

Characteristics of an Excellent Stewardship Program

- 1) Stewardship is a year-round ministry. There is a real committee charged with the responsibility for seeing that this is so. It is not called the Every Member Canvass Committee or the Fundraising Committee or the Ways & Means Committee, and that activity is only one of its responsibilities.
- 2) Members of the Stewardship Committee pray often, individually and collectively.
- 3) Leadership (clergy, vestry, and stewardship committee) lead by example. They are committed to tithing. Commitment to tithing does not mean it is a requirement. It means we will try. It means leaders give proportionately as they work towards the tithe.
- 4) Talking about money is expected. This does not mean it will not be difficult.
- 5) Telling the "story" is one of the program's primary tasks. It begins with God's story (inductive Bible study) and proceeds to the stories which come forth from the congregation.
- 6) The annual financial stewardship program always includes a training event and training always includes Bible study.
- 7) The Stewardship Committee meets monthly and includes a brief inductive Bible study as part of their meeting.
- 8) The line item budget includes 3% of expected pledge income to be used to fund the stewardship program.
- 9) The Stewardship Committee has a plan. The best-case scenario is that it is multi-year (three to five-year) plan which supports the plan developed by the Parish Council and is directed towards achieving the mission/vision of the congregation.
- 10) The Stewardship Committee is intentional about its own discernment of new members. Membership of the committee changes somewhat each year.
- 11) Training is for everyone. Continuing education for the Stewardship Committee, Vestry and clergy is expected and is provided for in the committee budget.
- 12) Stewardship is defined as "Using the gifts God has given us to do the work He is calling us to do."
- 13) Basic assumptions include the following:
 - a. Stewardship involves joyous acts of thanksgiving in response to all that God has given us.
 - b. Stewardship is about changing lives.
 - c. Stewardship programs are guided by grace, not guilt.
 - d. We are God's stewards. What we do grows out of our relationship with Him.
 - e. Stewardship is fun.
 - f. If you're not talking about Jesus, it probably isn't stewardship.

Companions on a Journey: A Stewardship Ministry of the Diocese of NS & PEI

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