



Year-Round Stewardship Formation Best Practices

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Learning Objectives

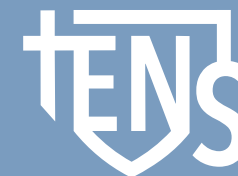
- ▶ Learn how to separate Stewardship from Generosity and the Annual Campaign
- ▶ Grow Generosity
- ▶ Build out a calendar of Stewardship-focused activities

Introduction



Stewardship is Separate from Your Annual Campaign

- ▶ Wait? What?! If Stewardship isn't about fundraising, what is it?
 - ▶ How we create impact in our community
 - ▶ A way to think about all our resources
 - ▶ Our training and learning
 - ▶ Our effort and work-product
 - ▶ Our spending and saving
 - ▶ Our wisdom and our teaching
 - ▶ Our relationships with each other



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Separating Stewardship from Fundraising

Stewardship is Separate from Your Annual Campaign

- ▶ Creating Impact in Community
 - ▶ Throughout the year, find ways to report on the success, challenges, and changes in your programs / ministries
 - ▶ Highlight one a month, or one a quarter
 - ▶ Bring in stories, interviews, videos
 - ▶ Measure in metrics
 - ▶ “Together, we’ve fed 1,000 people so far this year”
 - ▶ “Our after-school program served 20 kids last week, and will do so every week this year”



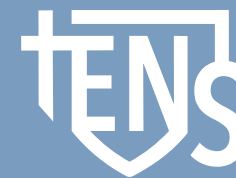
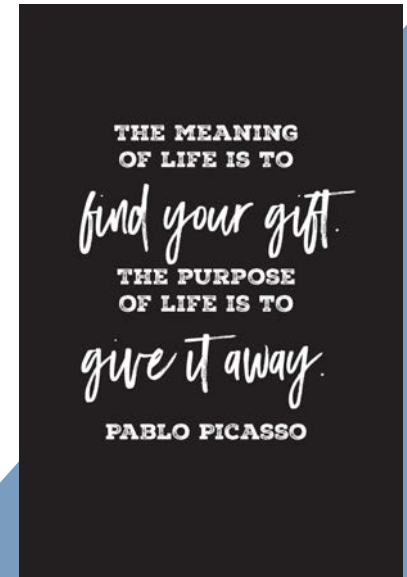
Separating Stewardship from Fundraising

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Stewardship is Separate from Your Annual Campaign

- ▶ Everything we have been given, everything we have built, **everything we have is a tool for our stewardship**
 - ▶ How can the Church use my expertise or training?
 - ▶ How can the Church use my strength or my skills on a project?
 - ▶ Is there a class, group, workshop, or event I could lead or on which I could collaborate?
 - ▶ How can my finances help the Church?

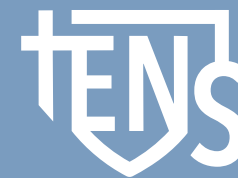
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Stewardship is Separate from Your Annual Campaign

- ▶ Stewardship is also about **relationship**
 - caring for each other
 - ▶ Are you talking with your church friends during the week? Maybe someone needs a call or an email.
 - ▶ Take the few minutes every day to pray for everyone on the congregation's prayer list by name
 - ▶ Send social media or email or text messages for members' birthdays and anniversaries
 - ▶ Can you provide help, advice, or a friendly ear to a church friend?



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Separating Stewardship from Fundraising

Growing Generosity

- ▶ A skill that needs to be cultivated
 - ▶ Practice Gratitude
 - ▶ Power of positive thinking
 - ▶ Random acts

James 1:17 Every generous act and every perfect gift comes from above...

Generosity Practice



Growing Generosity

▶ Gratitude

▶ Daily habit

- ▶ For what am I grateful today?
- ▶ When you see someone doing something nice or good, thank them for it – not personally, but on behalf of humanity

▶ Weekly habit

- ▶ Write an email to colleagues, employees, family, or friends thanking them for particular things they did
- ▶ Accept the gratitude of others toward you



Generosity Practice

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Growing Generosity

- ▶ Thinking positively
 - ▶ Assume Goodwill
 - ▶ Enter each situation expecting a positive outcome, anticipating that those around you are acting from a place of goodness
 - ▶ Assume others are practicing this too
 - ▶ Forgive yourself
 - ▶ Foibles, missteps, mistakes. Apologize, correct, and move forward
 - ▶ Banish jaded outlooks
 - ▶ Give second chances



Generosity Practice

Growing Generosity

- ▶ Random Acts
 - ▶ Start Small
 - ▶ Make an extra pan of lasagna for a sick friend
 - ▶ Buy a cup of coffee for the next person in line
 - ▶ Share your pocket change
 - ▶ Join a Team
 - ▶ Build the sets for the pageant
 - ▶ Coach a team or run a youth event
 - ▶ Work a phone bank
 - ▶ Support a Cause
 - ▶ Volunteer a Saturday in the soup kitchen
 - ▶ Clean up the neighborhood
 - ▶ Spread the Love
 - ▶ Promote a church event to friends, coworkers, neighbors
 - ▶ Give credit where it's due

