

15 New (and Old) Ideas about Year Round Stewardship Formation
Presented at the Stewardship Workshop
Annual Wardens and Vestry Gathering
March 10, 2007

- Clergy are tithers or are committed to a plan of increased proportionate giving leading to the tithe.
- Vestry members are tithers (or are committed to a plan of increased proportionate giving leading to the tithe) as their own stewardship discipline and invite members of the parish to join them in this *holy habit*.
- Clergy preach about stewardship at least four times a year and are willing to publicly witness to their own understanding and practice of stewardship.
- The parish had a Stewardship Ministry Team that offers year-round opportunities for members of the parish to learn about stewardship and develop spiritual disciplines that foster generosity.
- The parish accepts and fulfills its *Assessment for Common Ministry*, demonstrating commitment to full participation in the mission and ministry of the larger church and its own desire to make giving a priority in the life of the parish.
- The rector and vestry are committed to increasing the percentage of parish income that supports other mission opportunities outside the parish and lifts up specific mission opportunities, including the Millennium Development Goals.
- Opportunities are provided annually for members of the parish to talk through their decisions about giving with other members of the congregation.
- Before the annual stewardship financial commitment program, members are given the training necessary to approach this ministry with clarity and confidence.
- The parish develops a *Narrative Budget* or *Vision for Ministry* informing members of the congregation about the ways in which their offerings support mission and ministry that is transforming lives.
- The average pledge is more than 2% of the median household income for the community.
- The average pledge is not only greater than the diocesan average but is at least equal to the national average for Episcopalians.
- At least 75% of the parish operating income comes from the pledges and offerings of the people.
- The parish offers some sort of pre-authorized electronic giving option.
- The parish has a *Legacy Stewardship Ministry Program* that encourages and acknowledges legacy gifts.
- The parish has clear policies about the ways in which income from endowment funds will be used and is clear that endowment principal is never to be used for operating purposes and parish endowment funds are invested with the Trustees of the Diocese.

Bruce Rockwell
Financial Officer and Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship