



## YEAR 'ROUND STEWARDSHIP THE JOURNEY BEGINS

### Organizing, Planning, Implementing A Year 'Round Stewardship Program

Moving the church to Year 'Round Stewardship  
*Stewardship is more than budgets and pledges...*

Scripture Theme

Importance of Prayer

Enthusiastic support of Session, Diaconate, Presbyterian Women and Men

- Approval and commitment of Session to a Year 'Round Stewardship Program
  - Stewardship of
    - Material assets: earned, invested, inherited
    - Spirituality of stewardship (money)
    - Include Lifestyles of Stewardship
      - i.e. other areas in which good Stewardship should be practiced
- Stewardship Task Force for planning and implementation
  - Chair - A good facilitator
  - Others:
    - Creative persons
    - Nuts and bolts persons
    - Different generations, including youth
    - Educators
    - Persons who have no hesitation in "the ask"
      - \*\*Investment persons not necessary at this point -
      - These persons will be needed when funds are received
- Creating Year 'Round Stewardship Plan
  - Have a Prayer team
  - Design a theme and a logo (Keep in mind mission and vision of church)
  - Education Plan should include
    - Stewardship books, pamphlets, etc. in the library and on display at various times during the year
    - Stewardship study programs
    - Stewardship sermons - including Children's Sermons
    - Participation by officers and members in Stewardship conferences, workshops, etc.
    - A weekend retreat or Convocation with a Stewardship theme.
      - Invite a minister and a layperson - or both - as the keynote speaker (s)

- In creating plan, be aware of generational differences in:
  - Loyalty to denomination
  - Pledging vs. giving to a specific cause
  - Giving to church vs. giving to other charitable/philanthropic cause
  
- What are demographics of church? Re.....
  - Monetary resources
  - Talents
  - Interest
  - Age range of congregation
  - Location of church... growth\_\_\_\_\_decline\_\_\_\_\_
  - If decline, focus on assets and strengthen those assets
  
- Analyze 10 year Statistical Report (Go to GA Web Site) of church re
  - Membership - increases, decreases
  - Giving - increases, decreases
  - Reasons for increases/decreases
    - Change in economy of town, industries moving in or out,
    - congregation's relationship to minister, minister leaving,
    - new minister coming, General Assembly issues, etc.

(Suggestion: Have all elders and deacons (not just current session and deaconate) divide into groups by number of years they have been members of the church. Have each group write on newspaper print the things that have occurred in the church during their membership (building programs, additional staff, mission opportunities, outreach, etc). Bring the group back together to discuss their findings.

This exercise will help to see what the church really is.

These findings are also useful in developing the mission and vision of the Church. Should changes be made? Or, mission of the church enhanced?

- Mission opportunities connects Stewardship and Mission
  - Locally
  - Domestically
  - International

- Presentation of Year 'Round Stewardship Program
  - Promote presentation as a Major Event
  - Present mission and vision of church
  - Present plans to implement mission and vision
  
- Testimonials as to what the church has meant to
  - Persons who have been members a long time
  - Different age persons - including youth
  - New members
  - Why he/she chose this church?
  
- Plans for regularly promoting Year 'Round Stewardship program
  
- Ways/methods to publicize Year 'Round Stewardship program
  - CD's - "Putting a Face on the Church"
  - Newsletter and bulletin inserts
  - Stewardship link on church's web site
  - Stewardship/mission bulletin boards, etc., throughout church
  - Newsletter inserts
  - Stewardship Minutes For Mission using interesting "stewardship facts"
  
- "Connectional Church" - good time to educate that the Presbyterian Church is a connectional church - Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly
  
- It is important to thank persons for their gifts.....money, time and talent.  
This can be accomplished in a variety of ways...
  - Thank you for specific gifts
  - Thank you from session for regular tithes and offerings.
  - The thank you could be included in statements of giving.
  - Thank you as a Minute for Mission
  - Thank you bulletin board

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## QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING YEAR 'ROUND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Does your church have a Mission Statement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does your church have a Vision Statement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a correlation/connections between the Mission Statement and the  
Vision Statement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is it O.K. to talk about money in the church?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_ If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a time other than November or the time prior to pledging when your church  
talks about Stewardship? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many "Stewardship sermons" a year does your preacher preach?

Is Stewardship only related to budgets and pledges?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is the budget based only on pledges?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does your church connect money and missions?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Has your church done a Biblical/theological study of Stewardship?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, would your church consider a Biblical/theological study of Stewardship?

