual financial appeal. Some Stewardship Committees also take on the role of education, communication, planned giving, and coordinating gift identification for current and new members for leadership development. Matching personal gifts and talents (both skills and monetary assets) is one aspect of congregational stewardship that can shared with the Leadership/Nominating process.

NOTE: For overview of responsibilities, roles and getting started, see the "Guidelines" booklet on Stewardship available through Cokesbury.

Membership

Since the Stewardship Committee's role extends beyond financial stewardship, persons with interest in gifts identification, environmental stewardship and outreach ministries can all contribute to a stewardship committee. Careful goal planning helps avoid focusing solely on fundraising. The larger the group is, the greater the impact and infusion of stewardship theology on the congregation. By keeping the focus on God's abundance and our invitation to be stewards on God's behalf, members become partners with God rather than "beggars for alms".

Agenda Templates

(adapted from Stewardship Sourcebook, Parish Publishing, New Canaan, CT)

First Meeting

1. Open with prayer and introduction of members
2. Identify the leadership roles of Chair and Secretary
3. Create a meeting calendar for the year (number of meetings will determine amount of work achievable)
4. Dialogue about what Stewardship means and why it is a way of life (circle process)
5. Begin to identify a multi-year stewardship plan, setting priorities for the year and things to be addressed in the future.
6. Create a plan for engaging in stewardship formation and dialogue each meeting. Assign responsibility for the learning elements of each meeting and identify resources available for study by the group.
7. Invite questions and/or further dialogue/input
8. Set next meeting date, offer affirmation, thanksgiving and adjourn.

Second Meeting

1. Begin with prayer and welcome – check in on member's lives.
2. Stewardship formation or study exercise – sharing and/or review.
3. Review/finalize current year plan, future year recommendations. Create goals for accomplishing current year plans.
4. Discuss/assign tasks for current year's goals – who, when, how
5. Review assignments/tasks to ensure clarity and commitment
6. Invite questions, further dialogue or input
7. Confirm leadership for next meetings Stewardship formation exercise
8. Set next meeting date, offer affirmation and adjourn.

Third and Future Meetings

1. Begin with prayer and welcome – check in on member's lives.
2. Stewardship formation or study exercise – sharing and/or review
3. Ongoing updates on tasks and progress, goals and next steps, accomplishments, witnesses, congregational education and resources
4. Invite questions, further dialogue or input
5. Confirm leadership for next meetings Stewardship formation exercise
6. Set next meeting date, offer affirmation and adjourn.

Stewardship Tasks and Ideas.... just a beginning!

- ◆ Modeling appreciation for all contributions – time, talent and gifts
- ◆ Create a multi-year calendar to address wide range of stewardship aspects (*Sample available upon request*)
- ◆ Monitor and implement goals and tasks approved or modify plans
- ◆ Advocate for stewardship education through congregational education ministries
- ◆ Communicate stewardship theology through all mediums (bulletin, newsletter, website, blog, etc. *Samples available upon request*)
- ◆ Assess fundraising activities and explore ways to deepen stewardship aspects
- ◆ Communication and education about tithing as a spiritual discipline
- ◆ Design annual financial stewardship campaign each year
- ◆ Manage other aspects of campaign such as adult study, small group experiences and communication pieces
- ◆ Introduce/manage endowments and planned giving education (if not by Trustees)
- ◆ Manage or support new member and gifts identification ministry
- ◆ Introduce stewardship concepts to **all** age groups especially children