

# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGNS

A GUIDE TO HELP CONGREGATIONS GIVE GENEROUSLY

FOR CHURCH LEADERS AND CLERGY



UNITED METHODIST  
**STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION**  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

# 5 STEPS TO HELP GUIDE YOUR CONGREGATIONS TOWARD GENEROUS GIVING

## STEP 1: CONGREGATIONAL SELF-EXAMINATION IN SMALL GROUPS

A person's perspective on money dovetails with their response to giving. Ask questions like:

- How do you see money?
- Does money motivate you?
- Can money buy love?
- Does money equal security?
- How much money is enough money?

## STEP 2: FIRST FRUITS

Use Leviticus 23: 9-14 as ground to discuss financial priorities and what's important in their lives.

- **Numbers to Narrative:** Rather than charts with dollars and deficits, invite people to tell stories of how the church is changing their lives.
- **Mortar to Mission:** Express an enthusiasm for growing the mission by maintaining the building and its ministries.

*When you enter the land that I am giving you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.*  
- Leviticus 23:10

### **STEP 3: PERSONAL WITNESS**

Make stewardship personal.

- Ask people to share why they give and how it makes a difference in their spiritual life.
- Make personal witness a part of your culture with authentic testimonials from the pulpit and in small groups.

### **STEP 4: REFLECT ON YOUR CHURCH'S MISSION**

Articulate your church's mission with the congregation and in small groups, asking the following questions:

- Is our mission clean and concise?
- Do people know our church's mission?
- What's our call to action?
- Does our mission include measurable results?

### **STEP 5: HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

Create high expectations for your congregation. Emphasize developing generous, world-changing disciples, and articulate what's expected of people in the congregation. Understandable, achievable expectations will produce more active, engaged laity directly influencing their desire to give.

## SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO MOVE YOUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

- **Seasonal to Continual:** Keep an ongoing conversation.
- **Scarcity to Abundance:** Celebrate your blessings.
- **Purse to Purpose:** Focus on how faith gives people a purpose for their lives.

## WHY CHRISTIANS GIVE

To belong to a congregation is to be a steward. As God's stewards, we have three responsibilities:

- **Receiving:** We receive with *joyful thanksgiving* the many gifts that God showers upon us - time, talent, treasure, friendships, family, natural resources and the beauty around us.
- **Managing:** We *take good care* of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely - for our own good and the good of others.
- **Giving:** Out of gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we *want to share with others*.

*“Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week.*

*Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God's grace” – Melvin Amerson, Celebrating the Offering*

# 3 GIFTS WE RECEIVE, MANAGE AND SHARE AS INDIVIDUALS

*... to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability ...*  
- Matthew 25:15

## **GIFT 1: OUR TIME**

Time is a gift of God; how we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Christian stewards try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way, giving it gladly to family, friends, strangers, the community, the church, and themselves.

## **GIFT 2: OUR ABILITIES**

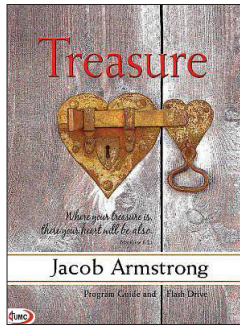
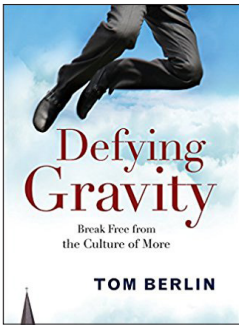
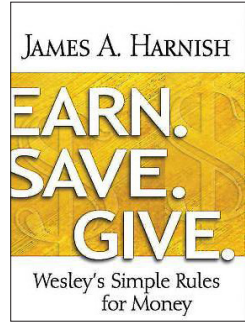
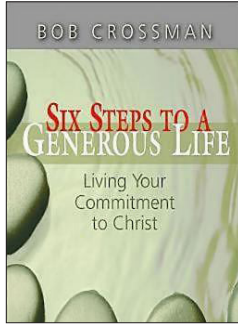
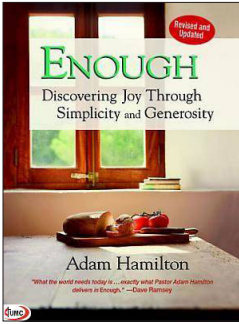
As stewards, we acknowledge the gifts we have without apology. We develop those gifts, practice new skills and put our talents to work in ministry.

## **GIFT 3: OUR RESOURCES**

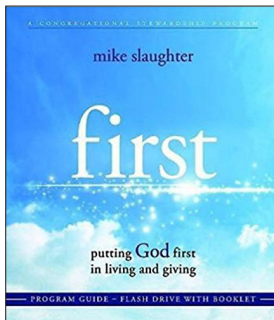
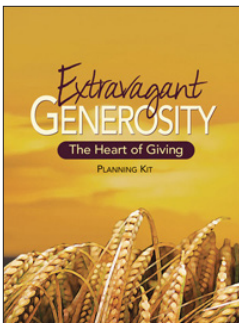
Our time, energy, health and earnings are all gifts from God. As good stewards, we engage in spiritual practices such as tithing. Tithing is a commitment of 10% of our income. Our faith deepens when we manage our resources to give God the “first fruits” instead of what’s left.

# THE FOUNDATION'S TOP PICKS

## BOOKS



## GUIDE AND PLANNING KITS



# DEVELOP YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN

Do you want to create your own campaign that fits the context of your congregation? Our team can help fit those needs. We will work with you and your team to develop a theme and timeline that matches your congregation's specific needs.

## CONTACT US TODAY



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*Stewardship is a spiritual practice just as  
prayer, worship and mission.*



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