Generosity Practice



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Year-Round Practices

A Year of Generous Living

Advanced

- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship themes
- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship activities

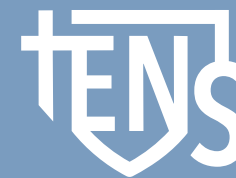
Intermediate

- ▶ A Liturgical Calendar of Stewardship themes

Beginner

- ▶ Three Simple Things you can do this year

Year-Round Practices



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Year-Round Practices: Monthly Themes

January: Telling our Stewardship Stories

February: Why do we give?

March: The power of our Money

April: Finding More from Less

May: Creating a plan to fix the world

June: Preparation for Pledge Season

July: Sharing with our neighboring congregations

August: Needs Assessment

September: Pledge Season Pep Talk

October: St. Francis & the Environment

November: The Communion of Saints is the Original Legacy Society

December: Incarnate Gratitude



Year-Round Practices - Advanced

Year-Round Practices

Make a Plan

- ▶ Download the TENS Toolkit for Year-Round Stewardship

<https://www.tens.org/resource-library/tools-best-practices/year-round-stewardship-planning-tools/>

- ▶ Instructions on how to create and incorporate stewardship formation for each year of the month
- ▶ A spreadsheet planning tool to make your plan and stick to it

Year-Round Practices - Advanced



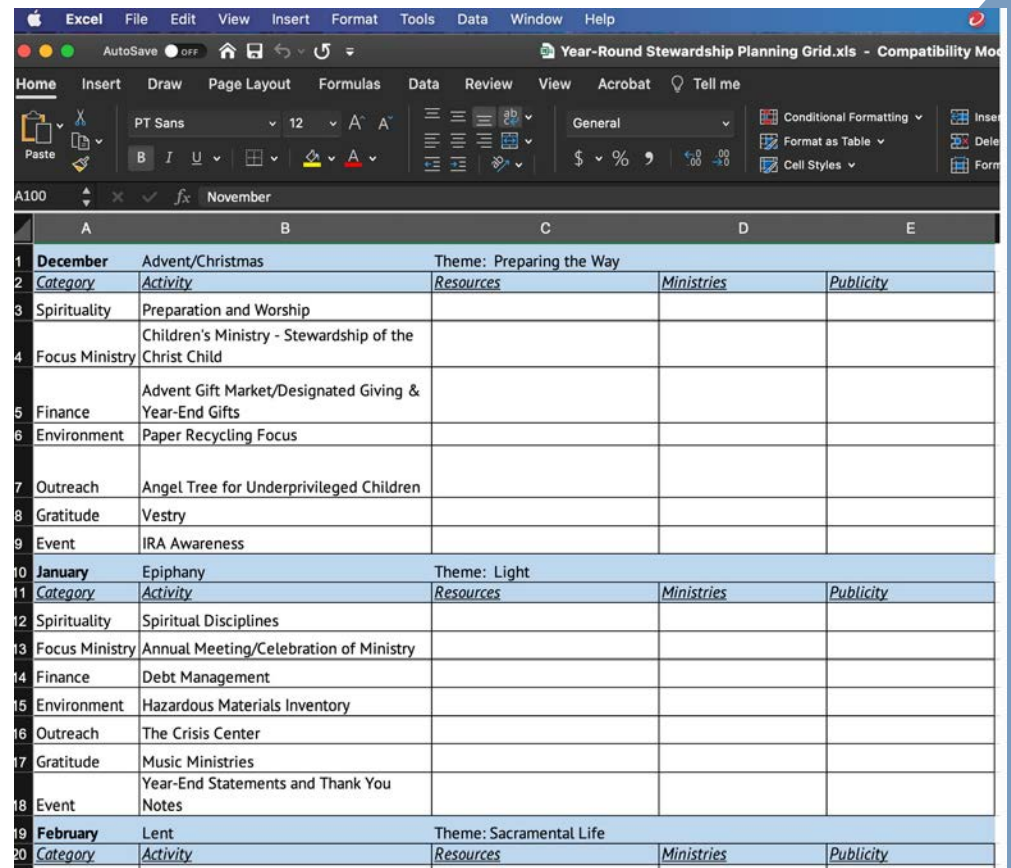
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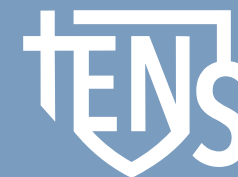
Monthly Discipline

