

Stewardship: Earn, Save, Give All You Can

Welcome to the 2017 District Conference

Living Faith

Wesleyan Discipleship



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Earn, Save, Give All You Can

Trivia...Where did the title for this session originate?

Hint: It was on or about February 17, 1744
...some 273 years ago...in Belgium...



John Wesley

February 17, 1744 - Sermon 50: The Use Of Money

..."Gain all you can," by common sense, by using in your business all the understanding which God has given you...

...Having gained all you can, by honest wisdom and unwearied diligence, the second rule of Christian prudence is, "Save all you can"...

...and then, "Give all you can", or, in other words, give all you have to God... Render unto God, not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God's...



What is a "Steward?"

stew-ard 'st(y)ooard

- 1: one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts)
- 2: union representative
- 3: a fiscal agent
- 4: **a**: an employee on a ship, airplane, bus, or train who manages the provisioning of food and attends passengers **b**: one appointed to supervise the provision and distribution of food and drink in an institution
- 5: one who actively directs affairs : **MANAGER**

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hop%20steward>



A Practical Approach...to Being Good Stewards

One part of **Christian Discipline**

So... There are four broad categories or types of funding in our local churches. Can you name them?



Annual Giving

We sometimes call this the *stewardship campaign*...but I think we misuse the word "stewardship" when we do this...we also call it our *tithes and offerings*...which might be closer...maybe.

Examples....



Operating Fund

This includes income and expenses that are required to operate the church. They are usually "business-like" expenses much as you would see in any "going concern."

- Salaries
- Benefits
- Taxes (Payroll & Property)
- Utilities
- Office Supplies
- Program Supplies
- Printing
- Contracted Services
- Insurance
- Vehicle Costs
- Travel Costs
- Ministry Shares



Special Appeals

We sometimes place envelopes in the bulletin...hold a dinner...pass a hat... The key points are: 100% of the amount collected is passed on to the appropriate body...AND there are church expenses related to these special appeals...

Examples....



Mission Based Funds

Some stay local...some are national...some are international

- Human Relations Day
- UMCOR Sunday (One great hour of sharing)
- Native American Ministries Sunday
- Peace with Justice Sunday
- World Communion Sunday
- United Methodist Student Day
- World Service Fund
- Africa University Fund
- Black College Fund
- Episcopal Fund
- General Administration Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund
- Youth Service Fund
- The Advance
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Earthquakes
- Famine
- Fire
- Flood
- Tornado
- Etc.
- Etc.
- Etc.



Capital Fund

This includes income and expenses that are required primarily for the physical building we often call "the church" or the parsonage.

- Building additions
- Renovations
- Heat plant
- Cooling system
- Furnishings
- Kitchen equipment
- Windows
- Appliances
- Vehicles



Endowment Fund

This includes property (cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate (maybe).... that is held permanently (invested)...never spent... only the investment income is used for appropriate purposes.

- May be restricted by the donor
- May be "unrestricted"
- Income may be used for purposes in any other fund
- Requires special care and considerations
 - Gift Documentation
 - Written procedures
- A critical part of good stewardship



Other Funds

I know....I said four funds.....
Does your church have a fifth fund...a sixth...?

Maybe....

Memorial Fund

Potentially one of the most confusing....

Cemetery Fund

Truly unique type....



A Practical Approach...to Being Good Stewards

Christ's example of a vineyard....

The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

John 15: 1-2



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<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/shop%2Bsteward>



A Practical Approach

A Good Steward.....

- Prays
- Plans
- Prepares
- Engages
- Acts
- Communicates
- Reflects



A Practical Approach

Stewardship is NOT a "once a year" fundraising campaign

Stewardship IS an ongoing process of caring for what we have, increasing the fruit we bear, making arrangements for the future.

So...What are some things we should be doing...and when?



A Practical Approach

Operating Fund Ask....Annually and Weekly

Mission Ask....As Appropriate

Endowment Fund Inform and Ask....

Semi Annually

Capital Ask....+/- Every Decade



Pray and Plan

What is your fiscal year? Most are January 1 to December 31.

When is the best time to ask for annual commitments?

Back date – Who, What, Where, When, Why....

Add Mission/Special giving dates to your congregation's calendar.

Does your congregation have an endowment fund or foundation?

If not, how can you start one?

When are the best two times each year to encourage endowment giving?

Back date – Who, What, Where, When, Why....

When was your last capital campaign? Is it time?

If so, it is time to discuss the special considerations that a capital campaign requires.



Pray and Prepare

Who will champion the _____ giving part of a our plan?
 Give serious prayer and thought to identify the right leader.
 Prepare a job description (see Example).
 Prepare other job descriptions as needed

Leader should help develop the theme...so should the Pastor.

Make a written campaign plan.

What materials do you need? Get them ordered/made.

Prepare thematic Biblical passages to be used in advance of...during...and following the "commitment" Sunday(s).



Pray and Engage

Engage with God

Engage with the Committee

Engage with the Pastor

Engage with helpers

Engage with the congregation



Pray and Act

Follow the campaign plan

Be Bold..."For the Lord, thy God, is with thee..."

Ask for the commitment

Thank those who make a commitment



Pray and Communicate

Let the congregation know how much was committed

Let the congregation know how the resources will be used
 Especially if...this is the "operating Fund"

Communicate weekly about progress toward the need...

Communicate quarterly about how income aligns with expenses
 Celebrate if appropriate – and share what else will be done
 with excess...

Do not "candy-coat" or "excuse" shortfall – and share what will
 not be done that was originally planned...



Pray and Reflect

What worked well?

What can be improved?

What IS working well?

Is it time to "trim back some of the vine"?



The Endowment Fund

Special Considerations

Timing
 Legalities
 Appropriateness
 Assure Permanence



The Capital Fund

Special Considerations

Timing
Reality
Appropriateness
Potential “operating fund” Impact
The need is too often “unseen” and put off



Daily

Pray
Earn all you can....



Weekly - Monthly

Pray
Save all you can....
Be thrifty
Build for your own future



Annually

Pray
Give all you can....
Operating
Missions
Endowment
Capital



Stewardship

A process
It is on-going
It is Biblical
It is Christian
It is part of our accountability...to God
and each other
It is more than money...time, talent and...
If done correctly....

We bear more fruit!



A Closing Thought

“...For upwards of eighty six years, I have kept my accounts exactly, and I will not attempt it any longer, being satisfied with the continual conviction that I save all I can, and give all I can - that is all I have...”

John Wesley

