

Report of the Stewardship Resource Development Group (SRDG)

Stewardship is:

- The responsible management of something entrusted to our care.
- All that I do, with all that I have, all of the time.
- Everything I say & do after I say “I believe”.

Goals of SRDG:

- Implement the first phase of Companions on a Journey – the Diocesan stewardship initiative. This first phase consists primarily of delivering leadership training at the regional level for those who will undertake stewardship activities in their parish.
- Provide workshops in at least three regions each year. A central theme is helping people and parishes move from “scarcity” to “abundance” theology.
- Make the “visioning module” available to all parishes so that each can begin to undertake visioning activities. The goal is that all parishes in the Diocese will have a vision & ministry plan by 2010.

Accomplishments since last Synod (October 2006):

- Developed a series of four workshops to introduce stewardship concepts and resources to those who will lead stewardship activities in their parish.
- Delivered 12 workshops in five regions plus a session with the newly ordained.
- A total of 134 individuals attended these workshops.
- Began providing material for a “Stewardship” section on the Diocesan web site (<http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/stewardship>). Our upcoming workshop schedule is posted in the weekly NetNews.
- A “Stewardship” section was added to the NetNews. New items are posted weekly that can be used in parish bulletins, newsletters, etc...
- A “visioning module” was developed by Potentials East at the request of the 2010 Committee. The module is being introduced regionally as part of the stewardship workshop series and is also being used in a number of individual parishes. It is available on our web site under Workshop Downloads.

Evaluation of work to date:

- In 2007 we did workshops in three regions.
- In 2008 we are now working with two additional regions and are looking for one more to start the workshop series.
- Attendees are very positive about the workshops, even when they sometimes find the material challenging. Many people have noted in their evaluation forms that the workshops have helped them form new attitudes about stewardship, giving, and their relationship with God.
- The SRDG is struggling with more demand for the workshops that we can meet, given our membership numbers. New members are welcome.
- At the start of workshops 2 – 4, attendees are asked to outline how they have used the materials provided so far in their parish. So far all parishes that have sent

people to the workshops have reported some level of use of the stewardship resources provided at the workshops.

What we are learning:

- There is a lot of energy in our Diocese for ‘big picture’ stewardship that is focused on growing in Christ.
- There is considerable anxiety about stewardship initiatives being a mask for fundraising activities.
- There is a lot of interest in how to develop narrative budgets. Activities that help to determine vision and build a ministry plan for parishes are also of interest.
- In some regions there is as much need to build leadership capacity and confidence in lay people as there is to provide information and resources about stewardship.

Upcoming or in-progress initiatives, events & resources:

- Three workshops are planned for April (Cobequid/Cumberland/Northumbria, Cape Breton, Lunenburg) – check the NetNews for the schedule.
- A Diocesan Stewardship Conference will be held Oct 3 – 4, 2008 in Halifax. Dr. Kennon Callahan will be the keynote speaker. More details will be provided in the NetNews as they become available.
- We are looking for one more region or group of regions to start the workshop series.
- New members are welcome on the SRDG. Being a stewardship expert is not required, but you need to be interested in the topic! Willingness and some level of comfort in leading workshops is an asset. ☺

Committee Membership:

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Contact Us:

If you would like more information about the work of SRDG, please feel free to contact us!

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Respectfully submitted by:
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