- ▶ Each month, set activities that reinforce, teach, & nurture abundance and generosity in your congregation
 - ▶ Spirituality
 - ▶ A focus that **all ministry areas** can adopt that month
 - ▶ Finance: An area of personal or organizational finance for **teaching or goal-setting**
 - ▶ The Environment
 - ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Gratitude: A **ministry** that we make special effort to acknowledge
 - ▶ Event or Activity: Something **public-facing**

Year-Round Practices - Advanced



	A	B	C	D	E
1	December	Advent/Christmas	Theme: Preparing the Way		
2	<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
3	Spirituality	Preparation and Worship			
4	Focus Ministry	Children's Ministry - Stewardship of the Christ Child			
5	Finance	Advent Gift Market/Designated Giving & Year-End Gifts			
6	Environment	Paper Recycling Focus			
7	Outreach	Angel Tree for Underprivileged Children			
8	Gratitude	Vestry			
9	Event	IRA Awareness			
10	January	Epiphany	Theme: Light		
11	<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
12	Spirituality	Spiritual Disciplines			
13	Focus Ministry	Annual Meeting/Celebration of Ministry			
14	Finance	Debt Management			
15	Environment	Hazardous Materials Inventory			
16	Outreach	The Crisis Center			
17	Gratitude	Music Ministries			
18	Event	Year-End Statements and Thank You Notes			
19	February	Lent	Theme: Sacramental Life		
20	<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>



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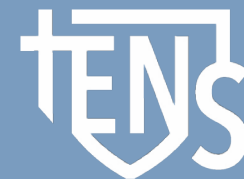
A Liturgical Imagination

The church year gives us natural stewardship themes:

- ▶ Advent: hope, longing, gratitude
- ▶ Christmas: gift and incarnation
- ▶ Epiphany: manifestation and witness
- ▶ Lent: mortality, simplicity, legacy
- ▶ Easter: renewal, abundance, resurrection
- ▶ Pentecost: gifts scattered for the world

Stewardship formation belongs in the rhythm of discipleship.

Year-Round Practices



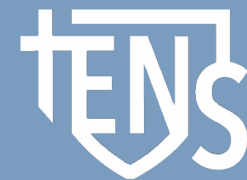
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Year-Round Stewardship Culture

A congregation forms stewardship culture through repeated practices:

- ▶ telling ministry stories
- ▶ reporting impact
- ▶ thanking volunteers
- ▶ inviting testimony
- ▶ connecting giving to mission
- ▶ teaching generosity
- ▶ preaching stewardship outside pledge season
- ▶ helping people discern gifts all year long

Year-Round Practices



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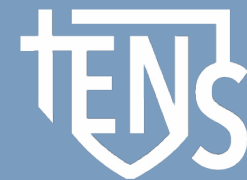
Adult and Family Formation

The Annual Campaign Resources developed by TENS this year include:

- ▶ Testimonial Scripts
- ▶ Seasonal Reflections
- ▶ Five Weekly Reflections to use during your campaign
- ▶ Small-Group / Scripture-based five-week curriculum on generosity and gratitude
- ▶ Family / Youth resources and activities that can be used at home

Formation throughout the year will make your campaign a natural response rather than a distraction

Year-Round Practices



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Stewardship Leaders Model the Shift

By focusing on formation, gratitude, storytelling, impact, and discernment this year, you will model the shift in stewardship practice.

It isn't about "how do we get more money and more people involved at Church?"

Instead it is:

"How do we become the kind of community where people's gifts are recognized, blessed connected to God's mission, and our members understand the connection between their gratitude and their generosity?"

Year-Round Practices



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Stewardship Practice takes Practice

In the next 30 days, have one stewardship conversation that is not about money.

Identify one person. Ask:

- ▶ What brings you joy?
- ▶ Where do you feel energized?
- ▶ What gift might God be inviting you to share?

Then listen.

Do not rush to place them.

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Closing Reflection

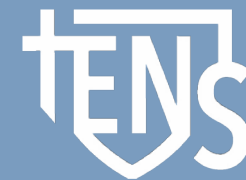
Stewardship begins when we recognize that everything we have is gift.

Stewardship deepens when we help others recognize their gifts.

Stewardship becomes culture when a congregation learns to say, again and again:

*I see God at work in you.
How might that gift bless the world?*

Year-Round Practices



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TENS Theme for 2026

When God arranges a banquet, there is always room for more. If we can't get another chair around the table, we build a bigger one. That's how God's abundance works. This year's theme comes from the spiritual *Plenty Good Room*, which reminds us that in God's House, all we have to do is find a seat and sit down.

This statement of abundance is a testimony to who provide healing, shelter, nourishment, and love to each other and our neighbors. There is always enough to go around.

*Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner ... and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet." **Matthew 22:4, NRSV***





Thank you!

For more information, tools, webinars, and resources, visit www.tens.org

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