Has there been a Stewardship Training Event for your officers?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING YEAR 'ROUND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Has there been a Stewardship Training Event for your congregation

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have persons from your congregation attended Stewardship Events?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes,

where? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your church have a

Will's Emphasis Program? \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Giving Program? \_\_\_\_\_

Endowment? \_\_\_\_\_

If your church has an Endowment Program how is it kept before the congregation?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are members given a number of ways to contribute to the Endowment?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is your church aware of the generational differences with relationship to Stewardship and to Evangelism? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How are new members of the church introduced to the Stewardship program of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are new members asked to pledge? \_\_\_\_\_

Are children/youth included in the pledging process? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are they encouraged to give regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have information in the pew racks re the Stewardship Program of the church?  
(i.e. Endowment program, mission opportunities of the church,  
reminder to remember the church in Will)

## Snapshot of Church Finances

**This self test is a work in progress and Alban invites your feedback and suggestions!**

Question	Your answer	Benchmark answer	Your satisfaction level
What percentage of operating income comes from current giving?		Anything less than 80 percent runs the risk of weakening the congregation's sense of ownership and responsibility.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income comes from building rentals?		If this is more than 20%, does the congregation believe that there is something more "profitable" to do with their building than to have a church there?	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income comes from endowments or other invested funds?		If this is more than 20 percent, it raises the question whether the vision could be enlarged so that it demands strong support from living members.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income is dedicated to clergy compensation?		In a small church, this is apt to approach 60%. In a large one, it should be more like 40%.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income is dedicated to staff compensation, including clergy?		If this goes above 60%, there is a risk that programs may feel squeezed.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income is dedicated to building mortgage payments?		Over 25% is usually too high.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
What percentage of operating income is dedicated to all building-related costs?		If this is over 30 percent of the total budget, the congregation is apt to feel "house poor."	Low 1---2---3---4---5

What percentage of the congregation's budget is dedicated to projects that primarily benefit non-members?		Do not include the congregation's share of denominational operating costs. Some congregations set a goal of 10% or more for "outside" giving.	Low 1---2---3---4---5
Are your congregation's records audited by an objective outsider at least once every two years?		Short of a professional audit by an accountant, this can be done by a task force of members who are not involved in financial management, or by swapping audit teams with another congregation.	Low 1---2---3---4---5

Choose one of the items you rated lowest to make it a priority. What are four concrete actions you can take as soon as you get home to move toward raising your satisfaction?

- |    |        |       |                           |
|----|--------|-------|---------------------------|
|    | Action |       | Who needs to be involved? |
| 1. | _____  | _____ | _____                     |
| 2. | _____  | _____ | _____                     |
| 3. | _____  | _____ | _____                     |
| 4. | _____  | _____ | _____                     |

How many years will it take to raise your satisfaction to 5? \_\_\_\_\_



# STEWARDSHIP SCRIPTURES

Copied from *Generous Giving*

While much has been said or written on the subject, the best place to look for sound teaching on generosity is the Bible. Both Old and New Testaments teach generosity as a way of life for God's redeemed people.

## God Owns Everything, and I Am His Money Manager

**Psalm 24:1** — "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

**Leviticus 25:23** — "The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants."

**Haggai 2:8** — "'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty."

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** — "You are not your own; you were bought at a price."

**John 3:16** — "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**Deuteronomy 8:18** — "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

**1 Corinthians 4:2** — "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

**Romans 14:10-12** — "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat ... each of us will give an account of himself to God."

## My Heart Always Goes Where I Put God's Money

**Ecclesiastes 5:12** — "The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep."

**Matthew 6:19-21** — "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

## Heaven, Not Earth, Is My Home

**Philippians 3:20** — "Our citizenship is in heaven."

**Psalm 90:10** — "The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."

**Psalm 39:5b** — "Each man's life is but a breath."

## I Should Not Live Merely for the Moment but for Eternity

**Hebrews 11:25-26** — "[Moses] chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

**Matthew 25:21** — "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

## **God Prospers Me to Raise Not My Standard of Living, But My Standard of Giving**

**Malachi 3:10b** — " 'Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.' "

**Luke 6:38** — "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

**Luke 12:33** — "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."

**Acts 20:35** — "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**2 Corinthians 8:7** — "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

**2 Corinthians 9:7** — "God loves a cheerful giver."

**2 Corinthians 9:10-13** — "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

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