

Leading as a Steward: Changing the Culture in your Congregation

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Understand your Church's Giving Culture



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Understand your Church's Giving Culture

- Spirit of Scarcity or Abundance?
- Budget Driven or Driven by Thankfulness and Generosity?

Budget Driven/Scarcity-----**Thankfulness/Generosity**

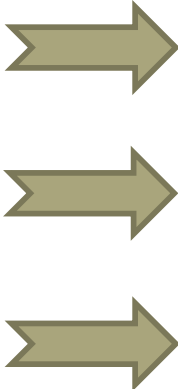
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Where is Your Congregation?



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Shifting to a Stewardship Culture

- Stewardship is about money
 - How much of what is mine should I give away?
 - We don't have enough
- 
- Stewardship is managing all God has entrusted to us
 - How much of what is God's should I keep for myself?
 - God has provided for us in abundance

From ELCA.org – “Stewards of God’s Love”



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Teach and Live as Stewards

A Steward:

“One who is entrusted with the management of property, finances or other affairs **not their own.**”



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What belongs to God?



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for God founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Psalm 23:1-2 (NIV)



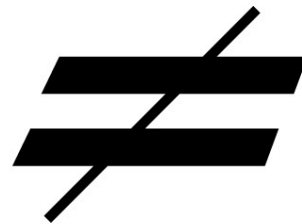
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A Stewardship Metaphor



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Not Equal



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Equal



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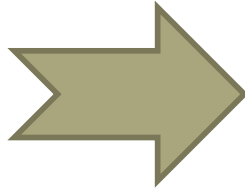
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The Big Shift

How do we get
enough to pay our
bills and survive?



How do we use God's
abundance in the
wisest way, to be the
congregation we're
being called to be?



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Keys to Transformative Awareness

Stewardship Leaders:

- Reference God's abundance
- Preach, teach, model authentic stewardship
- Cultivate a spirit of gratitude
- Offer opportunities for generosity
- Calendar year-round stewardship activities



Stewardship Leaders Inspire Others

- Hearing stewardship testimonials of members
- Studying scripture on the subject of stewardship
- Reflecting in small group settings people's own stewardship questions and journeys
- Hearing well crafted sermons on stewardship
- Learning how faithful stewardship by a congregation has impacted God's mission **outside** the walls of your church
- **Personally** inviting and challenging members to give incrementally by percentage of income working toward the tithe



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Inner Transformation as Stewardship Leaders

Responding to God's call takes spiritual and actual practice

- Generosity
- Proportional giving
- Tithing



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Inner Transformation as Stewardship Leaders

The mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God, therefore true ministry must be mutual.

Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity. It is a confident, joyful, and hope-filled expression of ministry. In ministering to each other, each from the riches she or he possesses, we work together for the full coming of God's Kingdom. "Love never ends," 1 Cor. 13:8

Henri J.M. Nouwen [A Spirituality of Fundraising](#)



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Your Questions or Comments



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