



Moving ministries forward, *together.*

Stewardship Leader Considerations and Suggestions:

Primary functions:

1. Lead focus on year-round education as part of steward formation
2. Oversee how the church invites, acknowledges, communicates, and celebrates gifts of time, talent, treasure, and testimony
3. Connect stewardship to how the church accomplishes its mission, achieves its vision, and is part of God's work in the world
4. Assess congregation's stewardship ministry and use outcomes to set goals

As the work gets started:

Be intentional about making time for individual-level stewardship reflection, prayer and discernment. Begin shifting mindsets:

- Stewardship isn't my church wanting something from me, but God wanting something **FOR** me.
- How can I use the time, talent, treasure, etc. that God entrusts to me to bring the world closer to what God longs for it to be?

Then, be intentional about stewardship reflection, prayer, and discernment for the community of faith itself:

- What does it mean to be God's stewards?
- What do we teach/preach/believe about stewardship at this church?
- What do we steward (what has God entrusted to us) as a community of faith?
- What is the role of money in our lives, as members of the body of Christ?
- What difference does our church's collective stewardship make in the world?

Reflect, review, and learn:

- Evaluate the church's stewardship efforts over the last 3-5 years. What were the goals/results? What worked? What didn't? Is there anything you used to do that should be brought back? Something new you'd like to try? What existing stewardship education opportunities are built into the life of the congregation (annual financial commitment, time and talent emphasis, etc.)? How can you expand or improve them?



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- Identify past and/or current obstacles to stewardship at the church:
 - Stewardship is linked to “paying the church bills”
 - The business life and spiritual life of the congregation are kept separate (i.e. the church doesn't talk about money)
 - Generational differences
 - Consumerism
 - Societal taboos about money
- Complete MMFA's stewardship assessment (Contact Laura Watson to receive a copy.)
- Look at these [stewardship essentials](#): theology, mission/vision, leadership, and whole life stewardship
- Read and discuss together a specific stewardship resource (MMFA recommends “Embracing Stewardship” by Charles Lane or “Reflections on Faith and Finances”, also by Charles Lane)

Vision:

- One year from now, if you were able to say, “Wow, stewardship at our church is more alive than ever!”, what will have happened for that to be true? What can the committee do to help the congregation get there?

Plan: Given all you've learned, the committee's gifts and skills, and the four primary functions listed at the beginning of this document, what will you do this year?

- Select a scripture passage that will be the guiding verse for stewardship.
- Create a plan for overcoming **one** of the previously identified stewardship obstacles.
- Strategize steps to invite, give thanks, and celebrate acts of stewardship (beyond financial gifts) in the congregation.

Let MMFA help! We have resources on our website and are available to lead workshops, bible studies, small group conversation, board/committee meetings, and more. Let's move ministry forward together this year.